



5 Steps to Ready

Hurricanes

Hurricanes give us plenty of warning, but we still need to act quickly. Prepare today so you and your family can stay safe when the storm strikes.

1. Make a plan

- Identify meet-up locations and people you will need to contact. The meet-up locations should include a local shelter and an out-of-area meeting spot.
- Put a list of contacts in your wallet, on your phone and somewhere visible in your house.
- Leaving early will reduce the likelihood of traffic delays and dangerous conditions.

2. Prepare your essentials

- Build an emergency kit and keep it in a bag that you can grab quickly.
 - Store enough non-perishable food and water for at least three days. Be sure to include the needs of pets and those with special diets. Consider buying a pre-made kit if it meets your needs.
 - Work with your pharmacist and insurance company to secure extra doses of essential medications.
 - Make copies of important documents, such as health insurance, ID (passport, birth certificate and social security card), financial information (insurance policies, bank account records and a copy of your property deed). Store these in a waterproof container. Keep a copy of these documents on your phone, in the cloud or on a USB memory stick.

3. Protect your home

- Keep homeowners/renters insurance. Check what damage is covered.
- Make a video of your belongings for insurance.
- Trim trees, tie-down yard furniture, check drainage systems and board up windows.

4. Recover safely after the storm

- Stay away from flood water. Do not walk, swim or drive through flood water. Flood water is unsafe. It can have germs, chemicals, harmful bacteria, and it may hide sharp objects that can cause injury. Watch for health risks like mold and dirty water.
- Watch out for sharp objects and fallen power lines.
- Check your home for structural damage before going back inside.
- Take photos of the damage. You may need them for insurance and disaster assistance.

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- When cleaning up, use safety gear like gloves, N95 masks and boots.
- Follow local guidance on water safety, debris removal and re-entry.



Do not return home until authorities say it is safe.

5. Stay informed

- Sign up for local emergency alerts on your phone.
- Learn more by taking classes like CPR, First Aid, Stop the Bleed or Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- Download the FEMA app for emergency alerts and the NOAA Weather Radio app.

Learn more at [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) and [americares.org/ClimateClinics](https://www.americares.org/ClimateClinics)