

HURRICANE

HURRICANE - A tropical cyclone, formed in the atmosphere over warm ocean areas, in which wind speeds reach 74 miles per hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center or "eye". Circulation is counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

Southeast Louisiana, because of its location and terrain, is particularly vulnerable to hurricanes and the affects of associated flooding. Residents and visitors to the region during the storm season, extending from June 1 through November 1, should be familiar with hurricane procedures.

Before a Hurricane:

- Prepare a Family Disaster Supply Kit (or "go kit") of emergency supplies in case you and have to evacuate.
- Familiarize yourself with the terms used to identify severe weather activity.
- Familiarize yourself with terms associated with evacuation orders.
- **Pre-register individuals with special medical / transportation needs.**

Link to Assisted Evacuation Assessment Registry Here:

http://jp-appserver.jeffparish.net/webapps/EOCAssessReg/2012_EOC/DEFAULT.asp

- **Sign up so that severe weather alerts can be sent directly to your email or cellular telephone through the JPAAlert System.**

Register for Community Alerts Here:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736721515>

- **Authorized businesses should sign up for a Parish Re-Entry Placard (PREP) through JumpStart Jefferson.**

Register for business a Re-Entry Placard Here:

<http://www.jumpstartjefferson.com/>

- Prepare your house:
 - Cover all windows to protect them from high winds.
 - Install permanent shutters or screens; or
 - Temporarily board up windows using plywood.

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- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure.
- Bring inside all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans, etc. Loose objects can become projectiles in high winds.
- Trim trees and shrubs around your house.
- Clean gutters, downspouts and drains.
- Move your boat to a safe harbor.
- Prepare your vehicle. Inspect your car to make sure it is mechanically sound and capable of long distance travel. Keep your vehicle fueled-up.
- **Review Jefferson Parish's Public Assisted Evacuation Plan (PAEP) if you do not have access to an automobile for evacuation.**
- Monitor weather radio and television news/weather reports for storm developments.
- Prepare an evacuation plan:
 - Select an evacuation destination.
 - Designate evacuation routes.
 - Designate "meet-up" points.
 - Share contact information.
 - Select alternates in the event your primary selections are unavailable.
 - Share your plan with family members / friends / co-workers.
- **Familiarize yourself with the State Evacuation / Contraflow Plan.**

Evacuation:

- **If you are directed by local authorities to evacuate, you should do so as soon as possible.**
- Other evacuation considerations:
 - If you or someone you care for is disabled or has special needs.
 - If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure.
 - If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an inland waterway.
 - High rise buildings may not be safe to the effects of hurricane strength winds.
 - If you feel you are in danger.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator/freezer thermostat to the coldest setting.
- Close propane tanks and store the tanks inside.

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During a Hurricane:

- Tune to radio / television and monitor news and weather reports for storm developments, official notices, updates, and information.
- Avoid using the telephone, except for serious emergencies.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing. Clean and fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.
- Flooding:
 - **Don't drive through flooded streets.** Should you find yourself trapped in your vehicle in rising water get out immediately and seek higher ground.
 - **Don't walk through flood waters, if possible.** The water may be contaminated or electrically charged.
- **Stay away from downed power lines to avoid the risk of electrocution.**

If You Are Unable to Evacuate:

- Stay indoors.
- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors including garage door.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed. Stay away from windows and glass doors.
- **Be alert for high winds / tornadoes.** If you see a funnel cloud or if local authorities issue a tornado warning take shelter in an interior room away from windows or in a closet or hallway in the lowest level of your house.
- **Be alert for flooding.** If waters are rising quickly or local authorities issue a flash flood warning, seek higher ground.

Returning After a Hurricane:

- Do not attempt to return to your home until local authorities say it is safe.
 - Use caution when returning, roads and bridges may be damaged.
 - **Fuel up frequently while en route back to the Parish / City. Fuel may be unavailable or in short supply in the damage zone.**
 - Recognize that utility services may not be available in the damage zone.
 - Recognize that medical services may be extremely limited in the damage zone.
 - Prepare to be allowed only to “inspect and leave” in the damage zone.
 - **Bring sufficient food, water and supplies to sustain you and your family for at least 3 – 5 days.** Recognize that local grocery stores, pharmacies and hardware stores may not be open or may have curtailed hours/supplies.
 - Prepare to show personal identification for re-entry into the Parish/City.

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- **Obey local curfew and special instructions.**
- Inspect buildings prior to entering. Structures may be unstable.
- Drinking water may be contaminated. Boil water if instructed.

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