



Hurricane/ Tornado Severe Weather Preparedness and Response

Keep an inventory of these items and hold them in a secure, easily accessible location in preparation for a severe weather event. (Some items may not be applicable to all locations or events). Perform an inventory at least semi-annually to ensure items like batteries, radios, flashlights, generators and fuel are working.

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| ☐ Batteries | ☐ Latex |
| ☐ Bedding | ☐ Hand sanitizers (Waterless) |
| ☐ Blankets | ☐ Hand tools |
| ☐ Bleach | ☐ Hand Saw |
| ☐ Rubber Boots | ☐ Screw Drivers |
| ☐ Bottled drinking water | ☐ Hammers |
| ☐ Bug repellent | ☐ Pliers |
| ☐ Bungee cords | ☐ Hard hats** |
| ☐ Cash | ☐ Lighters |
| ☐ Canned and non-perishable foods | ☐ Plastic bags - Trash |
| ☐ Documents* | ☐ Plastic sheeting |
| ☐ Coolers | ☐ Rain gear |
| ☐ Cutting tools/razor blades | ☐ Ropes |
| ☐ Digital camera | ☐ Safety goggles/ Glasses |
| ☐ Dust masks | ☐ Sand |
| ☐ Eating utensils | ☐ Sandbags |
| ☐ Extension cords | ☐ Spot/Flood lights |
| ☐ Fire extinguishers | ☐ Straps/ Ratchet |
| ☐ First Aid kits/ Medical supplies | ☐ Duct tape |
| ☐ Medications | ☐ Tarpaulins |
| ☐ Flashlights | ☐ Tie down kits/ Ground anchors |
| ☐ Fuel cans | ☐ Tie wraps/ Zip Ties |
| ☐ Gas wrench | ☐ Toiletries/ Hygiene Kit |
| ☐ Generators | ☐ Waterproof matches |
| ☐ Generator fuel | ☐ Weather/ Hand-held, Portable radios*** |
| ☐ Gloves: | ☐ Whistles |
| ☐ ☐ Leather | ☐ Wood: |
| ☐ ☐ Nitrile | ☐ ☐ Plywood |
| ☐ ☐ Rubber | ☐ ☐ Lumber |

Notes:

* During total destruction events, all important documents such as drivers' license, passport, social security card, banking account, medical, mortgage and property ownership and insurance documents. Having a copy of these in a watertight folder greatly reduces the risk of taking months or years to replace them.

** Head injuries cause a significant portion of tornado-related fatalities. 21.9% of all tornado deaths have been linked to head injuries. Having some sort of helmet greatly reduces this risk.

*** Monitor weather conditions for storm developments using the local national weather services on television, commercial radio, NOAA Weather Radio, or any reliable websites that track and monitor storms.

Preparedness involves a continuous process of planning, equipping, training and exercising. Planning for tornadoes requires identifying a place to take shelter, being familiar with and monitoring your community's warning system, and establishing procedures to account for family or individuals.



It is a very good idea to obtain additional equipment and/or resources (e.g. Emergency Supply Kits). In addition, family members need to be trained, and plans need to be practiced ensuring that everyone is familiar with what to do in the event of a tornado.

Planning

Identifying Shelter Locations - An underground area, such as a basement or storm cellar, provides the best protection from a tornado. If an underground shelter is unavailable, consider the following:

- Seek a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible
- Stay away from doors, windows, and outside walls
- Stay in the center of the room, and avoid corners because they attract debris
- Rooms constructed with reinforced concrete, brick or block with no windows and a heavy concrete floor or roof system overhead
- Avoid auditoriums, cafeterias and gymnasiums that have flat, wide-span roofs.

Hurricanes and Higher Flooding: If floodwaters become a threat, move to the highest level of your building. Do not go into an attic, as you could become trapped by rising water.

Remember Water is a Major Hazard During a Hurricane: Storm surge (coastal flooding) is a significant and deadly aspect of a hurricane, so evacuating from hurricane-prone areas before the storm is crucial.

Flying Debris: Family members should also be aware of what to do if caught outdoors when a tornado or high winds are threatening. If flying debris is encountered while in a vehicle, there are two options:

- 1) Staying in the vehicle with the seat belt on, keeping your head below the windows and covering it with your hands or a blanket,
- 2) If there is an area which is noticeable lower than the roadway, lie in that area and cover your head with your hands.

Accountability procedures

The following steps are recommended to help ensure the safety of family if a tornado occurs: Family members must communicate before the storm to know one another's location. Phone systems may not work after the storm.

Warning Systems

- **Tornado Watch** - Tornadoes are likely to occur in the watch area. Be ready to act quickly and take shelter and check supply kits. Monitor radio and television stations for more information.
- **Tornado Warning** - Imminent threat - A tornado has been sighted in the area or has been indicated by radar. Take shelter immediately.
- **Local Information** - Your local emergency management office can provide information about your community's tornado warning system.

Equipping

Get emergency supply kits and keep them in shelter locations.

Training and Exercises

- Ensure that everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.
- Practice shelter-in-place plans on a regular basis.