



Establishing a Hurricane & Flood Action Plan for Patients Providers

Below is guidance to help you prepare for completion of the “Hurricane & Flood Action Plan” included in this toolkit with your patients. As you review the topics below, consider also sharing the accompanying toolkit document “Tip Sheet for Patients: Staying Safe During Hurricanes and Floods”.

1. Make sure they know the risks of hurricanes and floods.

Discuss with your patient how hurricanes and floods may affect their health. You can find information to discuss in the “Hurricanes, Floods, and Health” document.

2. Assess if and how they access weather reports and extreme weather warnings.

Ask: Do you know how to learn if there is risk of a hurricane or flood near where you live?

If not, you can suggest their phone weather app, weather.com, or their local news television station. For more detailed instructions, you can provide the “Tip Sheet for Patients: Staying Safe During Hurricanes & Floods” handout.

3. Determine their likelihood of following an evacuation order and help them develop a plan to do so.

Ask: If there was an evacuation order, would you evacuate?

For individuals who are unwilling to evacuate, especially individuals with chronic medical conditions or who rely on electric medical devices, such as ventilators, reviewing the risks from hurricanes and floods may help motivate them to evacuate when necessary. See the “Hurricanes, Floods and Health” document for guidance and information to discuss.

Establishing a plan before there is an imminent threat of hurricane or flood can be lifesaving, especially if a patient requires assistance to evacuate. We encourage you to complete section 5 of the “Hurricane & Flood Action Plan for Patients” with patients.

Ask: If you need to evacuate, where will you go?

Ask: If you need to evacuate, how will you do so? Will you need help to evacuate? If so, who will you call?

If a high-risk patient will not have the needed assistance to evacuate, a provider can ask permission to share the patient’s contact information with local emergency managers.

4. Encourage patients to complete the “Hurricane & Flood Action Plan” well before a storm is imminent.