



Hurricane Preparedness

Am I located in a flood zone? Do I have batteries for the flash light? Should I evacuate and if so, where do I go? Is there an emergency shelter in my community? How do I make sure this doesn't happen again? Before hurricane season is upon us, "Make a Kit, Make a Plan, and Stay Informed."

Make a Kit:

- Make a Disaster-Supply Kit. Include at least the following items.
 - o Non-perishable food and water.
 - o Items for personal hygiene.
 - o First aid kit.
 - o Important documents (i.e. insurance card, birth certificate, social security card, etc.) Store documents in a water-proof container.
 - o Cash.
 - o Flashlight and radio with spare batteries.
 - o Any prescription medicines that you may need
- Make sure your vehicle's gas tank is full.
- Store kit in a safe, secure, dry area.

Make a Plan:

- Learn the elevation of your home and whether or not it is located in a floodplain.
- Know evacuation routes and identify an evacuation destination.
- Identify at least one alternative evacuation route and location.
- Identify local shelter locations.
- Know your local emergency contact numbers (i.e. Fire, Police, Emergency Management)
- If you have a pet, know what shelters allow animals.

Stay Informed:

- Listen to the radio or TV for information.
- Avoid using the phone except for emergencies.
- Keep friends and family informed of your location. Develop a Family Emergency Communications Plan to stay in touch and to know where to meet in case you get separated.
- Track the hurricane's progress by visiting NOAA's National Hurricane Center at nhc.noaa.gov
- Follow us on Twitter @RhodeIslandEMA

*Great New England
Hurricane of 1938
Providence, RI*



Additional Resources:

- Visit riema.ri.gov/preparedness/hurricanes for additional information on hurricanes.
- Visit riema.ri.gov/preparedness for a complete Disaster-Supply Kit Checklist and Family Emergency Communications Plan.
- Visit riema.ri.gov/preparedness/evacuations for local evacuation information.
- Find out if your home is in a floodplain by using the RI Floodplain Mapping Tool at riema.ri.gov/prevention/floods/flood_mapping
- Find your local emergency contact information at riema.ri.gov/response/local



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Before a Hurricane

- Make plans to secure your property. Bring in outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans, etc.
- Cover your homes windows. Storm windows and marine plywood offer the best protection. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Trim trees around your property to prevent limbs from falling and causing damage.
- Clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Identify a "safe room" in your home (i.e. a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.)
- Fill up your vehicle's gas tank.
- Moor your boat.
- Fully charge your cell phone in case you lose power.
- Bring in outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans, etc.
- Turn off propane tanks.

During a Hurricane:

- Listen to the radio or TV for information and listen to instructions given by public officials (i.e. turning off utilities, evacuation instructions, etc.)
- Avoid using the phone, except during emergencies.
- Take refuge in your previously identified safe room.

After a Hurricane:

- Continue listening to the radio or TV for the latest updates.
- If you evacuated, only return once officials say it is safe to do so.
- Drive only if necessary. Avoid driving on flooded roadways.
- Watch for fallen objects such as downed wires, broken glass, nails, and other sharp objects. Contact National Grid to report a downed power-line.
- Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both inside and outside of your home, for insurance purposes.
- Do not enter a structure if the foundation is damaged. If you are unsure about your home's safety, have it inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.
- Stay out of any building if you smell gas or if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Pay attention to boil water advisories. Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.
- Check refrigerated food for spoilage.
- Continue to avoid making phone calls unless it is an emergency.
- Do not operate a generator indoors. Make sure that it is used in a well-ventilated area.

Hurricane Sandy Aftermath

Westerly, RI. Oct 31, 2012

