

# HURRICANES

Hurricanes are tropical cyclones that threaten areas of the United States along the Atlantic coastline and the Gulf of Mexico.

They can cause extensive damage due to the winds, flooding and even tornadoes they produce. The hurricane season extends from June to November, and peaks from mid-August to late October.

## During a Hurricane Threat

- Stay tuned to radio or TV for updates.
- Shutter or board the windows in your home.
- Secure outdoor objects or bring them inside.
- Stock up on food and water in case you must take shelter in your home.
- Fuel up your car in case an evacuation is ordered.
- Turn off utilities at the main valves or switches if instructed by authorities.

## Terms to Know

### **Hurricane Watch**

Hurricane conditions are possible within 36 hours.

### **Hurricane Warning**

A hurricane is expected within 24 hours.

### **Storm Surge**

A dome of water pushed ashore by hurricane-force winds.

### **Storm Tide**

A storm surge combined with a normal tide.

## Did You Know

Hurricane winds can range from 74 mph to more than 150 mph.



## HURRICANE EVACUATION



Evacuate before you are told to do so if:

- You live in a mobile home.
- You live in a high-rise.
- You live on the coast or near water.
- You feel you may be in danger.

If an evacuation is ordered:

- Leave at once.
- Bring your disaster supply kit.
- Follow advised evacuation routes.
- Keep away from coastal areas or inland water.
- Let others know your plans.

### During a Hurricane

- Take refuge on the ground floor in a small central room or hallway.
- Get under a table or similar strong object.
- Keep away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all inside doors. Brace all outside doors.

### After a Hurricane

- Remain in a secure location until you are notified it is safe to leave.
- Do not drive unless necessary.
- Do not drink tap water until authorities say it's safe.
- Stay away from waterways until potential flooding has passed.
- Report downed power lines and broken gas and sewer mains to officials.
- Inspect your home for damage.
- Report damage to your insurance agent.