



2022 Hurricane & Tornado Preparedness



The Hurricane/Tornado Season runs from May to Nov. Hurricanes (also called typhoon or cyclone, depending on where the storm forms) and tornados are among nature's most powerful and destructive phenomena. Regardless of their landing, they always come with powerful winds, heavy rainfall, and flooding which can cause significant harm to life and property. In most cases, affected areas will have several days advance warning before a hurricane. This year is expected to be a busy season! **Now is the time to get ready!** Here are some tips to help you stay safe and be better prepared:

BEFORE A HURRICANE:

- Fill vehicles, generator, and gas cans with fuel and conduct generator maintenance.
- Set refrigerator to coldest setting and limit openings.
- Secure and protect important family documents.
- Identify wind/water hazards; “**Know your Zone**” where tidal flooding normally occurs.
- Ensure your ADHOC information is up to date.
- Involve family in creating an emergency plan and travel kit. Know what to do if you become separated.
- Learn evacuation routes. Practice route, and identify shelter locations. Place emergency numbers in your cell phone.
- Have an evacuation plan for your pet. Many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets inside. Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and emergencies happen. Have a cage, water bowl, and several days of food and water supply available for your pet.



DURING A HURRICANE:

- Monitor weather conditions; follow authority’s instructions. Keep a radio and batteries on hand should power be lost.
- Remain inside, away from windows and doors. Close interior doors, blinds and curtains.
- If trapped by flooding, go to highest level. Do not climb into an attic, you may become trapped by rising flood water.
- Use flashlights instead vice candles for lighting if possible.
- Ensure cell phones and backup batteries are fully charged.

AFTER A HURRICANE:

- Check on family/friends. **Report status to supervisor.** Monitor weather for flooding in your area.
- Be cautious walking outside. Avoid and report downed power lines and gas or fresh water leaks.
- Keep street drains debris free. Inspect property for damage; take photos. Report to your insurance (ASAP).
- Minimize phone calls for emergencies. Wired and cell phones are usually down or busy after a disaster. Phone companies will preserve and restore text messaging as a priority. Use text messaging or social media to communicate with family and friends.

EMERGENCY KIT ITEMS:

At-Home Kit – First aid kit, money, phone/charger, emergency contacts, flashlights, batteries, radio, food/water (3-day supply), baby formula, pet food, can opener, sanitary items, moist towelettes.

Evacuation Kit – Money, credit cards, medicines, important documents, glasses, phone/charger, emergency contacts, food/water, supplies, blankets, tools, activities for kids.

TORNADO SEASON:

Peak “tornado season” for the Southern Plains is May to early June. In the Gulf Coast, it is usually earlier in the spring. The Northern Plains and upper Midwest see most tornado activity in June and July. **On the East Coast tornados can occur any time of the year and they often accompany tropical storms and hurricanes.** They can also occur any time of day or night, but most occur between 4-9 PM. **Plan, prepare and stay informed!**

WHAT IS A TORNADO: A tornado is a narrow, violently rotating column of air that extends from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground. Tornadoes are **the most violent** of all atmospheric storms.



TORNADO STATISTICS: The U.S. has over 1,200 Tornadoes every year. **The number one cause of death from Tornadoes is Flooding/Flash Flooding** which results in the loss of 90 lives annually. Lightning strikes result in 55-60 deaths, 400 injuries and over \$1 Billion in property damage every year. Tornado wind damage causes 60-65 deaths and over 1,500 injuries annually. **Winds associated with Tornado can exceed 200 miles per hour (MPH).** The average forward speed of a Tornado is 30 MPH, but can range from stationary to 70 MPH and can be over a mile wide.

TORNADO PREPARATION: Develop an emergency plan; include shelter locations. Practice tornado drills with family. Be familiar with your community’s tornado warning system. Monitor local weather stations. Pick a safe room in your home where family members and pets can gather. Remove tree limbs near the house or windows; secure trash cans and lawn furniture. Watch for tornado danger signs: Dark, often greenish clouds, wall clouds, large hail, funnel clouds and/or a loud roaring noise often compared to a rushing freight train.

‘WATCH’ VS ‘WARNING’: Tornado Watch/Warnings are issued by the NOAA Storm Prediction Center. Their meteorologists monitor the weather 24/7 across the entire U.S. for conditions that are favorable for tornadoes. A **WATCH** means tornadoes are ‘likely to occur’ in or near the watch area. Be ready to act quickly and take shelter should a warning be issued, always monitor radio and weather stations for updates. A **WARNING** means there is an **‘imminent threat’**; a tornado has been sighted in the area and is a **serious threat to life and property** to those in the path of the tornado. Take shelter immediately in a basement, storm cellar or in an interior room away from windows.



RESOURCES:

- <https://www.ready.marines.mil/>
- <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hurricane/index.shtml>
- <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emres/flood.html>
- <https://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/tornado/preparedness.html>

DID YOU KNOW ?:

Over 1,800 Thunderstorms occur at any moment around the world! That totals as many as 16 million storms annually.

Let’s be safe out there.



Stay Alert, Stay Alive!