

Hurricane Preparation

As a coastal state, Georgia is at risk for hurricanes that form in the southern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. Hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage hundreds of miles inland, so every resident should understand their risks and plan what to do in the event of an evacuation.

Stay Informed

It's important to stay informed before, during and after a hurricane. Know which warning systems and information resources are available.

- Radio and TV stations
- Social media
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios
- Internet
- Cell phone emergency text alerts
- Smart phone hurricane and weather alert applications
- Local emergency officials or police

Before a Hurricane



Create a Ready Kit

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Ready Kit:

- ✓ Water for drinking and sanitation (at least 3 gallons per person)
- ✓ Food (at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food)
- ✓ Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- ✓ Radio battery-powered or hand crank NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- ✓ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ✓ Portable cell phone charger
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Prescription medications and glasses
- ✓ Infant formula and diapers
- ✓ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ✓ Important family documents (such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records) in a waterproof, portable container



Recommended Items to Include in a Portable Ready Kit in Case of Evacuation:

- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Sleeping bags or warm blankets
- ✓ Complete change of clothing including shoes
- ✓ Personal hygiene items
- ✓ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Develop an Emergency Plan

MAKE A HURRICANE PLAN.



During a Hurricane

If a hurricane is likely in your area, you should:



Listen for storm updates on the radio or TV.

Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to the coldest setting and keep the doors closed.

Turn off propane tanks.

Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.

Have a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water.

Remain in an interior room with no windows.

After a Hurricane

Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information about what is happening and what you should do. However, you should listen to a NOAA weather radio, watch TV (if available) and/or check the Internet and social media often for official news and instructions as information becomes available.

Check in with family and/or friends to let them know you are okay or to ask for help, if needed.

Stay out of flood waters, if possible. The water may be contaminated or electrically charged. However, should you find yourself trapped in a vehicle in rising water, get out immediately and seek higher ground.

Stay away from downed power lines to avoid the risk of electric shock or electrocution.

Be alert for tornadoes and flooding. If you see a funnel cloud or if local authorities issue a tornado warning, take shelter underground or in an interior room away from windows. If waters are rising quickly or local authorities issue a flood or flash flood warning, seek higher ground.

Do not return to your home until local authorities say it is safe. After a hurricane and after flood waters recede, roads may be weakened and could collapse. Buildings may be unstable and drinking water may be contaminated. Use common sense and exercise caution.



Additional Resources

Georgia Department of Public Health- Before, During and After a Hurricane

<https://dph.georgia.gov/during-and-after-hurricane>

Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency <http://www.gema.ga.gov>

Ready. Georgia- Hurricanes <http://ready.ga.gov/be-informed/hurricanes/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention- Hurricanes

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/index.html>

The Administration for Children and Families- Child Care Resources for Disasters and Emergencies

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/hurricane-resources>

Child Care Aware- Hurricanes <http://usa.childcareaware.org/advocacy-public-policy/crisis-and-disaster-resources/caregiver-and-ccrr-tools-publications-and-resources/hurricanes/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) <https://www.fema.gov>

US National Weather Services <https://www.weather.gov/>

NOAA National Weather Service Hurricane Center <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>