



# Hurricane Quick Resource Guide

## Definitions

Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are a threat within 48 hours. Review your hurricane plans, keep informed and be ready to act if a warning is issued.

Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Complete your storm preparations and leave the area if directed to do so by authorities.

## The following types of damage can be expected from hurricane or near-hurricane conditions:

- Numerous fallen trees
  - Blocked roads
  - Severe roof leaks
  - Automobile damage
- Interruption of electrical power
  - Loss of lighting in houses and apartments
  - Loss of battery-operated emergency lighting after two-to-four hours
  - Loss of oxygen concentrators and other mechanical aids
- Interruption of Communications
  - Potential loss of telephone service, fax, and modems
  - When phone service is lost, the internet often will not be operational.
- Loss or contamination of fresh water supplies
- Sewage backup or drainage systems
  - Inability to flush toilets

- Backed-up storm drains
  - Temporary flooding of streets, sidewalks, and low areas
- Flying debris hazards
  - Broken windows
  - Rain damage to interior spaces and property
  - Damage to automobiles
  - Personal Injury

## Preparations Before the Hurricane

Now is when employees named in the Emergency Action Plan (EAP)/Business Continuity Plan (BCP) review roles and responsibilities. Be ready to take whatever action EAP/BCP Coordinators command.

- Conduct emergency preparedness drills prior to hurricane season. Analyze results and work on improving areas where errors occurred
- Check with your town's Emergency Response Command Center (where applicable) on how they will relay community messages. If unsure if there is a command center, call your local representatives to inquire. This command center will provide accurate and relevant information on the hurricane's path and the need to evacuate.
- Secure and charge communication devices that will be used to relay message to staff, residents, and outside parties
- Check the staff and resident call tree for accuracy
- Obtain the phone numbers for the local American Red Cross, natural gas provider, electricity provider, emergency responders, and any other relevant utility companies or agencies
- Examine sites then remove or secure items that which might be moved by high winds (e.g. rolling garbage containers, lose pipes, signs, vents, or antennas on high rise roofs)
- For coastal sites, plans should be implemented for protection against rising water
- Secure windows and roofs that lack structural integrity. Board windows if necessary

## After the Hurricane

Communicate with local officials and wait for proper instructions:

- Emergency hotlines may be backed up due to high call volume
- Stay clear of downed powerlines and debris
  - Keep at least 33 feet away from downed distribution lines
  - Keep at least 105 feet away from downed transmission lines
- Avoid walking or driving through water. Water can be electrically charged or have hidden debris or sink holes.
- Once given approval by authorities, execute return-to-home procedures for residents

## Sources:

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/watch-warning.html>

[https://www2.worksafebc.com/i/posters/pdfs/2008/ws\\_2008\\_04.pdf](https://www2.worksafebc.com/i/posters/pdfs/2008/ws_2008_04.pdf)

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