



Hurricanes and Flooding Alert Plan

Administrators

The purpose of this document is to identify actions **[insert health center name]** will take to maintain situational awareness and respond during predicted hurricane or flooding.

1. Assign a Weather Watcher who will be responsible for regularly monitoring weather conditions.

The Weather Watcher can be a clinic administrator, qualified safety and health professional, or provider. It is important that the role of designated Weather Watcher is always filled. Therefore, it is best to task this responsibility to a position rather than an individual. Assigning Primary and Alternate Weather Watcher provides for continuity in case of staff absence.

The Primary Weather Watcher for **[insert name of health center]** is: **[insert name and contact information]**.
The Secondary Weather Watcher is: **[insert name and contact information]**.

The designated Weather Watcher will begin their day by reviewing the Hazardous Weather Outlook and local forecasts for an overview of anticipated hazards. The Weather Watcher will sign up for local wireless emergency alerts via local government notification system or other weather alert program (e.g., [weatherUSA](#)).

Information for Weather Watcher to Monitor	Monitoring Tools
Forecast and forecast discussion	Weather.gov or other forecasting website
Hazardous weather outlook	Cell phone alerts (via text or app), email alerts
Multimedia weather briefing	NOAA weather radio
Weather Watch, Advisory, Warning, Radar	Local TV or cable channel
	Social media

- b. The Weather Watcher will alert the relevant decision-makers and staff about any potential impacts the severe weather event(s) may have on the health center and the need to implement the facility's Emergency Operations Plan.

2. The Weather Watcher will refer to the following table describing thresholds to direct the flow of information in response to a severe weather event.

Threshold	On Alert	Action Items
Excessive Precipitation and Flooding		
Potential for flooding exists <i>Hazardous Weather Outlook: first mention of potential for heavy rain or flooding</i>	2-3 days ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate potential threat to decision-makers via pre-established communication methods
Flooding likely in the area <i>Flood Watch: heavy rain is likely with a 50% or greater chance for flooding</i>	Few hours to one day before expected flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate increased threat to staff using pre-established communication methods • Assess potential impact on evacuation routes • Develop an evacuation plan if it does not already exist • Monitor weather forecast
Life-threatening flood is imminent or ongoing <i>Flood Warning: confident of dangerous flooding</i> <i>Flood Warning Updates: impacts of flooding, timing, location, additional rain outlook</i>	30-60 minutes before flooding begins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate increased threat to decision-makers and staff using pre-established communication methods • Communicate need to implement facility's emergency operations plan to key decision-makers • Communicate threat to patients using pre-established communication methods • Prepare to evacuate using pre-established evacuation plan • Respond to specific impacts as necessary
High Winds		
Potential for high wind <i>Hazardous Weather Outlook: first mention of potential for high winds</i>	3-4 days prior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect the grounds for dead or dangling branches that could fall and cause damage • Assign facilities management to perform landscaping (or call landscaping company)
High wind is likely in the area <i>High Wind Watch: More than 50% confident of dangerously high winds</i>	24-48 hours before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate increased threat to staff using pre-established communication methods • Inspect the grounds for dead or dangling branches that could fall and cause damage • Prepare for possible power outage (See Power Outage resource)

<p>High wind is imminent or occurring</p> <p><i>Wind Advisory or Warning: high confidence of damaging winds</i></p>	<p>6-12 hours before</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reschedule any planned deliveries or alert drivers • Reschedule any roof maintenance or other work activities in elevated areas • Reschedule all outdoor work • Communicate threat to patients using pre-established communication methods
<p>Hurricane and Tropical Storm</p>		
<p>Potential for hurricane exists</p> <p><i>Tropical Weather Outlook: probability of tropical cyclone formation with winds, storm surge, flooding rain</i></p>	<p>2-5 days</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate potential threat to decision-makers
<p>Hurricane conditions are possible</p> <p><i>Hurricane Watch: a tropical cyclone containing winds of 74 mph or higher poses a possible threat, accompanied by storm surge, coastal flooding, and/or river flooding</i></p>	<p>1-2 days</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate increased threat to decision-makers and staff using pre-established communication methods • Assess potential impact on evacuation routes • Communicate threat to patients using pre-established communication methods • Monitor weather forecast
<p>Hurricane is imminent or approaching</p> <p><i>Hurricane Warning: sustained winds of 74 mph or higher associated with tropical cyclone are expected in 36 hours or less, accompanied by storm surge, and coastal and river flooding</i></p>	<p>36 hours prior</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate threat to decision-makers and staff using pre-established communication methods • Communicate need to implement facility's emergency operations plan to key decision-makers • Communicate threat to patients using pre-established communication methods • Prepare to evacuate according to orders from local emergency managers • Continue to monitor weather forecast