

# Storm Preparedness

Hurricanes, also known as Tropical Cyclones, are among nature's most destructive forces. The Atlantic and Caribbean hurricane season, which affects the East Coast, is from June 1 to November 30. The peak time for Connecticut is mid-August to late October.

The following is some information regarding hurricanes and natural disaster preparedness for you and your family.

## Terminology

Tropical Depression:

Sustained winds of 38 MPH or less.

Tropical Storm:

Sustained winds of 39-73 MPH

Hurricane - Category 1\*:

Sustained winds of 74-95 MPH

Hurricane - Category 2\*:

Sustained winds of 96-110 MPH

Hurricane - Category 3, major hurricane\*:

Sustained winds of 111-129 MPH

Hurricane - Category 4, major hurricane\*:

Sustained winds of 130-156 MPH

Hurricane - Category 5, major hurricane\*:

Sustained winds of 157 MPH or higher.

\*Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

A hurricane is usually accompanied by thunderstorms, rain, and wind. The Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection states that the greatest risk to Southern New England from a hurricane is:

- Coastal flooding due to storm surge.
- Widespread wind damage.
- Widespread stream and river flooding due to heavy rains.

More information can be found on many websites including:

- Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) <http://www.ct.gov/despp/>
- Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) <http://www.ct.gov/demhs/>
- National Hurricane Center <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
- American Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org/>

## Preparation

Knowing your local daily weather will help you get and stay prepared. Having ample warning on a potential storm moving your way will give you the time you need to prepare or evacuate before the storm arrives.

Listen to local warnings.

**Shelter in place:** You need to prepare *before* the storm arrives.

### **Prior to the storm:**

- Replenish, if needed, non-perishable food items.
- Plan on one gallon of drinking water per day for each family member.
- Plan on a three day supply of food and water.
- Fill bath tub for extra non drinking water.
- Have flashlights and a battery-operated radio available and working.
- Put away outside furniture and secure other outside items.
- Prepare outdoor grill if electricity goes out.

### **During the storm:**

- Stay away from windows and doors.
- Listen to radio or other media devices for emergency updates.
- Stay calm.

**Evacuation:** You must prepare *before* the need to evacuate arises.

### **Plan your evacuation:**

- Know your evacuation route(s).
- Know where you are going to.
- Make sure everyone knows the evacuation plan.
- Gas up vehicles.
- Have personal items ready to go.
- Organize supplies you are taking.
  - clothing, toiletries, medications, etc.
- Use a dog or cat carrier, if you have pets.
  - Not all shelters will take pets.
  - Service animals are generally welcomed.
- Bring non-perishable food items; flashlight with extra batteries; first aid kit; and portable battery-powered radio.
- Bring a cell phone and portable charger for the phone.
- Make sure you know how to shut off water, gas, and electricity in your house.
- Create list of important numbers (family, bank, work, etc.)