



Hazard #8 Severe Thunderstorms / Tropical Storms / Hurricanes



Hurricane Season is from June 1 – November 30

Definitions

***Tropical Storm Watch** - Tropical storm conditions are possible in the specified area of the watch, usually within 36 hours. (Tropical storm conditions exist when there is an organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph).

***Tropical Storm Warning** – Tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours.

***Hurricane Watch** – Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 36 hours. During a Hurricane Watch, prepare to take immediate action to protect everyone in the household and property in case a Hurricane Warning is issued. (Hurricane conditions exist when there is an intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or more).

***Hurricane Warning** - Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours. Complete all storm preparations and evacuate if directed by government officials.

General Hurricane Evacuation Preparation before a Storm:

- *Plan an evacuation route and refer to the Functional Procedure for “Evacuation.”
- *Learn the location of emergency shelters and be prepared to drive at least 20 miles to locate a safe place.
- *Have disaster supplies on hand, including flashlights, batteries, a portable battery-operated radio, a first aid kit, emergency food and water, emergency telephone numbers, and cash and credit cards.
- *Prepare ahead for your medical needs such as insulin, oxygen, and any prescription drugs. The emergency refill law now allows you to obtain a 30-day supply of medications when an emergency is announced.
- *Turn off electricity and water.
- *Protect the exterior of the home, secure lawn furniture, and garbage cans.
- *Take important documents such as insurance cards, medical face sheets, essential medications / equipment, photo ID, and important telephone numbers.



During a Storm:

- Tune to local television and radio stations for emergency information.
- Stay inside a well-constructed building, away from windows and doors.
- If the “eye” of a storm passes over your area, be aware that wind conditions will return with winds from the other direction in a very short time.

After a Storm:

- Wait until an area is declared safe before entering and do not drive in flooded areas.
 - Check electrical appliances and water supply for damage before using them.
- Avoid using candles and other flames indoors; use a flashlight to inspect for damage.
 - Use the telephone to report life-threatening emergencies.

