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# Hurricane

What to do before, during, and after a hurricane or tropical storm. Print it and keep it with your kit.

## Before (preparation)

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- Follow the **National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center**; track the forecast and listen for official watches and warnings.
  - Know your **evacuation zone and evacuation routes** ahead of time, and decide where you would go if you are told to leave.
  - Top off **fuel, cash, water, and your emergency kit** early; gas stations and ATMs may not work once the storm hits.
  - Protect windows with **storm shutters or plywood boards**, and bring inside or tie down anything loose in the yard.
  - Charge your **phone and power banks**, and refill any prescription medications you may need.
  - Keep **important documents** (ID, insurance papers) in a waterproof bag, and store some water in case the supply is cut or contaminated.
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## During

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1. **If you are told to evacuate, leave when told.** Do not wait out a mandatory order; roads flood fast and become impassable.
2. **If you stay, move to a small interior room** on the lowest floor that is above flood level, away from windows and exterior doors.
3. **Stay away from windows and glass.** Keep blinds or shutters closed and put as many walls between you and the outside as you can.
4. **Do not go outside during the calm of the eye.** The wind returns suddenly from the opposite direction once the eye passes.
5. **Listen for official updates** from the National Weather Service and local emergency management on a battery or hand-crank radio.
6. **Call 911 only for a real emergency.** Keep lines open for people in life-threatening situations.

## After

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- Avoid floodwater.** It can be deeper or faster than it looks and may hide debris, sewage, or downed power lines. Turn around, don't drown.
  - Stay clear of downed or hanging power lines** and report them; assume every line is live and dangerous.
  - Wait for the **all-clear from local authorities** before returning home; check the structure and electrical system before going inside.
  - Photograph any **damage for your insurance** before you start cleaning up, and restock whatever you used from your kit.
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**Safety:** never run a generator, grill, or any fuel-burning device indoors, in a garage, or near windows. They give off carbon monoxide, an odorless, invisible gas that can be deadly. Keep generators outside and far from doors and vents.

### Get ready for hurricane season in your area

The planner sizes your kit by people and days.

[emergencykitlab.com/planner](https://emergencykitlab.com/planner)