

# Hurricane Preparedness Terms, Checklist, & Numbers

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## Hurricane Knowledge

Knowing hurricane terminology can help you with your plans. Here is some vital terms to know:

- **Tropical Storm Watch:** Tropical storm conditions are possible in the area.
- **Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions are possible in the area. Watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical storm conditions are expected in the area.
- **Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane conditions are expected in the area. Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of tropical storm force winds.
- **Eye:** Clear, sometimes well-defined center of the storm with calmer conditions.
- **Eye Wall:** Surrounding the eye, contains some of the most severe weather of the storm with the highest wind speed and largest precipitation.
- **Rain Bands:** Bands coming off the cyclone that produce severe weather conditions such as heavy rain, wind and tornadoes.
- **Storm Surge:** An often underestimated and deadly result of ocean water swelling as a result of a land falling storm, and quickly flooding coastal and sometimes areas further inland.

## Winds

### TERMS

Tropical Depression

Tropical Storm

Cat 1 Hurricane

Cat 2 Hurricane

Cat 3 Hurricane (Major)

Cat 4 Hurricane (Major)

Cat 5 Hurricane (Major)

### MPH

38

39-73

74-95

96-110

111-129

130-156

157+

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale estimates potential property damage. Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage.



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# Checklist Before During & After

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Get  
Prepared  
Stay Safe



## Checklist

### Before Hurricane Season

- Update your insurance information with any additional information
- Locate your disaster supply kit and make a note if additional supplies are needed in case of a named storm. Make sure supplies work as needed, as with flashlights.

### Before a Hurricane

- Print all insurance policies and contact information in case a claim needs to be submitted after the storm. Put these in a waterproof container or plastic bag. Also take photos of your policies and contact information, and/or send a copy of the paperwork to a friend or family member.
- Put together an evacuation plan for your family about where to go and who to contact in case of a natural disaster. Review evacuation plan with family members regularly.
- If you do go to a shelter or away from YOUR home, let a friend or family member that is out of state know where you are and how to contact you.
- Locate or build a disaster supply kit with enough non-perishable food, water, medications, flashlights, batteries, first-aid supplies, pet supplies, and cash to last at least a week. Make sure supplies work as intended, as in flashlights.
- Locate or buy plywood or aluminum panels to board up windows and doors to protect against high winds and flying debris.
- Fill up your car with a full tank of gas.
- Create or update a home inventory in case of damage during catastrophic weather events, including photos or video.
- Make sure all electronics are fully charged in case of power outages, including phones, laptops, and tablets.
- Park your vehicle on higher ground, preferably in a garage or parking shelter.
- Plug into the community emergency alert systems that send out storm warnings and safety information for your area.
- Remove any dead or vulnerable trees from your property; bring in outside furniture or loose items that could easily be picked up by a storm.
- Do chores in the house that need electricity (laundry, dishwasher, etc.) in case you lose electricity during or after the storm

# Notes

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## Checklist

### During a Hurricane

- Stay indoors, either in your home or your designated shelter
- Stay away from windows during the storm.
- DO NOT make repairs to your home or car unless it is life threatening and you can make these repairs safely.
- DO NOT go outside during the "eye" of the storm. Although the weather looks like the storm is done, the other half of the storm will hit your area and your area may have loose debris.
- If you lose power, do not open and close refrigerator frequently (this will help keep food chilled or frozen).

### After a Hurricane

- Do not leave your location until authorities announce it is safe.
- Do not drive or walk through flooded areas.
- Do not drink or use tap water until you know it has not been contaminated.
- Immediately photograph any damage to your property.
- Restock disaster supplies kit.

### Notes & Insurance Information (contacts, policy)

Bateman, Gordon & Sands, Inc. Insurance  
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*Do's  
and  
Don'ts*



Sources:  
• StateOfFlorida.com  
• National Hurricane Center