



# SAFETY TIPS

## 2022 Hurricane Preparedness & Tornado Awareness

The Hurricane Season runs from 1 Jun to 30 Nov. Hurricanes are among nature's most powerful and destructive phenomena. Regardless of where hurricanes land, they always come with powerful winds, heavy rainfall, and flooding which can cause significant harm to life and damage property. If you haven't yet prepared for hurricane season, now is the time to do so. Here are some tips to help stay safe and be better prepared:

### **BEFORE A HURRICANE:**

- Fill vehicles, generator, and gas cans with fuel and conduct generator maintenance.
- Set refrigerator to coldest setting and limit openings.
- Secure and protect important family documents.
- Identify wind/water hazards; "Know your Zone" where tidal flooding normally occurs.
- Ensure your ADHOC information is up to date.
- Involve family in creating an emergency plan and travel kit.
- Learn evacuation routes. Practice route, and identify shelter locations. Place emergency numbers in phone.



### **DURING A HURRICANE:**

- Monitor weather conditions; follow authority's instructions. Keep a radio and batteries on hand should power be lost.
- Remain inside, away from windows and doors. Close interior doors, blinds and curtains.
- If trapped by flooding, go to highest level. Do not climb into an attic, you may become trapped by rising flood water.
- Use flashlights vice candles for lighting, and ensure cell phones are fully charged.

### **AFTER A HURRICANE:**

- Check on family/friends. Report status to supervisor. Monitor weather for flooding in area.
- Be cautious walking outside. Avoid (and report) downed power lines and turn off natural gas if leaks are detected.
- Keep street drains debris free. Inspect property for damage; take photos. Report to insurance.
- Save phone calls for emergencies. Phones are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messaging or social media to communicate with family and friends.

### **EMERGENCY KIT ITEMS:**

At-Home Kit – First aid kit, money, phone/charger, emergency contacts, flashlights, batteries, radio, food/water (3-day supply), baby formula, pet food, can opener, sanitary items, moist towelettes.

Evacuation Kit – Money, credit cards, medicines, important documents, glasses, phone/charger, emergency contacts, food/water, supplies, blankets, tools, activities for kids.



**WHAT IS A TORNADO:** A tornado is a narrow, violently rotating column of air that extends from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground. Tornadoes are the most violent of all atmospheric storms. They can occur any time of the year with little or no warning, and are often associated with Hurricanes.

**TORNADO SEASON:** Tornado season generally refers to the time of the year the U.S. sees the most tornadoes. The peak “tornado season” for the Southern Plains is May to early June. In the Gulf Coast, it is usually earlier in the spring. The Northern Plains and upper Midwest see most tornado in June and July. However, tornadoes can happen at any time of year. They can also occur any time of day or night, but most occur between 4-9 PM. Stay prepared; Stay informed; Stay safe.



**TORNADO STATISTICS:** The U.S. has over 1,200 Tornadoes every year. The number one cause of death from Tornadoes is Flooding/Flash Flooding which results in the loss of 90 lives annually. Lightning strikes result in 55-60 deaths, 400 injuries and over \$1 Billion in property damage every year. Tornado wind damage causes 60-65 deaths and over 1,500 injuries annually. Winds associated with Tornado can exceed 200 miles per hour (MPH). The average forward speed of a Tornado is 30 MPH, but can range from stationary to 70 MPH and can be over a mile wide.

**TORNADO PREPARATION:** Develop an emergency plan; include shelter locations. Practice tornado drills with family. Be familiar with your community’s Tornado warning system. Monitor local weather stations. Pick a safe room in your home where family members and pets can gather. Remove tree limbs near the house or windows; secure trash cans and lawn furniture. Watch for tornado danger signs: Dark, often greenish clouds, wall clouds, large hail, funnel clouds and/or a roaring noise.

**‘WATCH’ VS ‘WARNING’:** Tornado Watch/Warnings are issued by the NOAA Storm Prediction Center. Their meteorologists monitor the weather 24/7 across the entire U.S. for conditions that are favorable for tornadoes. A **WATCH** means Tornadoes are ‘likely to occur’ in or near the watch area. Be ready to act quickly and take shelter should a warning be issued. Check supply kits, monitor radio and weather stations for updates. A **WARNING** means there is an ‘imminent threat’; a Tornado has been sighted in the area or has been indicated by weather radar. There is a serious threat to life and property to those in the path of the Tornado. Take shelter immediately in a basement, storm cellar or an interior room.



**RESOURCES:**

- <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hurricane/index.shtml>
- <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emres/flood.html>
- <https://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/tornado/preparedness.html>

**DID YOU KNOW:** Over 1,800 Thunderstorms occur at any moment around the world – that’s over 16 million annually.

Manage the Risk



Protect the Force