



Town of Smithtown

Department of Public Safety

65 Maple Avenue, Smithtown, NY 11787
631-360-7553



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY:

As a result of the events brought about by Hurricane Katrina, the Town of Smithtown had taken a close look at its hurricane readiness. A prime factor to avoid major problems and speed up recovery will depend on the readiness of individual residents. Our aim is to assist residents to be as prepared as possible through the information provided herein.

For years, hurricane information has been provided by the Town of Smithtown Department of Public Safety. This information has been combined and updated into a single document for ease of use. Remember, this information is only a guide. Residents must remember that during a threat of a severe weather event, direction will be provided through local media by the proper authorities.

Hurricanes can be dangerous, life-threatening events. Learning hurricane warning messages and taking time to prepare can reduce the chances of injury or major property damage. Even in our day to day busy lives, it is important to take time to prepare. Being prepared helps families minimize the impact of disasters such as a hurricane or even isolated incidents such as sudden illness or injury. Therefore, the best way to make our families and our homes safer is to be prepared before disaster strikes.

Remember, preparation for hurricanes and other emergencies does require a little work on all of our parts — not much, BUT a little work ahead of time will be well worth it in the event of an emergency. The entire household should be involved in emergency preparations – fact finding, creating a plan, and putting it to the test.

INTRODUCTION:

Before planning for any emergency, find out what you are planning for. Some easy fact finding will get you started. Police, fire department or emergency management offices can give information to assist with planning. Most importantly, obtain their emergency phone number(s) and procedures. Understanding emergency responders' notification procedures and information they need ahead of time will help during an actual emergency. The local Red Cross chapter is also a valuable resource in planning for emergencies and disasters.

When you contact an agency, consider the following:

1. What are the likely emergencies for my area?
2. How can I be prepared for these emergencies?
3. When I become aware of an emergency, what should I do?
4. What do I need to do to care for pets?
5. What do I do about elderly or disabled persons?
6. What are the safe travel routes? (You may be travelling over 50 miles)

Finally, in your fact finding, check to see if your place of employment or children's school has an emergency plan. If a hurricane occurs during work or school hours, will your plan coordinate with theirs? With these considerations, you can begin your preparations.

A HURRICANE IS . . .

A hurricane is a tropical storm with winds that have reached a constant speed of 74 miles per hour or more. Hurricane winds blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center known as the "eye." As a hurricane nears land, it can bring torrential rains, high winds, and storm surges. Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. August and September are the peak months.

A **HURRICANE WATCH** is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 48 hours.

A **HURRICANE WARNING** is issued when hurricane conditions are expected in 36 hours or less.



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Hurricane Threats

Hurricane Winds — Hurricanes are rated from category one to five based on the storm's intensity.

CAT.	WINDS (mph)	EXPECTED DAMAGE
1	74 - 95	Damage: unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, trees and poorly constructed signs. Coastal flooding & minor pier damage
2	96 - 110	Considerable damage: roofing, doors, windows, mobile homes, piers & trees. Low-lying areas may flood 2-4 hrs prior to storm center arrival.
3	111 - 130	Structural damage: small houses & utility buildings; large trees blown down. Mobile homes are destroyed. Evacuation of low-lying residences may be required.
4	131 - 155	Severe damage: houses with some structural failure. Destruction of mobile homes. Terrain lower than 10 ft. above sea level may require massive evacuation.
5	>155	Roof failure on residential & industrial buildings. Some complete building failures; complete destruction of mobile homes. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5-10 miles of the shoreline may be required.

Rainfall and Flooding — Heavy rains and ocean waters brought ashore by strong winds can cause major flooding. Hurricanes are capable of producing copious amounts of flash flooding rainfall. During landfall, a hurricane rainfall of 10 to 15 inches or more is common. If the storm is large and moving slowly, rainfall amounts from a well-organized storm are likely to be even more excessive.

Storm Surge — Storm surge is an abnormal increase in the ocean's level, sometimes in excess of several feet high and miles wide. Storm surges can come ashore up to five hours before the storm and destroy low-elevation coastal areas. It is especially damaging when the storm surge occurs during high tide. Along the coast, a surge is the greatest threat, even more than the wind.

Tornadoes — Hurricanes can produce tornadoes which add to the destructive power. The more intense a hurricane is, the greater the tornado threat. The strong winds of a hurricane frequently cover the smaller tornado paths, making the separation of their damaging effects very difficult.

PREPARATION:

As a Matter of Routine:

- ✓ Plan an evacuation route.
- ✓ Regularly trim dead branches from trees.
- ✓ Check emergency supplies.
- ✓ Protect windows – Install storm shutters or pre-cut plywood panels: Cut 1/2-inch plywood to fit each window. Mark which board fits each window. Drill holes every 18 inches for screws. Do this long before a storm.

The Plan:

Everyone in the house should be involved in the planning process since it is for the protection of all. Discuss likely emergency situations. Discuss what to do in each case. Include in your discussion places to meet. The first meeting place should be near your home used during a fire or similar emergency. Choose other places outside the area in case you cannot return home (friends, family, motels and hotels, etc.). Family members are often separated from one another during a disaster — when adults are at work and children are at school. Therefore, have a plan for getting back together. Ask an out-of-state relative



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or friend to serve as a "family contact." Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person. Family members can call the contact number to keep in touch and advise on whereabouts.

Preparations should include the following:

- ✓ Post emergency telephone numbers by phones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.).
- ✓ Create an emergency communications plan ... consider the likelihood of tied-up phone lines.
- ✓ Teach children how and when to call 911 or other local emergency service numbers.
- ✓ Show family members how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- ✓ Teach family members how to use a fire extinguisher (ABC type), and where it's kept.
- ✓ Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each level of your home.
- ✓ Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit (discussed later).
- ✓ Take first aid and CPR classes. U Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.
- ✓ Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.
- ✓ Do you have adequate insurance (flood insurance is not normally covered in standard policies)?

Make visual & written records of your possessions. Record model and serial numbers. This list may help you prove the value of those possessions if they are damaged, and can assist with insurance claims and tax deductions. Especially list furniture too heavy to move, including: sofas, chairs, tables, beds, chests, wall units, etc. Store a copy of the record somewhere away from home, such as in a safe deposit box

Practice — Practice:

- ✓ Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and change the batteries twice a year.
- ✓ Test and recharge/replace your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ Quiz your kids every six months so they remember what to do and conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.
- ✓ Replace stored water and food regularly.

EVACUATION:

Government officials may issue evacuation orders when disaster threatens which will be broadcast by local radio and television stations. If you are asked to leave, do so immediately; the officials have a good reason for making this request. When making your plan, ensure that you've tested your evacuation route — as well as alternate routes. Call your "family contact" outside the storm area to tell them you are leaving and where you are going.

Some General Tips for Evacuation:

- ✓ Constantly listen to car radio or battery-operated radio for directions.
- ✓ Wear long-sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes.
- ✓ Take your disaster supplies kit(s).
- ✓ Take your pets with you – But remember they are not permitted in shelters. Have a "pet –friendly" place to go.
- ✓ Use travel routes specified by local authorities – do not use shortcuts that may be impassable and watch for downed power lines.
- ✓ Safeguard and travel with the following documents and papers:
Cash, check book, credit cards, proof of residence (deed/lease,) stocks and bonds and other negotiable certificates, insurance policies, driver's license, personal identification, birth and marriage certificates, social security card, wills, deeds, recent tax returns.



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If the order comes for IMMEDIATE EVACUATION:

Lock your home and leave, immediately. Follow directions of officials. Bring the following with you.

- ✓ Medical supplies: prescription medications, dentures.
- ✓ Disaster supplies: flashlight, batteries, radio, first aid, water.
- ✓ Clothing and bedding
- ✓ Car keys and keys to the place you may be going.

If you have time before an evacuation — a NON-IMMEDIATE EVACUATION:

If there's a chance the weather may get worse or flooding may happen, take steps now to protect your home and belongings.

Protect Your Home

- ✓ Bring things indoors: Lawn furniture, trash cans, children's toys, garden equipment, clotheslines, hanging plants, and any other objects that may fly around and damage property. Leave trees and shrubs alone. If you do not routinely cut dead or diseased branches or limbs from trees and shrubs, leave them alone. Rubbish collection services will not have time before the storm.
- ✓ Turn off electricity and water: Turn off electricity at the main fuse or breaker, and turn off water at the main valve.
- ✓ Leave natural gas (street gas) on: Unless local officials advise otherwise, leave natural gas on because you will need it for heating and cooking when you return. If you turn gas off, a licensed professional is required to turn it back on.
- ✓ Turn off propane gas service: Propane tanks often become dislodged in disasters.
- ✓ If high winds are expected: Cover the outside of all windows. Use rated shutters that provide significant protection from windblown debris, or fit plywood coverings over windows. (All tape does is prevent glass from shattering, therefore, tape isn't recommended.)

Protect Your Valuables

- ✓ Move objects that may get damaged by wind or water to safer areas of your home. Move television sets, computers, stereo and electronic equipment, and easily moveable appliances like a microwave oven to higher levels of your home and away from windows. Wrap them in sheets, blankets, or burlap.
- ✓ If it's possible that your home may be significantly damaged, consider storing your household furnishings temporarily elsewhere
- ✓ Gather essential supplies and papers — you will need supplies when you leave your home; put them all together in a duffle bag or other large container in advance. This is your disaster supplies kit.
Be a Good Neighbor — If possible, assist elderly neighbors or neighbors with special needs (e.g., visually or hearing impaired, non-ambulatory), give them a ride if needed or alert local emergency response agencies as necessary to assure their safety.

PUBLIC SHELTER:

The Red Cross is responsible for the designation and opening of emergency public shelters. They will generally provide food; however, at their suggestion, you should pack medicines, baby wipes, toiletries, wash cloths and towels, eyeglasses or contact lenses, lens solution, clothing, as well as other items that



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may help make a public shelter more comfortable for you and your family. Once you arrive at a public shelter, remain there until you are informed by those in charge that it is safe to leave.

WHEN THE HURRICANE IS OVER

- ✓ Stay tuned to local radio for information.
- ✓ Return home only after authorities advise that it is safe to do so.
- ✓ Help injured or trapped persons and give first aid where appropriate.
- ✓ Do not move seriously injured persons unless in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.
- ✓ Avoid loose or dangling power lines — report to the Power Company, Police, or Fire Department.
- ✓ Enter your home with caution.
- ✓ Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- ✓ Check refrigerated foods for spoilage.
- ✓ Take pictures of the damage, both to the house and its contents for insurance claims.
- ✓ Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- ✓ Use telephone only for emergency calls

Inspecting Utilities in a Damaged Home:

Check for Gas Leaks — if you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor's home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, a professional must turn it back on.

Look for Electrical System Damage — if you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or notice a burning odor, turn off the electricity at the main panel. Do not step in water to get to the electric panel.

Check for Sewage and Water Line Damage — if you suspect sewage or cesspool system damage, avoid using toilets. If water pipes are damaged, avoid drinking water from the tap and call for service.

DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT:

If a hurricane or other disaster strikes, you might not have access to food, water and electricity for days. By taking some time to store emergency food and water supplies, you can provide for your entire family. Below is a list of items that you can stock in your home and be prepared to take in an evacuation. Stocked items should be stored for portability. Use a duffel bag, a large plastic trash can or other storage bin that can be securely closed. Make sure whatever you use that it IS portable, as well (can you carry it, roll it, or fit it in your car?). Store your disaster kit in a convenient place known to the whole family. Keep a smaller version of the supplies kit in your car. Keep items in airtight plastic bags. Re-think family needs and remember to replace supplies on a regular basis. Basic items in the kit should include water, food, medications and first aid, clothing and bedding, tools, and entertainment.

Water:

Having an ample supply of water is a top priority. You should store at least a two-week supply of water for each member of your family (one gallon per person, per day). If supplies run low, never ration water. Drink the amount you need today, and try to find more for tomorrow.

Stored Water — Store your water in thoroughly washed plastic containers. Soft drink bottles are best. You can also purchase food-grade plastic buckets or drums. Seal water containers tightly, label them and store in a cool, dark place. Rotate water every six months. Hours before a storm store some 2-liter bottles, 3/4 full, in your freezer. This will help keep the freezer colder for longer after a power loss. It can also be used later on when needed.



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Emergency Water Sources — if you need to find water outside your home, you can use rainwater and water from streams, ponds and springs. Treat water before drinking it. Avoid water with floating material, an odor or dark color. Do not drink flood water. You can also use the water in your hot-water tank, pipes and ice cubes. Know where to shut off the water supply to stop contaminated water from entering, if necessary. To use the water in your pipes, let air into the plumbing by turning on the faucet at the highest level. Some water may trickle out. Then obtain water from the lowest faucet in the house. Before using water in your hot- water tank, be sure the electricity or gas is off. Open the drain at the bottom of the tank and start the water flowing by turning off the water intake valve and turning on a hot-water faucet. Do not turn the gas or electricity back on when the tank is empty.

Food:

If activity is reduced, healthy people can survive on half the usual intake for an extended period and without any food for many days. Unlike water, food may be rationed safely, except for children and pregnant women. If your water supply is limited, avoid foods that are high in fat, and salt. Eat salt-free crackers, whole grain cereals and canned foods with high liquid content. Canned foods will not require cooking, water or special preparation. Familiar foods are important. They can lift morale in time of stress. As you stock food, consider your family’s unique needs and tastes. Try to include foods that they will enjoy and that are high in calories and nutrition.

Individuals with special diets and allergies will need particular attention, as will babies, toddlers and elderly people. Nursing mothers may need liquid formula, in case they are unable to nurse. Canned dietetic foods, juices and soups may be helpful for ill or elderly people. Make sure you have a manual can opener and disposable utensils. And don’t forget nonperishable foods for your pets.

Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking, and little or no water. If you must heat food, pack cans of sterno. Include a selection of the following foods in your Disaster Supplies Kit:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ready-to-eat canned meats | Canned juices, fruits, and vegetables | High energy foods |
| Staples (salt, sugar, pepper, spices, etc.) | Vitamins | Food for infants |
| Comfort/stress foods | | |

Storage Tips:

- Keep food in a dry, dark, cool spot.
- Pack sugar, dried fruits and nuts in jars or air-tight cans.
- Open containers carefully so that they may be re-closed
- Keep crackers/cookies in plastic bags within air tight containers
- Use foods before they go bad, and replace with fresh supplies
- Keep food covered at all times.
- Inspect all food for signs of spoilage before use
- Store new items towards the back and older ones in front.

Nutrition Tips:

- Eat at least one well-balanced meal each day.
- Consume enough calories to enable you to do necessary work.
- Drink plenty of liquid (two quarts a day).
- Include vitamin supplements to assure adequate nutrition.



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Rotate Stored Food...

... Every 6 months:

Canned condensed soups
Canned fruits, fruit juices and vegetables
Peanut butter and Jelly
Hard candy and canned nuts

... Annually:

Canned condensed soups
Canned fruits, fruit juices and vegetables
Peanut butter and Jelly
Hard candy and canned nuts

... Indefinite Storage:

Wheat
Baking Powder
Salt
Bouillon products
Vegetable Oil
Noncarbonated soft drinks
Dry pasta
Instant coffee, tea and cocoa
White rice

Medication and First Aid Kit:

First Aid Kit for Your Home and One for Each Car.

(20) Adhesive bandages, various sizes.

(1) 5" x 9" sterile dressing.

(1) Conforming roller gauze bandage.

(2) Triangular bandages.

(2) 3 x 3 sterile gauze pads.

Adhesive tape, 2" width

(2) 4 x 4 sterile gauze pads.

(1) Roll 3" cohesive bandage.

(2) Germicidal hand wipes.

(6) Antiseptic wipes.

(2) Pair medical grade non-latex gloves.

Anti-bacterial ointment.

Cold pack.

Scissors (small, personal)

Tweezers.

CPR barrier, such as a face shield.

Non-Prescription Drugs – Include such things as: Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids (for stomach upset) and laxatives.

Prescription Medications – Don't forget medications in their original bottles, plus copies of the prescriptions — consult with your doctor and/or pharmacist about storage and use of prescription medication. Also include eyeglasses (with a copy of the prescription) and any medical equipment and devices, such as dentures, crutches, prostheses, etc.



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Clothing and Bedding:

Pack/store a complete change of clothes for each household member; and:

- Sturdy shoes or work boots
- Rain gear
- Blankets/sleeping bags, pillows
- Hat and gloves
- Thermal underwear
- Sunglasses

Tools and Emergency Supplies (to include, but NOT limited to):

- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio
- Map of the area
- Toilet paper, towelettes
- Soap, liquid detergent
- Feminine supplies
- Plastic garbage bags, ties
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Disinfectant
- Household chlorine bleach
- Emergency Car Kit
- Aluminum foil
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, utensils
- Tube tent
- Paper, pencil
- Fire extinguisher: small canister ABC type
- Pliers
- Tape
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Plastic storage containers
- Needles, thread
- Medicine dropper
- Whistle
- Extra batteries, charging cables

Entertainment:

Based on the ages of family members, you may want to include games (cards) and books and portable music devices and don't forget portable chargers, charging blocks and cables for any/all electronic device(s).