



# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

## A Guide for Severe Weather

*The 2015 hurricane season has officially begun!* And although forecasters are predicting fewer storms than normal, that doesn't mean you shouldn't be ready for whatever severe weather may occur. The time to prepare is **NOW!** There are many things to consider before, during, and after a hurricane. Below is some information that may make things easier for you during a hurricane. All information is important and could help save your life and the lives of others.

### Four (4) Steps to Safety

#### 1. Find out what could happen to you.

For information in St. Tammany Parish, call the **parish's Emergency Operations Center** or **Hurricane Preparedness**.

**Emergency Operations  
Center: (985) 898-2359  
Hurricane Preparedness:  
(985) 867-3787.**

Ask what types of disasters are most likely to happen and request information on how to prepare for each. Ask about animal care after the disaster, as some emergency shelters may not allow animals due to health regulations. Find out how to help elderly or disabled persons, if needed. Also, find out about disaster plans at your workplace or your children's school or daycare.

#### 2. Create a disaster plan.

Meet with your family and explain the dangers of fire, severe weather, and earthquakes to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.

- Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen and what to do in each case.
- Pick two places to meet: right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire. Outside your neighborhood, in case you can't return home. Everyone must know that location (address and phone number).
- Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact". After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance.
- Discuss what to do in an evacuation.
- Plan on how to take care of your pets.



#### 3. Use this checklist.

- ✓ Post emergency telephone numbers near phones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.).
- ✓ Teach children how and when to call 911.
- ✓ Find out which disasters could occur in your area.
- ✓ Ask how to prepare for each disaster.
- ✓ Ask how you would be warned of an emergency.
- ✓ Learn your community evacuation routes.
- ✓ Ask about special assistance for elderly or disabled persons.
- ✓ Determine the best escape routes from your home.
- ✓ Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.



#### 4. Practice and maintain your plan.

- Quiz your kids every six months so they remember what to do.
- Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.
- Replace stored water every three months and stored food every six months.
- Test and recharge your fire extinguisher according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.



## Stay or Leave?

When a hurricane threatens your area, you will have to make the decision whether you should evacuate or whether you can ride out the storm in safety at home.

- If local authorities recommend evacuation, you should leave! Their advice is based on knowledge of the strength of the storm and its potential for death and destruction.
- In general: Plan to leave if you live on the coastline, offshore islands, near a river or in a flood zone.



## Disaster Supply Kit

Assemble the supplies you might need. Store them in an easy-to-carry container.

### Include:

- A supply of water for drinking and cooking (One gallon per person per day)
- A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food, and a non-electric can opener
- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes
- Blankets or sleeping bags (1 per person)
- A first aid kit and prescription medications
- An extra pair of eyeglasses, contact lens supplies
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries
- Credit cards and cash in a waterproof container
- An extra set of car keys
- A list of important family information; the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members, such as extra diapers, hearing aids, and medical certification
- Books, magazines, cards, toys and games
- Important documents in waterproof containers (Insurance policies)
- Photographs or videotapes of personal property, as well as an up-to-date inventory of items (include serial numbers)
- Hygiene supplies and toiletries
- Shovel, axe and other useful tools
- Fire extinguisher



## First Aid Kit

You should have two first aid kits: one for your home, the other for your car.

### An emergency first aid kit should include:

- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- 2-inch & 3-inch sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- 2-inch & 3-inch sterile roll bandages
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Needle
- Safety razor blade
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic spray
- Thermometer
- Tongue blades and wooden applicator sticks
- Tube petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Safety pins in assorted sizes
- Latex gloves

Non-prescription drugs such as:

- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid, emetic, and laxative
- Eye wash
- Rubbing alcohol and hydrogen peroxide
- Activated charcoal (use if advised by Poison Control Center)

## Hurricane Watches and Warnings



### When a hurricane watch is issued for your area:

- Check often for official bulletins on Channel 10 Access St. Tammany, radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio.
- Fuel your vehicle.
- Moor small craft or move to safe shelter.
- Stock up on canned provisions and bottled water.
- Check supplies of special medicines and prescription drugs.
- Check radio and flashlight batteries and replace if necessary.
- Secure lawn furniture and other loose material outdoors.
- Tape, board, or shutter windows to prevent shattering.
- Wedge sliding glass doors to prevent their lifting from their tracks.

### When a hurricane warning is issued for your area and you plan to stay:

- Stay tuned to Channel 10 Access St. Tammany, radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins.
- Stay off the roads.
- Board up the garage and porch doors.
- Move valuables to upper floors.
- Bring in pets.
- Fill containers (bathtub) with several days' supply of drinking water.
- Turn up refrigerator to maximum cold and don't open unless necessary.
- Use phone only for emergencies.
- Stay indoors on the downwind side of house, away from windows.

**IMPORTANT:** In St. Tammany Parish, **ALL** emergency services will be suspended when sustained winds reach 35 mph. Responders may not be able to assist you in an emergency until it is deemed safe to resume normal activities.

### When a hurricane warning is issued for your area and you plan to evacuate:

There are three phases of evacuation: precautionary, recommended and mandatory.

An evacuation notice will be issued when a hurricane is forecast to present a danger to the St. Tammany Parish area. This notice to evacuate will be issued depending on the landfall probability in this area and also on the speed and severity of the storm.

#### Evacuation information:

- Shut off water and electricity.
- Take small valuables and papers but travel light.
- Make sheltering plans for pets.
- Lock up house.
- Leave early in daylight if possible.
- Drive carefully to nearest designated shelter using recommended evacuation route.

## **When the Hurricane has passed...**

If you are out of state, call **1-866-898-2323** for reentry information.

- Remain in shelter until informed by local authorities that it is safe to leave.
- Use caution re-entering home.
- Keep tuned to your local radio or television station for advice and instructions from your local government on:
  - Where to go to obtain necessary medical care in your area.
  - Where to go for necessary emergency assistance for housing, clothing, and food.
  - Ways to help you and your community recover from the emergency.
- Stay out of disaster areas. Sightseeing interferes with essential rescue and recovery work, and may be dangerous as well.
- Drive carefully along debris-filled streets. Roads may be undermined and could collapse under the weight of a car. Watch for dangling electrical wires and flooded low spots.
- Avoid loose or dangling wires and report them to your power company or to the local police or fire department.
- Report broken sewer or water mains.
- Check for gas leaks.
- Prevent fires. Because of decreased water pressure, fire fighting becomes difficult.
- Check refrigerated food for spoilage if power has been off during the storm.

\* Remember, hurricanes moving inland can cause severe flooding. Stay away from levees, riverbanks, and streams until all potential flooding is passed. Local authorities will announce when it is safe to return home.

### **IMPORTANT WEBSITES:**

American Red Cross  
<http://www.redcross.org/>

U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security  
<http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

FEMA  
<https://www.fema.gov/>

Weather Channel  
[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

National Hurricane Center  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

St. Tammany Parish Government  
<http://www.stpgov.org/>



**PREVENTION BUREAU**  
ST. TAMMANY FIRE DISTRICT 12



# Hurricane Tracking Map

