



TIPS FOR FAMILIES TO FOLLOW DURING A HURRICANE WATCH OR WARNING

The American Red Cross recommends that people in hurricane-prone areas become familiar with the hurricane watch and warning messages and plan ahead to reduce the chances of injury or major property damage. A hurricane watch is issued when conditions are favorable that a hurricane might impact a specific area. A warning is issued when hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours or less. During hurricane conditions, winds are 74 miles per hour or greater, or there is dangerously high water and rough seas.

The Red Cross strongly recommends that individuals and families take preventive measures to ensure their personal safety during a hurricane watch or warning:

- Listen to media hurricane progress reports via battery-operated radio or television
- Get a battery-operated radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Check disaster supplies kit, including food, water and clothing
- Fill vehicles with fuel
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys and garden tools, anchor objects that cannot be brought inside
- Secure building by closing and boarding up windows
- Remove outside antennas
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest setting. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home
- Avoid elevators

If at home:

- If in a manufactured home, check tie-downs and evacuate as told by local authorities
- Stay inside, away from windows, skylights and glass doors
- Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy
- Do NOT use open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light
- If power is lost, turn off appliances to reduce power surge when electricity is restored

If officials indicate evacuation is necessary:

- If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture or move it to a higher floor to protect it from flooding
- Secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve
- Bring disaster supplies kit
- Take warm protective clothing, blankets, sleeping bags and prescription medicines
- Tell someone outside of your storm area where you are going
- Lock your home and leave immediately
- Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges

For more information contact the American Red Cross Alabama Gulf Coast Chapter

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www.redcrossalcoast.org