

# 2025 HURRICANE GUIDE



GET STORM READY





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# 2025 STORM PREDICTIONS

AccuWeather is predicting 13 to 18 named storms potentially bringing with them additional weather hazards, like flooding, high winds, and even offshoot tornadoes. The destructive power of even a single hurricane requires careful preparation before, during, and after tropical storm season to protect your family and your home.

This guide will explain the essential ways you can prepare now to be ready for hurricane season. You'll learn how to strengthen common weak points in your home, strategies for safety and communication, and the necessary supplies for riding out the storm.

## Sources:

[weather.gov/safety/hurricane](https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane)

[accuweather.com/en/hurricane/hurricane-season-forecast-2025/1757562](https://www.accuweather.com/en/hurricane/hurricane-season-forecast-2025/1757562)



# WHAT YOU CAN DO BEFORE THE STORM

Officially, the annual hurricane season begins on June 1, spanning the summer and fall months before ending November 30. During these high-risk months, you can protect your home by preparing well in advance.

## TWO PATHS TO PROTECTION:

# 1

### Proactive protection

encompasses the actions you take before hurricane season. Installing impact-resistant windows and doors as well as stocking emergency supplies are proactive protections that prepare you and your home well before a storm approaches.

# 2

**Responsive protection** applies to the steps you must take as a storm is approaching when more advanced preparations are not available. Boarding up doors and windows after a warning is an example of responsive protection.



## PREPARE; DON'T PANIC.

The combination of these protective measures enables you to better establish a safe shelter from storms and feel more confident in your home's ability to withstand a natural disaster.

Before word of a major storm reaches you, there are several preventative measures you can take to fortify your home's weak points and mitigate significant damage. These practices are often termed, "home hardening."

Storms bring high winds, torrential rain, and extreme pressures that test your home's structural integrity. The more vulnerable points of a home generally include the roof, windows, and doors

(especially garage doors). Hardening these points is key to staying safe throughout hurricane season and avoiding the panicked rush to prepare as a storm approaches:

- Consider hiring a professional to properly anchor your roof to the foundation of the house.
- Check regularly to ensure all windows and doors are properly sealed.
- Invest in wind-rated garage doors.



## HOME HARDENING TIP:

# IMPACT-RESISTANT WINDOWS AND DOORS



SH9200  
SINGLE HUNG

Impact-resistant windows and doors are the gold standard in storm protection, providing several advantages over typical glass panes:

- They are engineered specifically to withstand windborne debris.
- If struck, the glass in impact-resistant windows and doors can crack, but the interlayer will prevent broken glass and other debris from entering your home.
- They avoid shattering into dangerous shards when broken.

These advantages keep the intense buildup of pressure caused by storms from entering your home and blowing out other openings. Remember to keep all windows and entry points locked at all times during a storm – it's a myth that cracking a window helps "stabilize" pressure.

### Save Time and Frustration

Impact-resistant windows and doors also eliminate the need to purchase and install plywood and shutters. Plywood installation is a time-consuming, and often frustrating, process requiring specific anchorage, code-approved materials, and specialty equipment to place properly.

Shutters can also pose a potential fire hazard by making entering and exiting the home difficult. Although shutters offer valuable protection when in place, they also significantly reduce the amount of natural light that enters your home.

### Year-round Benefits

While shutters are useful when a storm actually occurs, impact-resistant windows and doors provide home-enhancing benefits every day, all year long, including:

- Better home security and intruder protection.
- Improved efficiency and typically lower energy bills.
- Potential home insurance discounts.
- Significant reduction of outdoor noise from barking dogs to construction.
- Shielding against UV rays that can harm artwork, furniture, carpet, and drapes.
- Home value often increases after impact windows and doors are installed.

Unsure whether your windows are impact resistant? Try locating your purchase receipt, contacting the manufacturer, or calling the installing dealer.

# KEEP YOUR HOME AND FAMILY PREPARED

Hardening your home before hurricane season begins can create more safety and calm for you and your family. There are many things you can start today – stocking an emergency preparedness kit, knowing your area's evacuation zone, and having a communication plan – to be ready.

## CREATE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Answering the following questions can help you create a solid emergency plan:

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan – where will my family go to stay safe during and after a storm?
- What is my evacuation route if I need to leave my home or area?
- What is my household communication plan? Does it include out-of-the-area contacts in case local systems become overloaded?

Source: [www.ready.gov/plan](http://www.ready.gov/plan)

## DEVELOP A SHELTER PLAN

Your family should have multiple options for shelter. If possible, when sheltering within your own home, ride out the storm in an interior room or hallway away from doors and windows.

Before taking shelter indoors:

- Clear the area outside your home from as many movable objects as possible.
- Bring in garbage cans, planters, outdoor furniture, vehicles, and pets before locking up.
- After your immediate outdoor area is secure, lock all windows and doors.
- Turn off the air conditioning, fans, and heat – even if your home maintains power.

## PREPARE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT AND KEEP IT IN REACH

Keep your emergency supply kit well stocked in an easy-to-access location. Hurricanes can cause local panic, making emergency supplies harder to come by as the storm nears. Maintaining a stock of non-perishable food and other essentials can mitigate the need for supplies at local stores. See the Emergency Supply Kit Checklist on page 8.

## KNOW YOUR ZONE ➔

Do you live in an evacuation zone? It's important to know if you're in a vulnerable area that is likely to be evacuated by local officials during a hurricane, due to flooding or other concerns. Visit [scemd.org/prepare/know-your-zone](http://scemd.org/prepare/know-your-zone) to identify your ZONE and learn more.



## BEFORE THE STORM ARRIVES: Use This List to Make Sure You're Prepared to Take Shelter

- ☐ Place your refrigerator and freezer on their coldest settings. Keep them closed as much as possible, so food inside will last longer if your power goes out.
- ☐ Fill clean, large containers with water for drinking. Fill bathtubs with water to be used for flushing toilets and for other sanitation purposes (NOTE: This water is not safe for drinking).
- ☐ Secure propane tanks, so they will weather the storm, but keep them accessible in case you need them to boil water and cook food.
- ☐ If you have a generator, fill all gas containers and secure them safely in a place that's easily accessible.
- ☐ Fill the gas tanks of all vehicles in case gasoline supplies run out after the storm.
- ☐ Unplug small appliances that won't be used during and right after the storm, so they aren't damaged by a possible power surge when electricity is restored.
- ☐ Fully charge all cell phones and other rechargeable devices.



## KNOW YOUR EVACUATION ROUTE

When an emergency strikes your area, you can be prepared with an escape plan. In extreme circumstances, authorities may instruct certain areas to evacuate. In these scenarios, it helps if you've already planned a specific rally point for your family, particularly if communication is proving difficult.

Identify potential locations to take shelter, such as a parent or a friend's home in another town. Keep in mind that evacuation routes, motels, and other highly trafficked areas may be difficult to navigate in the wake of a pending storm. FEMA recommends choosing multiple destinations in different directions, so you'll have options during an emergency.

Remember to take your weather radio and emergency supply kit with you, and keep a tank's worth of extra gas in your car if you plan to travel in a vehicle. In the course of your evacuation, keep a sharp eye out for standing water, downed power lines, and other potential hazards. It's important to follow recommended evacuation routes and avoid shortcuts.

## ESTABLISH A COMMUNICATION PLAN

Your household should have hard copies of each family member's updated contact information written down and in each emergency supply kit. Written copies are especially important in disasters causing extensive power outages, as your mobile device or computer battery may run down.

While hurricanes are often preceded by warnings and some measure of notice before making landfall, it's possible one may strike during school or work hours. Be aware of these locations

and their respective emergency response plans, and let children know where and how they will be picked up in an emergency.

FEMA also recommends having a designated emergency contact somewhere out of your local area. Long-distance calls may get through easier than local calls due to local phone lines being jammed. Make sure your family knows who to contact and has hard copies of their phone numbers and addresses.

Additionally, iPhone 14, iPhone 15, and iPhone 16 as well as Google Pixel 9 have emergency SOS available via satellite, so you can text emergency services when there is no cellular or Wi-Fi coverage available.

Learn how to set up Emergency SOS via satellite →

IPHONE

GOOGLE PIXEL



# EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

You cannot prevent an emergency, but you can prepare for one. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) compiled the following Emergency Supply List:

- ☐ One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ☐ At least a 72-hour supply of non-perishable food
- ☐ Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio Flashlight
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- ☐ Plastic sheeting and duct tape for sheltering in-place
- ☐ Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Local maps
- ☐ Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
- ☐ Prescription medications
- ☐ Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids, or laxatives
- ☐ Glasses and contact lens solution
- ☐ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ☐ Cash or traveler's checks
- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- ☐ Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper to disinfect water
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- ☐ Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels, and plastic utensils
- ☐ Paper and pencil
- ☐ Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children
- ☐ Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, and diaper rash cream





## DURING THE STORM: STAY SAFE AS THE STORM PASSES

Now that you're stocked with supplies and your home is fortified against extreme weather, riding out the hurricane is largely a measure of patience and conserving energy. Keep close to your NOAA weather radio for updates on when the coast is clear, and avoid using cell phones and other devices to conserve battery life.

In addition to securing all windows and doors, it's recommended to retreat to an interior room without windows on the lowest floor of your home, such as a bathroom or closet. Use flashlights rather than candlelight, as open flames pose a potentially serious hazard if the storm causes a gas leak. If using a generator, remember to keep it outdoors and away from any windows.

### 2025 STORM NAMES (ATLANTIC)

Andrea	Imelda	Rebekah
Barry	Jerry	Sebastien
Chantal	Karen	Tanya
Dexter	Lorenzo	Van
Erin	Melissa	Wendy
Fernand	Nestor	
Gabrielle	Olga	
Humberto	Pablo	



# STAYING SAFE IN THE AFTERMATH OF A HURRICANE

There are many potential hazards after a hurricane has occurred. It's important to follow these precautions to stay safe:

- Stay out of areas subject to flooding. If caught driving on a flooded road with rapidly rising water, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground.
- Don't walk on beaches or riverbanks.
- Don't allow children to play in or near floodwater.
- Avoid contact with floodwater. It may be contaminated with sewage or contain dangerous insects or animals.
- Be careful of areas that can become filled with water, including underpasses, dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.



## BE ALERT: WATCH FOR HIDDEN HAZARDS

Even as a hurricane dissipates, it's important to remain cautious. Floods can cause unseen damage that can lead to significant harm. The American Red Cross emphasizes the importance of avoiding floodwater, as even six inches of fast-flowing water can knock a person over while two feet will float a car.

Floodwater from heavy rains and the hurricane's initial storm surge can travel miles inland and persist for several days after the storm disappears. Flooding is the leading cause of hurricane-related deaths in the US. Avoid touching electrical equipment, and be cautious of standing water, as downed power lines can still be live.



## DOCUMENT THE DAMAGE

Once it is safe to do so, photograph any damage to your home or property, and contact your insurance company for further information. If you are returning from an evacuation, take careful stock of the state of your home and potentially damaged areas before entering — gas leaks, live wires, and fire damage can still occur days after the storm passes.

**Source:** [redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane](https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane)





# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: TAKE THE HURRICANE QUIZ

ARE THE FOLLOWING  
STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE?

**1. The eye is the most dangerous part of a hurricane.**

**False.** The eye of a storm is actually calm in comparison to the severe conditions surrounding it. The most destructive forces of a hurricane are found just outside of the eye in the eye wall.

**2. A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when sustained winds exceed 74 mph.**

**True.** This is known as a Category 1 hurricane. There are five total categories of hurricanes, each with increasing wind speed and destructive power. Category 5 hurricanes experience winds of more than 157 mph!

**3. Impact-resistant windows are a form of proactive home protection.**

**True.** Impact-resistant windows and doors are an advanced form of home fortification that can be installed long before a storm hits to proactively protect your home and everyone in it.

**4. A tropical storm watch means tropical storm conditions are possible in the area.**

**True.** Tropical storm watches are issued by a weather agency to alert a local area there is a chance of a tropical storm hitting within 48 hours. Tropical storm warnings, on the other hand, mean there's a chance of one hitting within 36 hours.

**5. App games on your cell phone are the best way to keep kids entertained while a hurricane passes.**

**False.** In the event of a power outage, it's important to preserve your device's battery life for as long as possible and to be able to communicate potential dangers after the storm passes.

**6. Keeping one window slightly open is a good way to normalize the pressure in your home as a hurricane passes.**

**False.** Letting a storm into your home through a window will only exaggerate the damage that intense conditions can cause. Homes are not entirely airtight, so they do not require pressure stabilization.

# BE READY FOR THE NEXT STORM.



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\*Lifetime warranty is applicable for the original/first homeowner.

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