

# Are You Ready?

## Before the Hurricane Season

NWS sponsors a *Hurricane Awareness Week* before each hurricane season. For dates and activities, listen to NOAA Weather Radio and check NWS Web sites and local media. If you live in a hurricane prone area:

- ✓ Know the hurricane risks in your area, e.g., determine whether you live in a potential flood zone.
- ✓ Learn safe routes inland.
- ✓ Find out where official shelters are located.
- ✓ Develop a family hurricane action plan.
- ✓ Review working condition of emergency equipment, such as flashlights and battery-powered radios.
- ✓ Ensure you have enough non-perishable food and water supplies on hand.
- ✓ Trim trees and shrubbery.
- ✓ Buy plywood or shutters to protect doors and windows.
- ✓ Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- ✓ Determine where to move your boat in an emergency.
- ✓ Check policies to see if you have flood and wind insurance.
- ✓ Know your community safety plan.



FEMA

## Before the Storm

### When in a Watch Area...

- ✓ Frequently listen to radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins of the storm's progress.
- ✓ Fuel and service family vehicles.
- ✓ Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs.
- ✓ Have extra cash on hand.
- ✓ Prepare to cover all windows and doors with shutters or other shielding materials.
- ✓ Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first-aid supplies, drinking water and medications.
- ✓ Bring in light-weight objects such as garbage cans, garden tools, toys and lawn furniture.

### Plan to leave if you...

- ✓ Live in a mobile home. They are unsafe in high winds no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- ✓ Live on the coastline, an offshore island, or near a river or a flood plain.
- ✓ Live in a high-rise building. Hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.

## Is Your Community StormReady?

To help Americans prepare for the ravages of hazardous weather, the National Weather Service has designed StormReady, a program aimed at arming America's communities with the communication and safety skills necessary to save lives and property. More information is available at [www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready).



## Community Preparedness Plans

Each community subject to a hurricane threat should develop its own hurricane safety plan. After you have developed a personal/family safety plan, find out about your community safety plan. Local officials should have detailed information for your immediate area. Please listen to and follow their recommendations before, during and after the storm.