

01 / BEFORE THE EVENT

Hurricanes

Leave early. Stay informed. Plan for the outage.

Evacuation decisions, storm preparation and the less obvious hazards that remain after the wind drops.

ACT FIRST If officials tell your area to evacuate, leave promptly by the instructed route. Do not wait to charge equipment or finish protecting property. [2]

Find your evacuation instructions

Check your address with local emergency management. Write down your evacuation zone, a destination outside the threatened area and an alternative route. A regional forecast alone does not tell you whether your own home is safe. [1]

Prepare people and transport

Keep medicines, documents, phone chargers, water, ready-to-eat food and pet supplies together. Arrange help for anyone who cannot leave independently. Fuel or charge transport before the storm and confirm that your destination accepts your household and pets. [1, 2]

Secure loose items while conditions are safe

Bring in outdoor objects that could become airborne. Use suitable storm shutters if available. Do this well before strong winds arrive, and stop property preparation when it is time to leave. [2]

U.S. and Canadian sources. Apply current local instructions wherever you live. This guide is not a live alert service or an official agency publication.

02 / DURING AND AFTER

When conditions change

DURING THE EVENT

Follow current local orders

Keep receiving official updates. If you have not been told to leave, use the safest interior area recommended locally, away from windows and flood-prone spaces. Do not go to the coast to watch waves or drive across flooded roads. [2]

Treat the calm as part of the storm

A sudden lull can be the eye passing overhead. Remain sheltered: strong winds can return from the opposite direction. Wait for official information, not a quiet view through the window. [2]

AFTER THE IMMEDIATE THREAT

Wait for the return clearance

Return only when authorities say it is safe. Avoid downed lines, damaged bridges and buildings with floodwater, gas smells or structural damage. A home can remain dangerous after skies clear. [3]

Keep backup power outdoors when it burns fuel

Never run a fuel-powered generator inside a home or garage, even with doors open. Keep it outdoors at least 20 feet (about 6 metres) from windows, doors and vents, with exhaust directed away. Use working battery-backed carbon monoxide alarms. [4]

03 / DETAILS WORTH KNOWING

Small details. Better decisions.

Window tape is not storm protection

Public Safety Canada warns that taping windows can leave larger pieces of shattered glass. Prepare appropriate shutters rather than relying on tape. [2]

The hours after a storm need a plan too

NWS identifies carbon monoxide poisoning as a major danger after storms where power is out. Add generator placement and a safe return decision to your plan, not just wind preparation. [3]

Where backup power fits

Before the storm, decide which phones, lights and essential devices you can power and for how long. Store a paper contact list with the kit. If your plan depends on refrigeration or an electrically powered medical device, agree on a fallback with the relevant care or equipment provider before an outage. Backup electricity is not a reason to remain in an evacuation zone.

Try this before you need it

Walk through leaving in daylight: who gets the kit, who helps each person or pet, and who checks the route? Record a destination that does not depend on your own electricity supply.

Local context: Canada

Canada uses its own hurricane alerts and timing. Check Environment and Climate Change Canada and provincial or local evacuation instructions. Do not apply U.S. warning lead times to a Canadian alert.

04 / YOUR HOUSEHOLD ACTION CARD

Write it down. Keep it handy.

Complete this page before an emergency. Review when your household, equipment or local instructions change.

Evacuation zone / local authority

Destination and alternate destination

Transport and person who can help

Official alert channel / backup radio

Medical, access and pet arrangements

READY CHECK

- ☐ Evacuation instructions checked for our address
- ☐ Transport and destination confirmed
- ☐ Loose outdoor items secured before danger
- ☐ Kit, documents and essential medicines ready
- ☐ Return information and outage fallback recorded

SOURCES / Numbers refer to the actions in this guide

1. [NOAA / NWS - Before a tropical storm or hurricane](#)
2. [Public Safety Canada - Hurricanes: get prepared](#)
3. [NOAA / NWS - After a hurricane](#)
4. [CDC - Carbon monoxide prevention](#)

Original summaries and planning prompts by StillPower Guide, operated by Mihai Florea. Sources checked October 24, 2026. No agency endorsement. The linked sources provide fuller guidance.