

# Individual & Community Preparedness Newsletter



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## Ready Tips



### Prepare Now for Hurricanes

May marks the beginning of hurricane season in the US, with Eastern Pacific hurricane season beginning May 15 and Atlantic and Central Pacific hurricane season beginning June 1. Regardless of where hurricanes land, they always come with

powerful winds, heavy rainfall, and flooding, which can cause significant harm to life and damage property.

If you haven't prepared for hurricane season before, now is the time to get ready. Here are some ways to stay ahead of the storm and be better prepared.

### **Be on Alert**

- Know the [risks \[lnks.gd\]](#) in your area. Find out what types of wind and water hazards could occur where you live.
- Download the [FEMA app \[lnks.gd\]](#) to your mobile phone and receive real-time alerts from the [National Weather Service \[lnks.gd\]](#) to be informed about hurricane watches and warnings.
- [Sign up for community alerts \[lnks.gd\]](#) in your area.
- Be informed on the latest [CDC guidance on COVID-19 \[lnks.gd\]](#) to see how it could impact your plans.

### **Make an Emergency Plan**

- Get started by [having enough supplies \[lnks.gd\]](#) for your household, including medication, disinfectants, masks, and [pet supplies \[lnks.gd\]](#) in your go bag or car trunk.
- Make sure to have extra water and nonperishable foods at home. After a hurricane, you may not be able to purchase some essential items for days or even weeks.
- [Involve your whole family \[lnks.gd\]](#) in creating a [family emergency communications plan \[lnks.gd\]](#) and [emergency kit \[lnks.gd\]](#).
- [Learn your evacuation routes \[lnks.gd\]](#). Practice with household members and pets and identify where you will stay. Local emergency managers will provide the latest recommendations based on the threat to your community.
- If you need to evacuate to a public shelter, review the latest [CDC guidelines for public shelters \[lnks.gd\]](#) before you head out. If public evacuation shelters aren't the safest choice for you and your family, prepare alternative plans to shelter in place at home or with nearby friends or family, whichever is safest.

### **Prepare Your Home and Help Your Neighbors**

- Make sure to clear storm drains and gutters and bring in outside furniture. Consider installing hurricane shutters if you need added protection against the storm.
- Check with neighbors, [seniors \[lnks.gd\]](#), or those [who may need additional help \[lnks.gd\]](#) when making your plans.

Visit [ready.gov/hurricanes \[lnks.gd\]](#) to learn more about how to get ready for hurricanes and how to stay safe during a storm.

## CERT and Communities

### Tips for CERTs as Hurricane Season Nears



Are you a Volunteer or Program Manager with a [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) \[lnks.gd\]](#)? Hurricane season is on the way, and while COVID-19 vaccines are putting a dent in the pandemic, social distancing, and other measures will need to be in place again this year during the response to storms.

If you live in an area prone to hurricanes and their impacts, now is the time to start planning with your CERT for how you may need to adjust your hurricane preparedness activities.

CERTs in North Carolina and Florida provided some tips for how they responded to a complex hurricane season last year. The year 2020 saw 30 named storms, 12 of which made landfall. [Colorado State University's Department of Atmospheric Science \[lnks.gd\]](#) predicts another above-average season in 2021. Keep your eyes out for the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's \(NOAA\) \[lnks.gd\]](#) forecast in late May. [Read more... \[lnks.gd\]](#)

## Develop a Communications Plan During a Hurricane or Other Emergencies



Depending on where your organization is located, hurricane season may have a big impact on the community that you serve. Whether it's dealing with having to evacuate your office due to heavy winds, flooding or other issues stemming from a storm, it's important to be able to let your community know about the conditions that may

affect your organization's ability to provide services.

Part of your organization's preparation for hurricanes and other emergencies includes developing a plan that allows you to respond promptly, accurately, and confidently. This is a critical part of preparing for disasters.

To get started on your plan, consider your audience. They may be customers who rely on your services, community partners, your employees and their families, or the news media. Then, design pre-scripted messages for a variety of risks. For example, think about the type of information that you might need to convey during a hurricane. [Read more... \[Inks.gd\]](#)

## Important Dates

- **May 9-15:** [Hurricane Preparedness Week \[Inks.gd\]](#)
- **May 11: Webinar**– [Get Ready for Hurricane Season \[Inks.gd\]](#) (11 a.m. ET)
- **May 12: Webinar** – [The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: “Public Health and Primary Care During a Federally Declared Emergency” \[Inks.gd\]](#) [English] (10 a.m. ET)
- **May 14: Webinar** – [The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: “Public Health and Primary Care During a Federally Declared Emergency” \[Inks.gd\]](#) [Spanish] (11 a.m. ET)

- **May 18: Webinar** – [Formation, Climatology and Hazards Associated to Tropical Cyclones \[lnks.gd\]](#) [Spanish] (10 a.m. ET)
- **May 19: Webinar** – [Personal Assistance Services for Individuals with Disabilities in Shelters \[lnks.gd\]](#) [English] (12:30 p.m. ET)
- **May 20: Webinar** – [Formation, Climatology and Hazards Associated to Tropical Cyclones \[lnks.gd\]](#) [English] (10 a.m. ET)
- **May 25: Webinar** – [Summary of the 2020 Season and What to Expect for the 2021 Season \[lnks.gd\]](#) [English] (10 a.m. ET)
- **May 26: Webinar** – [Personal Assistance Services for Individuals with Disabilities in Shelters \[lnks.gd\]](#) [Spanish] (12:30 p.m. ET)
- **May 27: Webinar** – [Summary of the 2020 Season and What to Expect for the 2021 Season \[lnks.gd\]](#) [Spanish] (10 a.m. ET)

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*Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services, or products. Please let us know about other events and services for individual and community preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting*

[FEMA-prepare@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-prepare@fema.dhs.gov).

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