

- **If you are in a mobile home, recheck the tie-downs and evacuate immediately.**
- **Be aware that the calm "eye" is deceptive; the storm is not over.** Once the eye passes over your area, the winds increase and blow from the opposite direction. Trees, shrubs, buildings, and other objects damaged by the first winds can be broken or destroyed by the second winds. The opposing winds begin suddenly and have surprised and injured many people who ventured out during the eye.
- **Watch out for flooding.** Hurricanes and tropical storms often drop large amounts of rain and cause severe flooding, even when they are weakening or are no longer a named storm. "Weak" tropical storms are just as capable of producing heavy rain and flooding as major hurricanes.
- **Be alert for tornadoes.** Tornadoes can happen during a hurricane. If a tornado occurs in connection with a hurricane, remain indoors on a lower level, in the center of your home, in a closet or bathroom without windows.
- **Bring your companion animals indoors and maintain direct control of them.** Be sure that your pet disaster kit is ready to go, along with your family disaster kit, should you need to evacuate.
- **If the storm is predicted to be not very strong and if pastured animals have access to high ground, it is better to let them out into their pastures than to leave them in a barn, unless that barn is very well constructed and protected.** Horses and cattle are able to avoid windborne debris if they have enough area to move. In the last hours before a hurricane or tropical storm hits, it may be safer to do this than to attempt a last-minute evacuation.

#### What to Do After a Hurricane/Tropical Storm

##### CORE ACTION MESSAGES

- Listen to and watch the news.
- Watch for floodwater.
- Check for dangers inside and outside.

##### After a hurricane is over, you should:

- **Continue using a NOAA Weather Radio or listening to a local station on a portable, battery-powered radio or television.** Access may be limited to some parts of the community, or roads may be blocked.
- **If you evacuated, return home when local officials tell you it is safe.** Local officials on the scene are your best source of information about accessible areas and passable roads.
- **Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding, even after the hurricane or tropical storm has weakened.** Hurricanes may stall or change direction when they make landfall, or they may bring a lot of rain upriver, causing additional flood hazards for hours or days after the storm.
- **Stay away from floodwater.** Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Continue to follow all flood safety messages. Floodwaters may last for days following a hurricane. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. Never try to walk, swim, or drive through swiftly moving water. Many flood fatalities are caused by people attempting to drive through water or people playing in high water. If it is moving swiftly, even water six inches (15 centimeters) deep can sweep you off your feet, and two feet (0.6 meter) can carry away most vehicles. Also, standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.

*Talking About Disaster: Guide for Standard Messages*

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