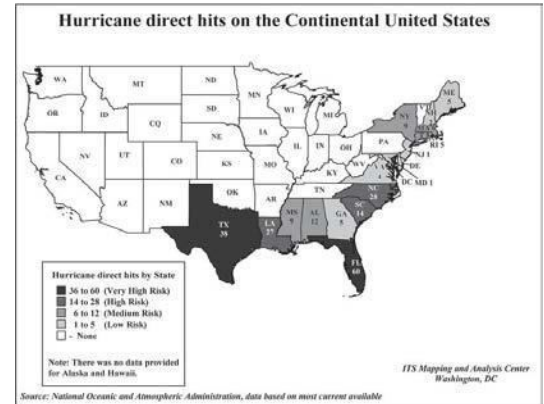




Hurricane Season 2019

Hurricanes are among nature's most powerful and destructive phenomena. On average, 12 tropical storms, 6 of which become hurricanes form over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico during the hurricane season which runs from **June 1 to November 30 each year**.

In the Central Pacific Ocean, an average of 3 tropical storms, 2 of which become hurricanes form or move over the area during the hurricane season. Over a typical 2-year period, the U.S. coastline is struck by an average of 3 hurricanes, 1 of which is classified as a major hurricane (winds of 111 mph or greater). By knowing what actions to take before the hurricane season begins, when a hurricane approaches, and when the storm is in your area, as well as what to do after a hurricane leaves your area, you can increase your chance of survival.



Gather Information:

Know if you live in an evacuation area. Assess your risks and know your home's vulnerability to [storm surge](#), [flooding](#) and [wind](#). Understand National Weather Service forecast products and especially the meaning of NWS [watches and warnings](#).

Contact your local National Weather Service office and local government/emergency management office. [Find out what type of emergencies could occur](#) and how you should respond.

Contacts:

Keep a list of contact information for reference.

- [Emergency Management Offices](#)
- County Law Enforcement
- County Public Safety Fire/Rescue
- State, County and City/Town Government
- Local Hospitals
- Local Utilities
- Local American Red Cross
- Local TV Stations
- Local Radio Stations
- Your Property Insurance Agent



Risk Analysis:

Online hazard and vulnerability assessment tools are available to gather information about your risks.

- Check your hazards risks with [FEMA's Map Portal](#).
- Rate your flood risk with the [FloodSmart.gov](#) portal.



Hurricane Season 2019

Plan & Take Action:

Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected. Your friends and family may 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?



Supplies Kit:

Put together a [basic disaster supplies kit](#) and consider storage locations for different situations.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water - one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food - at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery



Additional Emergency Supplies

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- Prescription medications
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper to disinfect water
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items



Hurricane Season 2019

Maintaining Your Kit

After assembling your kit remember to maintain it so it's ready when needed:

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers
- Replace expired items as needed
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.

Emergency Plans

Develop and document plans for your specific risks.

- Protect yourself and family with a [Family Emergency Plan](#)
- Be sure to [plan for locations away from home](#)
- Pet owners should have [plans to care for their animals](#). The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention offer information on [animal health impacts in evacuation shelters](#).
- Prepare your boat and be aware of [marine safety](#) if you are on or near the water.

Evacuation

- Review the [FEMA Evacuation Guidelines](#) to allow for enough time to pack and inform friends and family if you need to leave your home. FOLLOW instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered!
- Consider [your protection options](#) to decide whether to stay or evacuate your home if you are not ordered to evacuate



When waiting out a storm be careful, the danger may not be over yet...

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.

Recover

- Wait until an area is declared safe before returning home.
- Remember that [recovering from a disaster](#) is usually a gradual process.

