

Tropical Cyclones

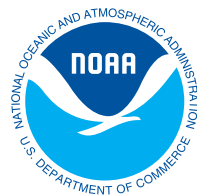


Hurricane Earl, September 1, 2010/NOAA

A PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

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FEMA



**American
Red Cross**

What To Listen For

- **HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM WATCH:** Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are possible in the specified area of the watch, usually within 48 hours of the onset of tropical storm force winds. During a Watch, prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation in case a Hurricane/Tropical Storm Warning is issued. Listen closely to instructions from local officials.
- **HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM WARNING:** Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 36 hours of the onset of tropical storm force winds. Complete storm preparations and immediately leave the threatened area if directed by local officials.
- **EXTREME WIND WARNING:** Extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane (115 mph or greater), usually associated with the eyewall, are expected to begin within an hour. Take immediate shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.
- Additional Watches and Warnings are issued to provide detailed information on specific threats such as floods and tornadoes. Local National Weather Service offices issue Flash Flood/Flood Watches and Warnings as well as Tornado Warnings.

National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center Products

PUBLIC ADVISORIES offer critical hurricane watch, warning and forecast information.

FORECASTS/ADVISORIES provide detailed hurricane track and wind field information.

PROBABILITIES OF HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM CONDITIONS offer locally specific chances of experiencing tropical storm, strong tropical storm and hurricane force winds out to 5 days to better know if one will be impacted and when these conditions may occur.

Local NWS Office Products

HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENTS give greater detail on how the storm will impact your area.

NON-PRECIPITATION WEATHER PRODUCTS provide High Wind Watches and Warnings for inland areas that could experience strong winds.

Use all of the above information to make an informed decision on your risk and what actions to take. Listen to recommendations of local officials on TV, radio and other media and to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards for the latest tropical cyclone information.

Are You Ready?

Before the Hurricane Season

- ✓ Determine safe evacuation routes inland.
- ✓ Learn locations of official shelters.
- ✓ Check emergency equipment, such as flashlights, generators and battery-powered equipment such as cell phones and your NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards receiver.
- ✓ Buy food that will keep and store drinking water.
- ✓ Buy plywood or other material to protect your home if you don't already have it.
- ✓ Trim trees and shrubbery so branches don't fly into your home.
- ✓ Clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- ✓ Decide where to move your boat.
- ✓ Review your insurance policy.
- ✓ Find pet-friendly hotels on your evacuation route.



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During the Storm

When in a Watch Area...

- ✓ Frequently listen to radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards for official bulletins of the storm's progress.
- ✓ Fuel and service family vehicles.
- ✓ Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs.
- ✓ Ensure you have extra cash on hand.
- ✓ Prepare to cover all windows and doors with shutters or other shielding materials.
- ✓ Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water and medications.
- ✓ Bring in light-weight objects such as garbage cans, garden tools, toys and lawn furniture.

When in a Warning Area...

- ✓ Closely monitor radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards for official bulletins.
- ✓ Close storm shutters.
- ✓ Follow instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered!
- ✓ Stay with friends or relatives at a low-rise inland hotel or at a designated public shelter outside the flood zone.
- ✓ DO NOT stay in a mobile or manufactured home.
- ✓ Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans.
- ✓ Take pets with you if possible, but remember, most public shelters do not allow pets other than those used by people with disabilities. Identify pet-friendly hotels along your evacuation route.

Plan to Leave if You...

- ✓ Live in a mobile home. They are unsafe in high winds no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- ✓ Live on the coastline, an offshore island or near a river or a flood plain.
- ✓ Live in a high rise building. Hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.

If Staying in a Home...

- ✓ Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and keep it closed.
- ✓ Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- ✓ Turn off propane tanks.
- ✓ Unplug small appliances.
- ✓ Fill bathtub and large containers with water in case clean tap water is unavailable. Use water in bathtubs for cleaning and flushing only. Do NOT drink it.

If Winds Become Strong...

- ✓ Stay away from windows and doors, even if they are covered. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway.
- ✓ Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors.
- ✓ If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior first floor room.
- ✓ If you are in a multi-story building and away from water, go to the 1st or 2nd floor and stay in the halls or other interior rooms away from windows.
- ✓ Lie on the floor under a table or other sturdy object.

Be Alert For...

- ✓ Tornadoes—they are often spawned by hurricanes.
- ✓ The calm “eye” of the storm—it may seem like the storm is over, but after the eye passes, the winds will change direction and quickly return to hurricane force.



American Red Cross

What to Bring to a Shelter

What to Bring to a Shelter

- First-aid kit
- Medicine, prescriptions
- Baby food and diapers
- Games, books, music players with headphones
- Toiletries
- Battery-powered radio and cell phone
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- A blanket or sleeping bag for each person
- Identification
- Copies of key papers such as insurance policies
- Cash, credit card

REMINDER: If you are told to leave your home, do so immediately!

After the Storm

- ✓ Keep listening to radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.
- ✓ Wait until an area is declared safe before entering.
- ✓ Watch for closed roads. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, Turn Around Don't Drown!™
- ✓ Stay on firm, dry ground. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from power lines.
- ✓ If using a generator, avoid carbon monoxide poisoning by following the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ Avoid weakened bridges and washed out roads.
- ✓ Once home, check gas, water and electrical and appliances for damage.
- ✓ Use a flashlight to inspect damage. Never use candles and other open flames indoors.
- ✓ Wear proper shoes to prevent cutting feet on sharp debris.
- ✓ Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until officials say it is safe.
- ✓ Avoid electrocution by not walking in areas with downed power lines.



Family Emergency Plan

Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected. You, as well as your family and friends, will most likely not be together when disaster strikes. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children or parents are safe? You may have to evacuate or be confined to your home. What will you do if water, gas, electricity or phone services are shut off?

Steps to Take

- I **Gather information about hazards.** Contact your local National Weather Service office, emergency management office and American Red Cross chapter. Find out what type of emergencies could occur and how you should respond. Learn your community's warning signals and evacuation plans. Assess your risks and identify ways to make your home and property more secure.
- II **Meet with your family to create an emergency plan.** Pick two places to meet: a spot outside your home for an emergency, such as fire, and a place away from your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Choose an out of state friend as your family's point of contact for everyone to call if the family gets separated. Discuss what you would do if advised to evacuate.
- III **Implement your plan.**
 1. Post emergency telephone numbers by the phone.
 2. Install safety features in your house, such as smoke alarms and fire extinguishers.
 3. Inspect your home for items that can move, fall, break or catch fire and correct them.
 4. Have your family learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid, how to use a fire extinguisher, and how and when to turn off water, gas and electricity in your home.
 5. Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local emergency number.
 6. Keep enough supplies in your home for at least 3 days. Assemble an emergency supplies kit. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers, such as backpacks or duffle bags. Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Keep a smaller emergency supplies kit in the trunk of your car.

An Emergency Supplies Kit Should Include:

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| ✓ At least a 3-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day) | ✓ One blanket or sleeping bag per person | ✓ Extra set of car keys |
| ✓ At least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food | ✓ First-aid kit | ✓ Credit card and cash |
| ✓ At least, one change of clothing and shoes per person | ✓ Battery-powered NWR and a portable radio | ✓ Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members |
| | ✓ Emergency tools | ✓ Prescription and non-prescription medicines |
| | ✓ Flashlight, extra batteries | |

- IV **Practice and maintain your plan.** Ensure your family knows meeting places, phone numbers and safety rules. Conduct drills. Test your smoke detectors and NWR monthly and change the batteries at least once each year. Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions. Replace stored water and food every 6 months.

Safety and preparedness material is online at:

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.ready.gov

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

NOAA National Weather Service: www.weather.gov/safety.php