

Preparing for Hurricane Season

No matter what the hurricane season outlook predicts, it's important to remember that it only takes one storm to devastate a community. Now is the time to prepare your home and your family. Remember, hurricanes are not just a coastal problem, so it's important to know the risks where you live: rain, wind and flooding could happen far from the coast.

Determine your risk:



Determine Your Risk
Hurricanes bring many hazards to U.S. coastlines and inland areas, including storm surge along the coast, inland flooding due to heavy rainfall, tornadoes, strong wind, rip currents and large waves.

Storm Surge Rip Currents Inland Flooding
Tornadoes Strong Wind

While preparing for hurricane season, follow the latest health guidelines from the CDC and your local officials.

Make an Emergency Plan

Make sure everyone in your household knows and understands [your hurricane plan](https://www.ready.gov/plan) (<https://www.ready.gov/plan>). In your hurricane plans include the [office, kids' daycare, and anywhere you frequent](https://www.ready.gov/plan-for-locations) (<https://www.ready.gov/plan-for-locations>).

Discuss the latest [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) guidance on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) and how it may affect your hurricane planning.

Preparing for a hurricane

- Keep a survival kit in your home.
- Know your evacuation route.
- Have emergency information accessible, like important phone numbers and documents.
- If elderly or disabled, call 2-1-1.

Review Important Documents

Make sure your [insurance policies and personal documents](#) like ID are up to date. Make copies and keep them in a secure password protected digital space.

Preparing for Evacuation

Know your Evacuation Zone

You may have to evacuate quickly due to a hurricane if you live in an evacuation zone. [Learn your evacuation routes](#), practice with household, pets, and identify where you will stay.

- Follow the instructions from local emergency managers, who work closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies and partners. They will provide the latest recommendations based on the threat to your community and appropriate safety measures.

Texas Hurricane evacuation route information:

<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic/safety/weather/hurricane-contrafLOW.html>

During an Evacuation

- Download the [FEMA app](https://www.fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/mobile-app-text-messages) (<https://www.fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/mobile-app-text-messages>) for a list of open shelters during an active disaster in your local area.
- Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.
- Take your [emergency supply kit](https://www.ready.gov/car) (<https://www.ready.gov/car>).
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Take your pets with you but understand that only service animals may be allowed in public shelters. [Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency now](https://www.ready.gov/pets) (<https://www.ready.gov/pets>).
- If time allows:
 - Call or email the out-of-state contact in your [family communications plan](#). Tell them where you are going.
 - Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows.
 - Unplug electrical equipment such as radios, televisions and small appliances. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding. If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving.
 - Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
 - Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a hat.
 - Check with neighbors who may need a ride.

- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts, they may be blocked.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas.

After an Evacuation

If you evacuated for the storm, check with local officials both where you're staying and back home before you travel.

- If you are returning to disaster-affected areas, after significant events prepare for disruptions to daily activities and remember that returning home before storm debris is cleared is dangerous.
- Let friends and family know before you leave and when you arrive.
- Charge devices and consider getting back-up batteries in case power-outages continue.
- Fill up your gas tank and consider downloading a fuel app to check for outages along your route.
- Bring supplies such as water and non-perishable food for the car ride.
- Avoid downed power or utility lines, they may be live with deadly voltage. Stay away and report them immediately to your power or utility company.
- Only use generators outside and away from your home and NEVER run a generator inside a home or garage or connect it to your home's electrical system.

If You Shelter In Place During A Disaster

Strengthen your Home

De-clutter drains and gutters, bring in outside furniture, consider hurricane shutters.

Get Tech Ready

[Keep your cell phone charged](#) when you know a hurricane is in the forecast and purchase backup charging devices to power electronics.

Help your Neighborhood

Check with neighbors, [senior adults](#), or those [who may need additional help](#) securing hurricane plans to see how you can be of assistance to others

Gather Supplies

[Have enough supplies](#) for your household, include medication, disinfectant supplies, [masks](#), [pet supplies](#) in your go bag or car trunk. After a hurricane, you may not have access to these supplies for days or even weeks.

- Remember that not everyone can afford to respond by stocking up on necessities. For those who can afford it, making essential purchases and slowly building up supplies in

advance will allow for longer time periods between shopping trips. This helps to protect those who are unable to procure essentials beforehand and must shop more frequently. Only take the items you and your family may need so that others who rely on these products can also access them.

Texas Hurricane Information

<https://gov.texas.gov/hurricane>

DPS Preparing for a hurricane:

<https://www.txdot.gov/driver/weather/hurricane.html>

Cedar Creek Lake Area

Although we are hundreds of miles from the Gulf Coast, we can feel the effects of a hurricane here. Wind, flooding caused by excessive rain and tornadoes are usually our greatest risk factors. So let's consider the possibilities:

Wind Damage

downed trees (direct damage to our houses and automobiles)

take out power lines which eliminate power to our homes and ham shacks

summer time without air conditioning

destroy our antennas and the ones at the repeater site (no comms)

damages that affect our water and sewer services

Flooding

damage to houses and automobiles (auto insurance will cover flooding however, homeowners insurance DOES NOT cover flooding-requires purchase of Flood Insurance)

damage to bridges, dams (including some very large stock tanks), widening and deepening of local creeks

damage to infrastructure (electrical/telephones/water/sewer facilities)

death of people and livestock

damage to growing crops

Tornadoes

everything listed above

Hurricanes are not to be taken lightly. When you hear one is brewing, please don't turn a deaf ear. It is not just a Gulf Coast problem. Their problem can easily become our problem. Just a note, it is entirely possible that our ARES group could be tasked with emergency communications for a variety of reasons if a major hurricane were to come into the Gulf of Mexico. Currently we use our 146.90 repeater. It may be necessary to switch to a simplex (147.52) or even an onsite repeater system from FEMA or other organization. I bring this up because it is important that you know how to manually program your radios. It maybe time to find that radio manual and put it with your radio.

Attached is the Red Cross Hurricane Safety check list or you may visit their website:

https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/get-help/pdfs/hurricane/EN_Hurricane-Safety-Checklist.pdf