



The District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

WE LEAD • WE COORDINATE • WE PLAN • WE PREPARE • WE ALERT

What is Hurricane Season?

Hurricane Season officially begins on June 1 and extends through November 30. The season can involve any, or all, of the following storms:

- *Tropical Depression*: A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less.
- *Tropical Storm*: A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph.
- *Hurricane*: A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher.
- *Major Hurricane*: A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 111 mph or higher, meaning a Category 3, 4, or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.



What to Do During a Storm:

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Do not walk or drive through flood waters. You could easily be swept away and you cannot see dangers that may be in the water. "Don't drown, turn around!"
- Stay away from windows and doors, even if they are covered. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the bottom floor.
- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors.



Hurricane Season

Making Sure You Are Prepared *Before* Disaster Hits



- Around the dinner table, talk to your family about where you would meet in the event of an emergency.
- If you have pets, identify some pet-friendly hotels in case you have to evacuate.
- Trim back trees and shrubbery so they don't become flying debris.
- Clear out your rain gutters so water doesn't back up and end up in your house.
- Teach friends and family members to text on their cell-phones, text messages can often get through when phone calls can't.



Do You Have Your Emergency Kit?

An emergency supply kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Visit www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit for a complete list of suggested items.

Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. Remember, you may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you, and once a disaster hits you will not have time to shop or search for ..

- Make copies of important documents for your emergency kit (medication list, medical info, proof of address, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies, etc.) Consider putting them on a flash drive, as well.
- If it has been six months since you got fresh water for your kit, it's time to rotate to a new supply.
- Write the date you bought items for your kit on them; it will help keep everything fresh.

- Get an extra set of house and car keys made for your emergency kit.
- Teach everyone how to turn off the utilities in your house (electricity, gas, water, etc.) so they can do it in case of an evacuation.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater and electric panel in your home.
- Consider installing "check valves" to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- If feasible, construct barriers to stop floodwater from entering the building and seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds.



Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/hsemadc



Follow us on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/DC_HSEMA



AlertDC is the official District of Columbia communications system that sends emergency alerts, notifications, and updates to your devices and your personal connection to real-time updates and instructions to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community. **Sign up for AlertDC at www.AlertDC.DC.gov .**