

Nueces Electric Co-op

Hurricane Preparedness Guide



Hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage to coastlines and several hundred miles inland. Hurricanes can produce winds exceeding 155 miles per hour as well as tornadoes and microbursts. A microburst often has high winds that can knock over fully grown trees. They usually last for a duration of a couple of seconds to several minutes.

Additionally, hurricanes can create storm surges along the coast and cause extensive damage from heavy rainfall. Floods and flying debris from the excessive winds are often the deadly and destructive results of these weather events. Slow moving hurricanes tend to produce heavy rain causing flash flooding.

Between 1970 and 1999, more people lost their lives from freshwater inland flooding associated with land falling tropical cyclones than from any other weather hazard related to tropical cyclones.

WILL YOU BE READY?
Don't Delay...Plan & Prepare Today!

Know the difference between “Watches” and “Warnings”

Watch - Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are possible in the area, usually within 48 hours.

Warning - Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are expected in the area, within 36 hours.

For up-to-date hurricane information,
monitor the National Hurricane Center at

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov> or www.hurricanes.gov

Learn the Terms Used by Weather Forecasters



Tropical Depression

An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less. Sustained winds are defined as one-minute average wind measured at about 33 ft (10 meters) above the surface.

Tropical Storm

An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph (34-63 knots).

Hurricane

An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.

Storm Surge

A dome of water pushed on shore by hurricane and tropical storm winds.

Storm Tide

A combination of storm surge and the normal tide (e.g., a 15-foot storm surge combined with a 2-foot normal tide over the mean sea level creates a 17-foot storm tide.)



DO TODAY - Before the Storm

- 1. Monitor Internet and local radio or television weather forecasts.** Sign up to receive local weather alerts by email.
- 2. Talk to your household about hurricane issues.** Create a household disaster plan. Choose an out-of-town contact for everyone to call to say they are safe. Learn evacuation routes. Determine where you would go and how you would get there.
- 3. Determine the needs of your household members** who may live elsewhere but need your help in a hurricane. Consider the special needs of neighbors, such as people that are disabled or those with limited sight or vision problems. Call 2-1-1 to register these people for evacuation assistance.
- 4. Prepare to survive on your own for at least a week.** Assemble a disaster supplies kit. Buy food, first aid, and hygiene supplies.
- 5. Make plans to secure your property.** Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- 6. Learn how to shut off utilities** and where gas and water shutoffs are located. Do not actually shut off the gas to see how it works or to show others. Only the gas company can safely turn it back on.
- 7. Have your home inspected for compliance with local building codes.** Many of the roofs destroyed by hurricanes were not constructed or retrofitted according to building codes. Installing straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure will substantially reduce roof damage.
- 8. Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed.** Dead limbs or trees could cause personal injury or property damage. Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- 9. If you have a boat, determine where to secure it in an emergency.**
- 10. Purchase flood insurance** well in advance—there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance takes effect.
- 11. Make a record of your personal property.** Take photographs or videotapes of the exterior and interior of your home, including personal belongings.
- 12. Make arrangements for pets** in a shelter or include pet supplies, ID & records, medications, & carrier in disaster supply kit.
- 13. Assemble important paperwork** Mail copies of important paperwork to someone who lives outside a hurricane zone. (Include will, insurance policies, contracts deeds, stocks and bonds, passports, social security cards, immunization records, bank account numbers, credit card account numbers and companies, inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers, and family records such as birth, marriage, death certificates.)
- 14. Learn hotels along the evacuation route.** Make a list of phone numbers.
- 15. Network with family and neighbors and share contact phone numbers** and out-of-town numbers so people can call loved ones after a storm.
- 16. Assemble a list of doctor's phone numbers and prescriptions** you will need (and have a two-week supply).
- 17. Put cash in envelopes for emergencies.**
- 18. Purchase/test a generator & learn to use it**
- 19. Fill all available gasoline containers**

When a WATCH is Issued

- 1. OUTSIDE YOUR HOME**
 - Locate storm shutters, boards, garage door supports and any hardware or tools necessary for installation.
 - DO NOT PRUNE TREES.** Trash/brush collection will be delayed and loose branches may become dangerous.
 - Fill your evacuation vehicle with fuel. Park spare vehicles in the garage or as close as possible to the side of the home.
 - Locate water, gas and electric shutoffs. Shut them off if you evacuate.
 - Make hotel reservations.
- 2. INSIDE YOUR HOME**
 - Go over your family plan and complete evacuation preparations
 - Check hurricane supply list.
 - Check medical supplies and prescription medicines to be sure you have at least a 2-week supply. Check first-aid kit.
 - Be sure all battery-operated TV's, radios, flashlights, and lanterns are in working order with spare batteries.
 - Make sure you have enough cash.
 - Make sure everyone knows where the fire extinguisher is located.
 - Leave early if you're towing a boat, trailer, motorcycle, or driving a RV.

When a WARNING is Issued

- 1. Install storm shutters or plywood and door braces.**
- 2. Unplug your TV before attempting to lower an outdoor antenna.**
- 3. Drain in-ground ponds & pools**
- 4. Bring in any outdoor objects**
- 5. Disconnect gas & propane**
- 6. Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings.**
- 7. Clean a bathtub using bleach.**
- 8. Prepare your "safe room."**
- 9. Place valuables and personal papers in waterproof containers.**
- 10. Close all windows.**
- 11. Put as many loose objects as possible in drawers.**
- 12. Be sure someone knows where you are.**
- 13. Be prepared to evacuate**



NEC Hurricane Guide



Important Texas Emergency Links

www.spc.noaa.gov -- NOAA Storm Prediction Center

www.nhc.noaa.gov -- National Hurricane Center

www.redcross.org -- American Red Cross

www.fema.gov -- Federal Emergency Management Agency

http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/road_conditions.htm -- Texas Department of Transportation road conditions

www.uscg.mil/news/stormcenter -- U.S. Coast Guard Storm Center

<http://www.weather.gov/emwin/index.htm> -- National Weather Service's Emergency Managers Weather Information Network .

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/> -- National Center for Environmental Health

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mrx/glossary.php> -- acronyms and abbreviations

Getting Help in Texas

Please become familiar with the following resources; they can provide emergency assistance and critical information during a time of disaster.

Emergency 9-1-1

9-1-1 is the universal emergency phone number for residents of the United States to use to request emergency assistance. During a disaster, do not call 9-1-1 unless the situation is life threatening.

2-1-1 Texas First Call for Help

2-1-1 is a non-emergency information and referral hotline. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to every resident of Texas. Specialists are trained to provide callers with current information such as evacuation routes and locations of food and shelter during a disaster. Visit www.211.org for more information.

Texas Poison Control Center

If you suspect that someone has ingested or inhaled a toxic substance, immediately call the poison control center at (800) 222-1222. A trained professional will give you specific instructions on how to handle the incident. Poison control specialists are available to take calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information, visit www.poisoncontrol.org

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

The DSHS offers current information on emergency preparedness for families, professionals and responders. For fact sheets, frequently asked questions, emergency checklists and information on volunteering see www.dshs.state.tx.us/compreg

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

Category 1:	74-95 mph	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage; extensive damage to power lines and poles will likely result in power outages that could last a few to several days.
Category 2:	96-110 mph	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage and there is a substantial risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks. Potable water could become scarce as filtration systems begin to fail.
Category 3:	111-130 mph	Devastating damage will occur : There is a high risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to a few weeks after the storm passes.
Category 4:	131-155 mph	Catastrophic damage will occur: There is a very high risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Long-term water shortages will increase human suffering. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
Category 5:	>155 mph	Catastrophic damage will occur : People, livestock, and pets are at very high risk of injury or death from flying or falling debris, even if indoors in mobile homes or framed homes. Almost complete destruction of all mobile homes will occur, regardless of age or construction. Nearly all trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Long-term water shortages will increase human suffering. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.



NEC Hurricane Guide Hurricane Evacuation

When hurricanes strike populated areas, they can cause massive damage and loss of life. Ten of the 30 worst hurricanes in U.S. history have struck Texas, including the 1900 Galveston hurricane that killed more than 6,000 people.

In recent years, thousands of new residents have moved to Texas coastal areas. They have little or no experience with the dangers of hurricanes and tropical storms. Other coastal residents falsely believe they can weather a severe storm with little risk.

The Texas Department of Public Safety has conducted extensive hurricane evacuation studies for the Texas Gulf Coast. The information is available online for public information at www.txdot.gov/travel/hurricane.htm

The information includes evacuation risk maps for all Texas coastal areas and show the risks in different locations from hurricane winds and storm surge (the massive amounts of water pushed forward by hurricane winds). If you live on or near the coast you are encouraged to review the risk map for your area.



How Will I Know When to Evacuate?

Local officials will tell you if you should evacuate and when to leave. Evacuations will begin many hours before the storm arrives in order to get everyone out safely. During a hurricane watch, stay tuned to your local Emergency Alert System (EAS) stations. Key EAS stations for Texas coastal areas include the following:

*Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Matagorda & Brazoria Counties
KTRH 740 AM & KPRC 850 AM*

*Jefferson, Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Liberty, & Orange Counties
KLVI 560 AM & KFDM Channel 6*

*Jackson, Victoria, & Calhoun Counties
KVIC 95.1 FM & KRNX 1340 AM*

*Nueces, Kleberg, Aransas, San Patricio & Refugio Counties
KKTX 1360 AM, K-99, KSAB 99.9, Jake 107, The Beach 96.5,
K-Bay 92.7, KOUL 103.7, LaMejor 98.3*

*Kenedy County & Area South to the Mexican Border
KFRQ 94.5 & KGBT 98.5*

For a list of all Texas NOAA Weather Radio Stations/Frequencies visit:

<http://www.weather.gov/nwr/CntyCov/nwrTX.htm>

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<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mrx/glossary.php> -- acronyms and abbreviations

Evacuate to an Inland Location If...

Local authorities announce an evacuation and you live in an evacuation zone.

You live in a mobile home or temporary structure - they are particularly hazardous during hurricanes no matter how well fastened to the ground.

You live in a high-rise. Hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.

You live on the coast, on a floodplain near a river or inland waterway.

You feel you are in danger.

When Authorities Order an Evacuation...

Leave immediately.

Follow evacuation routes announced by local officials.

Stay away from coastal areas, riverbanks and streams.

Tell others where you are going.

If You are Not Required or are Unable to Evacuate...

Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors. Keep curtains and blinds closed.

Do not be fooled if there is a lull, it could be the eye of the storm - winds will pick up again.

If not instructed to turn off, turn the refrigerator to its coldest setting and keep closed.

Turn off propane tanks.



FEMA Family Disaster Kit

Don't Wait Until a Storm is Near - Prepare Your Kit Now!

Disasters happen anytime and anywhere. And when disaster strikes, you may not have much time to respond. A severe storm could require evacuation, home confinement and/or could cut water, electricity, and telephone service for days. After a disaster, local officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours, or it may take days. Would your family be prepared to cope with the emergency until help arrives?

Possible Containers for Your Kit Include the Following:

A large, covered trash container

A camping backpack

A duffle bag



Water

Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers, and ill people will need more.

*Store one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts per person for food preparation/sanitation)
Keep a 3 day to 1 week supply of water per person. Don't forget to plan for your animals too.*



Food

Store at least a 1-week supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking, and little or no water. If you must heat food, pack a can of sterno. Select food items that are compact and lightweight. Include a selection of *Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables*



First Aid Kit

Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car. A first aid kit should include:

Adhesive bandages-assorted sizes

Latex gloves (2 pairs)

4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)

3-inch sterile roller bandages (3)

Tweezers

Antiseptic

Tube of petroleum jelly/other lubricant

Syrup of Ipecac (poison control)

Assorted sizes of safety pins

Sunscreen

Non-prescription drugs

Scissors

Needle

Thermometer

Non-Prescription Drugs

Activated charcoal (poison control)

Cleansing agent/soap

2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)

2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)

Antacid (for stomach upset)

Moistened towelettes

Tongue blades (2)

Anti-diarrhea medication

Laxative



Tools and Supplies

Emergency preparedness manual

Flashlight and extra batteries

Tube tent

Tape & Rope

Aluminum foil

Paper, pencil

Whistle

Map of the area (for locating shelters)



Battery-operated radio/batteries

Cash or traveler's checks, change

Pliers

Compass

Plastic storage containers

Needles, thread

Plastic sheeting



Mess kits (paper cups, plates, plastic utensils)

Non-electric can opener, utility knife

Fire extinguisher: small canister ABC type

Matches in a waterproof container

Signal flare

Medicine dropper

Shut-off wrench, to turn off household gas & water

Sanitation

Toilet paper, towelettes

Personal hygiene items

Disinfectant

Soap, liquid detergent

Plastic garbage bags, ties

Household chlorine bleach

Feminine supplies

Plastic bucket with tight lid



Clothing and Bedding

Sturdy shoes or work boots

Blankets or sleeping bags

Rain gear

Sunglasses

At least two changes of clothing/footwear per person

Special Items

Remember family members with special requirements, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons

For Baby: Formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk, medications,

For Adults: medication, insulin, denture needs, contact lenses and supplies, eye glasses

For Animals: Food, shot tags, and leashes

Entertainment: Games and books

Important Family Documents/Valuables stored in waterproof container plus bank account numbers, credit card account numbers and companies, inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers and family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)



ATLANTIC HURRICANE TRACKING CHART

500 mi
500 km

NEC-100N PROJECTION
The scale is in miles.
Elsewhere on the map, scales increase toward poles.

