

- **Sunday, May 15, 2016: Determine your risk**

- **Introduction:** On this day you should find out what types of wind and water hazards are possible where you live, and then start preparing now for how to handle them. Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Their impacts can be felt hundreds of miles inland. It's easy to forget what a hurricane is capable of doing. The U.S. has not been directly impacted by a major hurricane (Category 3 or higher) in more than a decade. However, hurricanes such as Ike, Sandy and Isaac reminded us that significant impacts can occur without it being a major hurricane. Many people are suffering from hurricane amnesia in the forms of complacency, denial and inexperience. This remarkable hurricane streak is going to end, and we have to be ready for it to happen this season.
- **Storm surge is water pushed ashore by the winds of a tropical cyclone. It has caused more damage to facilities than any other hurricane hazard.**
 - **Do you live on the coast?**
 - *If so, you are most at risk for extreme winds & flooding from rain & storm surge during a hurricane.*
 - *Remember that high winds can lead to power outages.*
 - **Do you live inland?**
 - *A hurricane can still put you at risk for wind, thunderstorms, and flooding.*
 - *Hurricanes also cause widespread power outages in inland areas.*
- **Winds from a hurricane are 74 mph or greater and can cause massive damage to buildings and structures in its path.**
 - **Hurricane watch = conditions possible w/in the next 48 hrs.**
 - **Hurricane warning = conditions are expected within 36 hrs (or are occurring).**

- **Inland flooding is the most frequent cause of tropical cyclone fatalities. It can occur far from the coast and long after landfall.**
 - **Hurricanes not only result in high winds, but floods, too. If you see a flooded path: Turn Around, Don't Drown!**
 - **Most hurricane deaths and damages are not because of winds, they happen because of flooding**
- **Tornadoes are commonly spawned by a hurricane and can cause damage far away from the center of the hurricane.**
- **Rip currents and waves along and near the coast can be deadly even if the center of the storm passes well offshore.**
- **Additional Information**
 - **NOAA Coastal Services historical hurricane tracks tool: <https://coast.noaa.gov/hurricanes/>**
 - **Hurricane Return Periods: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/climo/#returns>**
 - **Hurricane risk factors and more: <http://1.usa.gov/1po05wl>**
 - **Learn how to prepare for these risks and more: www.ready.gov/hurricanes**
 - **More info: <http://1.usa.gov/1R8IfX7>**
 - **Learn more: <http://1.usa.gov/1sVepZI>**
 - **Check out this map of the U.S. and the frequency of hurricane and tropical storm activity by county. <http://1.usa.gov/1po05wl>**
 - **Learn more about preparing for a hurricane with America's PrepareAthon! <http://1.usa.gov/1sVepZI>**

- **Monday, May 16, 2016: Plan for evacuation**

- **Introduction:** If you live in a storm surge hurricane evacuation zone or if you're in a home that would be unsafe during a hurricane, figure out where you'd go and how you'd get there if told to evacuate. You do not need to travel hundreds of miles. Identify someone, perhaps a friend or relative who doesn't live in a zone or unsafe home, and work it out with them to use their home as your evacuation destination. Be sure to account for your pets, as most local shelters do not permit them. Put the plan in writing for you and those you care about.
- **Find out today if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone.**
 - **Maps of evacuation zones courtesy of Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH):** <http://flash.org/hurricane-season/evacuation-zones/find-your-evacuation-zones.pdf>
 - **National storm surge risk maps:** <http://noaa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingTextLegend/index.html?appid=b1a20ab5eec149058bafc059635a82ee>
- **Plan today where you would go and how you would get there if told to evacuate by local officials.**
 - **What would you take?**
 - **Where is your local evacuation route? Make sure others know your plans.**
 - **If authorities advise or order a hurricane evacuation, do so immediately!**
- **If you don't live in an evacuation zone, identify someone who does, and plan to be their inland evacuation destination.**
- **Leave immediately when told to evacuate by local officials.**
 - **Keep your car's gas tank at least half full in case you need to quickly evacuate for a hurricane.**
 - **Know your community's local hurricane evacuation plan and identify several evacuation routes for your location.**
 - **Don't go off course - follow official local hurricane evacuation routes.**

- Identify an evacuation destination that will accommodate your pets, as most shelters do not permit them.
- **More information**
 - *For tips and information visit: www.ready.gov/today.*
 - *America's PrepareAthon! offers free hurricane tools and resources that will help you prepare. <http://1.usa.gov/1N3Si1U>*
 - <http://1.usa.gov/1XU9NUZ>
 - www.ready.gov/hurricanes
 - *Check out this @NWS PSA to see why: <http://bit.ly/1Ggz3PH> (a must see)*
 - *Make a PLAN to answer these questions. <http://1.usa.gov/1XU9NUZ>*

- **Tuesday, May 17, 2016: Update insurance**
 - **Introduction:** Call your insurance company or agent and ask for an insurance check-up to make sure you have enough homeowners insurance to repair or even replace your home. Don't forget coverage for your car or boat. Understand your deductible
 - **Have an insurance checkup with your agent once a year, well before hurricane season, whether you own or rent.**
 - Are you covered for hurricane dangers such as inland floods, high winds, & damage?
 - **Make sure you have flood insurance that must be obtained separately and has a 30-day waiting period to take effect.**
 - Standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. Whether you're a homeowner or renter, you'll need a separate policy for it.
 - **Visit www.floodsmart.gov to learn about your flood risk and flood insurance options for your area.**
 - **Prepare your home and vehicles according to your specific insurance policies to ensure damages are covered.**
 - **Know where your insurance documents and contact information are located. Take them with you if you evacuate. Find out today if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone.**
 - Learning how to document and protect your property may help when seeking insurance aid after a hurricane and/or flood.
 - **For more information**
 - **FLASH Insurance Guide: If Disaster Strikes, Will You Be Covered?**
<http://flash.org/pdf/ActuarialFoundationInsuranceGuideEnglish.pdf>
 - Find available coverage at www.floodsmart.gov
 - <http://1.usa.gov/1R8IfX7>
 - <http://1.usa.gov/15vEcTH>

- **Wednesday, May 18, 2016: Shop for supplies**

- **Introduction:** You're going to need supplies not just to get through the storm but for the potentially lengthy and unpleasant aftermath. Have enough non-perishable food, water and medicine to last each person in your family a minimum of one week. Electricity and water could be out for at least that long.
- **Food/Water – Get supplies well in advance, enough for each person for at least one week.**
 - One gallon of water per person per day for three to seven days, plus water for pets
 - Food that won't spoil
- **Medicine/First-aid – Have 30 days worth of medicines and medical supplies**
 - If possible, fill prescriptions before the storm.
- **Communications – Have extra batteries or portable chargers for your cell phones and batteries for your radios.**
 - Don't store batteries inside radios or flashlights due to corrosion.
 - Include a hand-crank or battery powered radio in your emergency kit.
 - Include a wired home phone if possible.
- **Gas – Fill up your car or gas can beforehand. If the power goes out, you will be unable to pump gas.**
 - Newer gas stations may have a generator but they will be busy
- **Money – Have cash on hand. With no electricity, ATMs and credit cards will not work.**
- **Consider your kids and pets.**
 - As part of your family's emergency kit, include games & toys to keep children entertained.
- **More Information:**

- FEMA Make a Plan: <http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>
- FLASH: Assembling A Disaster Kit:
http://flash.org/peril_inside.php?id=84
- Supplies to include: www.ready.gov/build-a-kit.
- Watch this video for more. <http://bit.ly/22oou8I>

- **Thursday, May 19, 2016: Strengthen your home**

- **Introduction:** If you plan to ride out the storm in your home, make sure it is in good repair and up to local hurricane building code specifications. For Virginia check:
<http://codes.iccsafe.org/Virginia.html>
- **Consider upgrading your home to make it more survivable**
 - **Roof “hurricane” clips that secure your roof to the walls**
 - **Flood-proofing measures such as using a water sealer in areas that have basements.**
 - **Reinforce the roof, windows, and doors.**
 - **Elevate and anchor utilities & install sewer backflow valves.**
 - **Many of these retrofits do not cost much or take as long to do as you may think.**
- **Keep trees & shrubs around your home trimmed well before a storm to prevent damage from broken branches.**
 - **Power Company trimming often destabilizes trees.**
- **Shop now for tested and approved window coverings to put up when a hurricane approaches. See flash.org.**
- **Bring loose outdoor items such as patio furniture inside. They can blow around and cause damage to homes.**
- **Secure all doors on your property. Remember that the garage door is usually the most vulnerable.**
- **Move your car inside a garage or to another secure location.**
- **For more information:**
 - **FEMA Mitigation: <https://www.fema.gov/what-mitigation>**
 - **FLASH: Prepare your home http://www.flash.org/peril_hurricanes.php**
 - **FLASH How-To Videos: <http://www.flash.org/protect.php>**

- **Protect Your Home From Flooding Video**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NykidRaYLxg>
- More mitigation tips at: <http://1.usa.gov/1o9qmti>.
- For more tips and information to protect your property before, during, and after a hurricane, visit: www.ready.gov/hurricanes.
- <http://1.usa.gov/1R73EOA>

- **Friday, May 20, 2016: Identify trusted sources of information**
 - **Introduction:** NOAA's National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center are your official sources for hurricane forecasts and the issuance of hurricane watches and warnings. Your local NOAA National Weather Service forecast office provides information regarding the expected impacts from the storm for your area. Emergency managers will make the decisions regarding evacuations.
 - **Television – Tune in to your trusted local news source.**
 - National networks may not have the latest information or the level of detail you need.
 - **Phone – Access mobile.weather.gov on your mobile phone and get wireless emergency alerts**
 - **Radio – Receive forecast information and news on your NOAA Weather Radio**
 - Some jurisdictions have partnerships with local radio stations to broadcast emergency information. Find those and tune in.
 - **Social Media – Follow official government agencies, trusted media partners, and share critical info with friends and family.**
 - Follow local emergency management or weather service groups.
 - Don't rely on unofficial hype sites.
 - After the storm passes, post your status so your friends and family will know without having to tie up communications lines searching.
 - **Computer – Access information from weather.gov, ready.gov, and flash.org.**
 - **Actions:**
 - Pacific hurricane season begins May 15. Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1.
 - Familiarize yourself with severe weather terminology to ensure that you recognize the looming weather risks: www.ready.gov/hurricanes.

- **Listen to local authorities. After the hurricane, return home only when authorities advise it is safe.**
- **It is time to go. If you have been instructed to evacuate, please do so. Listen to local officials to save yourself and your family.**
- **If officials say roadways are not passable, stay off the roads. Never drive on flooded roadways.**
- **To keep up with your local weather forecast, monitor local media updates.**
- **For more information:**
 - **National Hurricane Center: <http://www.hurricanes.gov/>**
 - **Central Pacific Hurricane Center: <http://www.weather.gov/cphc>**
 - **National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov/>**
 - **U.S. State and Territory Emergency Management Agencies: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>**
 - **Maps of evacuation zones courtesy of Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH): <http://flash.org/hurricane-season/evacuation-zones/find-your-evacuation-zones.pdf>**
 - **Wireless Emergency Alerts: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/wea.html>**
 - **National Hurricane Center Twitter Accounts: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/twitter.php>**
 - **www.ready.gov/alerts**
 - **<http://1.usa.gov/1R8IfX7>**
 - **www.ready.gov/hurricanes**
 - **www.weather.gov**

- **Saturday, May 21, 2016: Complete your written hurricane plan**

- **Introduction:** The time to prepare for a hurricane is before the season begins, when you have the time and are not under pressure. If you wait until a hurricane is on your doorstep, the odds are that you will be under duress and will make the wrong decisions. Take the time now to write down your hurricane plan. Know where you will ride out the storm and get your supplies now. You don't want to be standing in long lines when a hurricane warning is issued. Those supplies that you need will probably be sold out by the time you reach the shelves. Being prepared before a hurricane threatens, makes you resilient to the hurricane impacts of wind and water. It will mean the difference between your being a hurricane victim and a hurricane survivor.
- **Writing down your plan will ensure you don't make mistakes when faced with an emergency.**
 - **Know what to do before a hurricane strikes – create an emergency plan today.**
 - **You may not be with your family when a hurricane strikes, so it is important to plan how you will communicate with each other. Develop and practice your communication plan before a storm threatens your area.**
- **Gather all vital documents, like passports and medical records, and put them somewhere that you can quickly access.**
 - **Document all your valuables and possessions with a camera or video camera well before the storm.**
- **Make planning and preparedness a family affair to ensure everyone knows what to do.**
- **Remember:**
 - **In a disaster, it may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call in-town because local phone lines may be jammed. Identify someone outside of your community or state as a central point of contact to help your family reconnect.**
 - **It does NOT matter how many hurricanes are forecasted for this year. It only takes one storm.**

- **Your family's needs change over time – make sure you have what you need for this year's hurricane season.**
- **For more information:**
 - **FEMA Make Plan: <http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>**
 - **FLASH Prepare Your Home:
http://www.flash.org/peril_hurricanes.php**
 - **NOAA WeatherReady Nation Hurricane Training Module:
<https://www.meted.ucar.edu/emgmt/wxreadynation/launch.htm>**
 - **www.ready.gov/make-a-plan**
 - **<http://1.usa.gov/1PWKf0>**
 - **www.ready.gov/considerations**