

HURRICANE SAFETY TIPS

TERMS TO KNOW

Hurricane Watch

Hurricane conditions MAY threaten an area within 24-36 hours. When a Hurricane Watch is issued, listen for further advisories and be prepared to act promptly.

Hurricane Warning

Hurricane conditions are expected in a specified area in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include winds of or exceeding 74 miles an hour (64 knots) and/or dangerously high tides and waves. When a Hurricane Warning is issued, actions for protection of life and property should begin immediately.

Flash Flood Watches and Warnings

Flash Flood Watch means a flash flood is possible in the area; stay alert. Flash Flood Warning means a flash flood is imminent; take immediate action.

Tornadoes

Spawned by hurricanes and sometimes produce severe damage and casualties. If a tornado is reported in your area, a warning will be issued.

BE PREPARED!

- Know the Emergency Alert System radio and television stations in your area that will carry official information. Monitor NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts, if possible.
- Know the hurricane risks in your area. Learn the storm surge history and elevation of your area.
- Learn safe routes inland.
- Learn the location of official shelters.
- Ensure that enough non-perishable food and water supplies are on hand.
- Have at least a one-week supply of medications on hand.
- Obtain and store materials, such as plywood, necessary to secure your home properly.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed of dead wood.
- Review your insurance policy.
- Determine where to move your boat in an emergency.
- Make plans now on what to do with your pets should you be required to evacuate your residence. Public health regulations do not allow pets in public shelters, nor do most hotels/motels allow them.



Eliot L. Spitzer
Governor

John R. Gibb
Director

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES KIT

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First Aid kit and manual
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Checkbook, cash, credit cards, ATM card
- Important papers (valid ID)
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Extra clothing, infant necessities

BEFORE THE HURRICANE

- Listen for weather updates and stay informed.
- Keep a portable radio and flashlight on hand—with fresh batteries.
- Re-check all emergency supplies and equipment.
- Clear your yard of all loose objects.
- Moor your boat securely.
- Store drinking water in clean containers.
- Shutter, board, or tape all windows.
- Plan a flood-free evacuation route and know where to go.
- If ordered to evacuate, comply immediately! Take your Emergency Supplies Kit. Let your friends & family know where you are going.

AFTER THE HURRICANE

- DO NOT enter evacuated areas until local officials have issued an “All Clear.”
- Stay away from disaster areas. Do not sightsee!
- Obey all curfews and emergency orders that are issued.
- If you must drive, use caution. Be aware of road & bridge washouts, and storm debris on roadways.
- Advise interested parties that you are safe.
- Use caution when using food from your refrigerator or ice chest. Check for spoilage.
- Avoid all downed power lines. Assume that all have live electricity.
- Take extra precautions to prevent fire. Lowered pressure in water mains may make firefighting extremely difficult.
- Have your electric, gas, and water connections checked before turning them back on.
- Use your emergency supply or boil water before using until there is official word that the water is safe.

**For additional tips on how to be prepared
for all hazards, visit SEMO on the web at**

www.semo.state.ny.us