

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit and Have It Ready to Go

From the kitchen

- Water (one gallon per person per day)
- Three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Can opener
- Eating utensils

From the bedroom, nursery, and den

- Bedding or sleeping bags and pillows
- Baby food, diapers, and formula
- Money, checks, or credit cards
- Extra keys
- Important papers including insurance and property inventory
- Name, address, and phone number of an out-of-area contact person
- Addresses and phone numbers of family and friends
- Extra clothing

From the garage, pantry, and laundry

- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- Mosquito repellent
- Bleach (without lemon or other additives)
- Tarp, rope, and duct tape

From the bathroom

- Toiletries and toilet articles (toothbrush, etc.)
- Toilet paper
- Extra prescription medicine (or refill information)
- Extra eyeglasses (or prescription information)
- Hearing aid or other special-need items
- First aid kit

Secure Your Home Before Leaving

- ❖ Turn off gas, water, and electricity.
- ❖ Board up windows.
- ❖ Draw drapes across windows.
- ❖ Brace garage doors.
- ❖ Check the tie-downs if you live in manufactured housing.
- ❖ Lock all windows and doors.
- ❖ Bring in outdoor furniture and other loose objects; anchor those items you cannot bring inside.
- ❖ If you have a boat, secure it on a trailer, locate it near your home, and fill it with water.

Be Ready to Evacuate Quickly

- ❖ Monitor the radio for information about storm conditions.
- ❖ Know the nearest hurricane evacuation route and how to get to it.
- ❖ Keep your vehicle in good repair with a full tank of fuel.
- ❖ Keep a regional road map in your car.
- ❖ Check on friends and neighbors who may need help evacuating.
- ❖ Designate a place for your family to meet if you get separated while traveling.
- ❖ Designate an out-of-area contact person for family and friends to call about your evacuation plans.
- ❖ If possible, purchase a CB radio or cellular phone to use in an emergency.
- ❖ Make arrangements for your pets; most shelters and many hotels and motels do not allow them.
- ❖ If you take a pet with you, bring along a leash or cage.
- ❖ Leave when local officials tell you to do so.

While Traveling

- ❖ Listen to the radio for evacuation-related information and weather updates.
- ❖ Watch for message signs and law enforcement personnel directing traffic.

For further information about hurricanes and emergency preparedness, contact:

Your local Emergency Management Office or the Texas Division of Emergency Management
 PO Box 4087 Austin TX 78773-0001, or visit
[http:// www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/)



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When hurricanes strike populated areas, they can cause massive damage and loss of life. Ten of the 30 worst hurricanes in U.S. history have struck Texas, including the 1900 Galveston hurricane that killed more than 6,000 people. In recent years, thousands of new residents have moved to Texas coastal areas. They have little or no experience with the dangers of hurricanes and tropical storms. Other coastal residents falsely believe they can weather a severe storm with little risk.

Am I at risk from a hurricane?

The map on the inside of this brochure shows the areas at risk from hurricane winds and storm surge, the massive amount of water pushed forward by hurricane winds. There are five *risk areas*, each shown in a different color and each corresponding to one of the five categories of hurricane strength. The higher the category number, the farther inland the surge and high winds will travel and the more risk areas will be affected.

How will I know if I should evacuate?

Your local officials will tell you if you should evacuate, and when to leave. Evacuations must begin many hours before the storm arrives, often when the sun is shining and skies are clear. That's the only way to get everyone out before winds and flooding make roads unsafe or impassable. During a *hurricane watch*, stay tuned to your local *Emergency Alert System* (EAS) stations—**KFRQ, 94.5 FM** or **KGBT, 96.1 FM** or tune to **NOAA Weather Radio** on the high-band FM frequency 162.55 megahertz (MHz) in Brownsville, or 162.40 MHz in Pharr. Be prepared to evacuate *before* you receive a warning, follow instructions, and leave quickly. Do not delay.

How should I prepare for an evacuation?

Develop an evacuation plan for your family that includes where you will go, what vehicles you will take, and the routes you will use to get there. Look on the back of this brochure for tips on securing your home and putting together a disaster supplies kit to take with you.

What if I need help to evacuate?

Arrange beforehand with friends or family to help you evacuate. If you have no help available or you have special needs, call the Emergency Management Office for your town or county *now*. They need to know where you live and what kind of help you need so they can be ready to provide aid when a storm threatens.

How long will it take for me to evacuate?

That depends on the size of the storm, the number of people who evacuate, when you begin your evacuation, and what route you choose. Generally speaking, the earlier you leave, the less time you are likely to spend in traffic. If you are traveling with people who may have difficulty with a lengthy trip (young children, older family members, or people with special needs), consider leaving before the general evacuation begins. If you are towing a boat or taking a recreational vehicle, leave ahead of the general evacuation.

Where should I go?

Travel inland, away from the coast. The map shows major hurricane evacuation routes in red. Use the route nearest your home, but have another route in mind if the nearest one is congested. Listen to a radio station that provides traffic updates. Blue hurricane evacuation signs usually mark the evacuation routes. Call ahead if you plan to stay with family or friends or make reservations at a hotel or motel in advance. The radio will tell you where shelters are open along your evacuation route. Be forewarned that shelters may be crowded and "creature comforts" will be limited.

What about returning home?

Check news reports to make sure it is safe to return before you start back. Call the TxDOT road conditions hotline (1-800-452-9292) to ensure major roads back to your destination are open.