

# Hurricane Safety Tips



## Before the Hurricane

- Develop an emergency plan that addresses any special medical needs you or your family members have. Call your local emergency management office to discuss necessary arrangements.
- Update your phone number and e-mail address with your electric company.
- Know all evacuation routes, and if told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Have your Emergency Outage Kit stocked and readily available. When a hurricane is predicted, be sure you are stocked up on necessities including non-perishable food, bottled water, and medication to avoid the need for travel during the storm.
- Unplug electrical appliances and move them as high as possible. If recommended by your local electric companies or officials, turn off breakers to avoid power surges.
- Charge all cell phones and other battery-powered devices. Print out emergency contact information in case you lose power.
- Pay attention to local weather reports and emergency instructions on the radio, television, and Internet.

- Ensure you have face coverings, hand sanitizer, and other essential items to protect you and your family during the pandemic.
- Declutter drains and gutters.
- Secure loose branches and other objects like outdoor furniture that may become airborne in high winds. Keep ladders and tools away from power lines.

## During the Hurricane

- Stay in a secure room and away from windows.
- Monitor weather bulletins on a battery-powered radio.
- Remain indoors. Stay inside even if the hurricane eye moves over your area because the storm will resume shortly.
- Turn off power to flood-prone basement appliances if it is safe to do so. However, if using an electrically operated sump pump, you should not turn off the power.
- If your power goes out, report your outage immediately to your local electric company. Don't rely on your neighbors to report your outage.

## After the Hurricane

- Don't use electrical equipment and electronics, including receptacles, that have been submerged in water.
- Make sure the storm has completely passed before going outside.
- Stay away from downed power lines, flooded areas, and debris. Treat all fallen wires and anything touching them as though they are energized. Immediately report downed lines to your electric company.
- Do not approach electric company workers or contractors as they make repairs. They are following strict safety and social distancing guidelines, so please keep your distance and practice proper social distancing to allow them to safely complete their work.

## If your power is out:

- Listen to the radio for further information and instructions.
- In hot weather, close drapes and blinds on the sunny side of your house, drink plenty of fluids, take your pets to a cool basement location.
- If using a personal generator, please take all recommended precautions. Never use a generator inside your home, garage, crawl space, other enclosed areas, or anywhere exhaust fumes can enter into enclosed spaces. Fatal, odorless fumes can build up quickly and opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent carbon monoxide buildup in the home.
- Remain patient. Electric companies and the crews assisting the restoration effort will work around the clock to restore power safely and as efficiently as possible once it is safe to do so. Restoration may be slower than usual due to required COVID-19 protocols.
- Every electric company has a detailed plan for restoring power safely after an outage. Typically, one of the first steps a company takes—to prevent injuries and fires—is to make sure that power is no longer flowing through downed lines. Restoration then proceeds based on established priorities. Learn more at [www.eei.org](http://www.eei.org).

**Visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) to learn how to plan, be prepared, and act in your community.**

Source: [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov), a Web site operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)