

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

DECLARE YOUR POWER INDEPENDENCE



4 Patriots

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PREPARING FOR A HURRICANE

If you live in an area of the country that experiences hurricanes, you are very much aware of how devastating they can be. These tropical cyclones, which occur in the north Atlantic Ocean and the northeast Pacific Ocean, have sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or stronger, with some having been recorded as high as 195 mph.

At the very center of the air circulation is the eye, inside of which it's relatively calm. But the strongest thunderstorms and winds circulate in the eye wall immediately surrounding the eye. When you're in the eye, you know you're just about to get hit with the ferocious eye wall at any moment.

One advantage in dealing with a hurricane rather than a tornado is that you generally have considerably more advance notice to prepare for it, thanks to meteorological advancements.



Meteorologists can usually accurately predict the strength at which a hurricane will be by the time it reaches landfall.

The downsides to a hurricane – and there are plenty of them – are that they can be very slow moving and can bring excessive amounts of water with them. They can cause extensive flooding and are often accompanied by thunderstorms and tornadoes, plus sustained rains and winds. Hurricanes can knock out power for days or weeks, and cut off usable water supplies.

RECENT STORMS ARE WAKEUP CALLS

In 2020, the U.S. experienced the most active hurricane season in history. There were 30 named storms (12 is normal), 14 of which developed into hurricanes, including six that became major hurricanes (Category 3 or

higher). AccuWeather has forecast 16 to 20 named storms for the 2021 hurricane season. They predict seven to 10 hurricanes, with three to five becoming major.

The largest Atlantic hurricane on record as measured by diameter with winds spanning 1,100 miles, Sandy affected 24 states and caused an estimated \$65 billion in damage in the U.S., especially in New Jersey and New York. Katrina caused at least 1,833 deaths, making it one of the five deadliest hurricanes in U.S. history, and an estimated \$81 billion in property damage.

Having an emergency response plan in place in case a hurricane is heading your way is crucial if you live in an area susceptible to these vicious storms.

The key to dealing with a hurricane is planning in advance. Having a 72-hour survival kit and your bug-out bag ready to go and knowing your evacuation routes will save you valuable time.

PREPARING YOUR HOME AND YOURSELF

One thing that is impractical to do in advance – but which you should be ready to start executing at a moment’s notice when you hear a hurricane is heading your way – is preparing your home. This involves:

- Boarding up windows with plywood or installing storm shutters.
- Securing your roof and siding to your house frame with straps.
- Reinforcing garage doors, trimming long tree branches and bringing outdoor furniture into your house.

Familiarizing yourself and your family with utility shut-off switches and valves in your house in case you need to evacuate.

Other activities you should engage in prior to a hurricane approaching your area are:

- Familiarize yourself with emergency routes and shelters. Print out those routes and keep them in your vehicle’s glove compartment.
- Make yourself aware of community shelters in your neighborhood just in case you need to use one.
- Make sure your car has a full gas tank and that important items such as a first-aid kit are in your car.

During a hurricane, assuming there was no evacuation order and you decided to ride it out, monitor emergency radio and mainstream media reports. Close your blinds and move your most valuable possessions away from windows, and then stay away from those windows, close interior doors and remain in your home’s interior rooms.



Once the storm has passed, continue to monitor weather reports and try to use flashlights instead of candles if your power is out. If you’re returning after evacuating, keep an eye out for flooding, ruptured gas lines and damaged structures, and be aware that

water may have become contaminated. Report any damage sustained by your home to your insurance agent as soon as possible.

FLOODING OFTEN THE BIGGEST PROBLEM

Before the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 that resulted in the deaths of more than 230,000 people in 14 bordering countries, many people didn't know much about this phenomenon, especially in the Western Hemisphere. But tsunamis have been around for a long time and can cause a huge amount of damage.



We in North America rarely encounter tsunamis, but some of us do have to deal with hurricanes and all of us are familiar with flooding problems. Included in U.S. flooding history have been the Johnstown Flood of 1889 that killed 2,200 in Pennsylvania, the Mississippi River Flood of 1927 that resulted in 246 deaths across 10 states and the Ohio River Flood in 1937 that killed 385 in six states.

Fortunately, more recent flooding in the U.S. has resulted in far fewer deaths, but it has still caused significant damage to homes,

businesses, sewage systems, roadways, bridges and crops, and has produced widespread power outages. All 50 states have experienced some flooding or flash floods in the past five years, so no one is immune.

How serious is the threat? Flash floods can bring walls of water from 10 to 20 feet high, a car can be carried away by just two feet of flood water and just a few inches of water from a flood can cause thousands of dollars in damages.

And while flooding doesn't cause as many deaths in the U.S. as it used to, it does result in more fatalities than tornados, hurricanes or lightning, according to the U.S. Natural Hazard Statistics.

A big problem – which many people don't discover until it's too late – is that most homeowners insurance policies don't cover flood damage. Also, federal disaster assistance is not a gift...it's a loan with interest.

Having an emergency response plan in place in the event of flooding is important. Your 72-hour survival kit and bug-out bags should be prepared in advance, and your important documents should be organized.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE FLOODING

Preparation is the key. Following are four action steps you can take before flooding occurs in order to be better prepared:

- Visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency's flood map site to discover whether you are in a flood plain and where the nearest high ground is located.
- If you are a property owner, especially in an area prone to flooding, make sure you have sufficient flood insurance.

- Be sure to have an emergency radio that tunes into reports from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.
- Practice your escape plan with your family. Going through the motions now will help when the time comes for the real thing.

WHAT TO DO DURING FLOODING

If flooding has already started or seems to be on the way, here are four steps you can take to protect yourself and your family:

- Because you may need to move to higher ground on short notice, tune into emergency radio and be ready to move quickly.
- If you're driving and you see standing water ahead, stop. Six inches of water is enough to stall out most cars, and it may be deeper than it appears. Same thing if you're on foot. Fast moving water can carry people off. Stay away from streams, sewer drains and drainage canals.
- Know the difference between a flood warning and a flood watch. If the situation appears to be worsening, stop what you're doing and get to higher ground right away.
- If there is time to evacuate your home, turn off all of your valves, unplug appliances and move your most expensive items to the highest possible point of your home.

WHAT TO DO AFTER FLOODING

Following the flood threat, take the following four action steps, keeping in mind that the threat may only seem to be over:

- Don't walk into any standing water. There could be objects in the water that you

can't see, including electrical wires.

- Continue to listen to emergency radio. You may be informed of a secondary threat of which you were not aware.
- Keep your eyes focused on potential hazards, including broken glass, downed power lines, ruptured gas lines and damaged structures. And keep in mind that standing floodwater could be contaminated by gas, oil, sewage or chemicals.
- Remain away from the area until city authorities declare that it is safe to return.

WATER CONTAMINATION: A MAJOR ISSUE

The dramatic scenes of children, mothers, fathers and grandparents being airlifted from their homes in Texas and Florida in 2017 are still fresh in our minds.



Flooding from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma overwhelmed many residential areas in those two states. The storms turned streets into raging rivers and backyards into rising lakes.

The immediate concern for many of those people was being saved from drowning after their homes were inundated by the storm surge. But after the waters receded, a new concern developed.

The aftermath of flooding is often dangerous water contamination. According to the Associated Press and other media outlets, massive flooding such as what occurred in Texas and Florida can stir up toxic chemicals from waste sites.

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF IMPURITIES

Reporters from *The New York Times* conducted a scientific analysis of the water in several Houston neighborhoods following the storm. This was for the purpose of being able to warn area residents about the pollutants and bacteria that might be in the standing water.

Sure enough, they found that the level of E. coli (an indication of fecal contamination from raw sewage) was 135 times what is considered safe. Levels of other hazardous metals, including lead, were also raised.

These findings are not surprising, considering the damage done by Hurricane Harvey. More than 560,000 gallons of crude oil, gasoline, saltwater and other contaminants spilled from wells, pipelines and storage tanks into coastal or inland waters, including the Colorado River southeast of Austin, Texas.

Two weeks after the storm, 19 public drinking water systems serving 14,000 people remained inoperable. Officials at 77 other systems warned consumers to boil tap water before drinking it.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES OF MISERY

In Naples, Florida, where hundreds of homes were destroyed by Hurricane Irma, a health crisis was brewing. Families were spending day after day in mud, mold and water left behind by 10 feet of storm surge, according to *USA Today*.

A 72-year-old man died after wading through Irma's floodwaters and being treated at a hospital for respiratory failure and internal bleeding. People were sickened by toxic storm water while others were being warned of potentially deadly infections.



An 80-year-old man cut his leg on a piece of wood while cleaning up after the storm. He was in critical condition at an area hospital two days later after suffering from a life-threatening infection that shut down both of his kidneys.

Even children were being hospitalized with infections after spending time in the standing water after the storm.

PUERTO RICO HIT HARD

Conditions in Puerto Rico were even worse after Hurricane Maria devastated the island

in 2017. Months after Maria left, many of the U.S. territory’s residents still did not have clean drinking water.



Millions were unable to access the power grid. Gasoline for generators and cars remained difficult to find for months. But even more life-threatening was the lack of clean water.

“This paradise has turned into hell,” a doctor in Puerto Rico told *NBC News*. “Pharmacies and supermarkets are starting to close because they don’t have enough diesel supply to keep running, so people are having less and less opportunity to find drinking water and food or supplies.”

That same doctor, who has two young children, said that even those who were fortunate enough to have running water were concerned it is contaminated.

“We’re boiling the water, and after we boil it, we are filtering it,” he said.

“There’s no water anywhere,” said another resident. “Except the river. And that’s dirty, dirty.”

BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH WATER CONTAMINATION

Even if you are fortunate enough to avoid personal harm or property damage from a hurricane, the water coming out of your tap could be contaminated following that type of storm.

Being able to purify your water is a must!

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM TWO 4PATRIOTS CUSTOMERS

The brutal 2020 hurricane season was reminiscent of the 2017 season. Between Maria, Harvey and Irma, millions of people in Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida and other states lost power for varying lengths of time and experienced flooding and property damage.

Like many things in life, the better prepared you are, the better you’ll be able to handle extreme weather.

That was certainly the case with many 4Patriots customers, including Texans Keith and Jeffrey.

Keith and his wife had the choice to evacuate when Hurricane Harvey came calling. But because they owned a 4Patriots generator and water filtration system, they determined that hunkering down was their best option.

CHOOSING TO STAY PUT

They felt confident that this was a storm they could weather.

“We’ve seen evacuations before, and it’s not good on the highway,” Keith said. “Instead, we

boarded up all the windows and had our water ready to go.”

The couple felt grateful that they had a way to produce clean water when Harvey not only made landfall but also stuck around for a while. Having a solar-powered generator also helped their peace of mind.

“I set my Patriot Power Generator out and we were ready for whatever hit and whatever happened,” Keith said. *“It sounded like a train out there for 12 or 14 hours.”*

“The wind took everything out. All the glass was blown out of every building for hundreds of miles. Everybody lost power. Nobody was getting any of their groceries. Nothing was available for a week or more.”

“People were standing in line for hours for water,” he continued. *“There was no fuel, there were no grocery stores open.”*

“The power was out, but I just plugged everything into my Patriot Power Generator. Plugged the TV in, and we had coffee. We were just living a normal life. Everything was normal.”



FREE PREPARATION ADVICE

After experiencing a storm like Harvey, Keith is happy to share his advice with others.

“If you’re not prepared to sit at your house and take care of yourself, then there’s nobody who’s going to take care of you. You’re on your own.”

“You want to go live in a football stadium with cots and sleeping bags on the floor for a month? Well, no thank you.”

“Be prepared to be self-reliant. And have water and have food. I could hunker down here and live here for six months and not ever have to leave. I feel self-reliant. I don’t have to rely on anybody.”

JEFFREY WAS READY

Another Texas resident who was prepared for Harvey was Jeffrey. In fact, he’s been preparing a hurricane survival kit around the end of May or early June every year since he was a kid.

“It was ingrained in me by my parents at a very early age,” Jeffrey said. *“Be prepared. Every year at the beginning of June or end of May, when the official announcement came out for the hurricane season, we would make a special grocery store trip.”*

“That’s what we would do. We’d get all of our supplies. This time, we knew Harvey was coming to this area. That’s when stores started to get lines forming and people started preparing. There were some folks where this was their first time, and they weren’t necessarily getting the right things. They were getting water, but not many long-term items.”

HARVEY HAMMERED HOUSTON

The costliest tropical cyclone on record, Hurricane Harvey killed more than 90 people in the Houston area, destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes and displaced more than 30,000 people.

Because the storm stalled, many areas received more than 40 inches of rain over a four-day period, causing catastrophic flooding.

“Imagine a freight train traveling at 60, 65 miles per hour,” Jeffrey said. “For 10 hours straight. Non-stop. It just doesn’t stop.”

That’s what it sounded like to Jeffrey when epic amounts of rainfall flooded the area. Some of his relatives were among those who lost everything in the storm.

PREPARED WITH 4PATRIOTS PRODUCTS

“I’ve been buying products from 4Patriots for, I’d say, about a year and a half,” he said. “Having something like stew or the potato soup or the chicken and rice, which is my favorite... the food’s good. It’s solid. It’s healthy. It’s nutritious.”

“I had some supplies from 4Patriots, so I was good. And I can’t stress that enough. Even if you never touch what you bought, even if it stays in the closet or garage or wherever you store it, it’s peace of mind. So, get ready. Get a plan. It’s up to you, and it’s up to me.”



THIS NEARLY ENDLESS ENERGY SOURCE COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

Be prepared to use your generator when the lights go out. Complete this checklist before Hurricane Season – and be ready to protect yourself and your loved ones.

BASIC GENERATOR OPERATION:

- Have you charged your generator before?
- Have you topped off your generator battery in the last 6 months?
- Have you practiced using your generator? Tried to power a lamp, charge a phone, etc.
- Have you ever set up your solar panel?
- Have you practiced charging your generator with the solar panels?

STORAGE BEST PRACTICES:

- Is the generator stored off of the floor in case of flooding?
- Is the generator somewhere where you could access it easily... even if the lights were out at night and it was dark? Consider keeping a flashlight handy, in case you need to connect your generator to critical medical devices at night.
- Are your generator keys with the generator? We suggest keeping them with the unit. Perhaps putting the keys on a carabiner hook through the handle of the generator.

- Is your solar panel and power cord nearby and accessible? Not buried under heavy items?
- Do you have the generator instructions and manual handy in case you need to refer to them?

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Do you and your family have an emergency plan in mind? If not, consider making one. Practicing your hurricane plan minimizes confusion and fear during the event.
- Do you have low-voltage lights handy (such as LED light strings)?
- Have you considered daisy chaining solar panels to improve your charging speed?
- Have you thought about how you will get clean drinking water if your water was affected by a natural disaster?
- Do you have enough food that you could easily prepare if you were without power for several weeks and no stores were open or reachable?

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are a threat within 48 hours. Review your hurricane plans, keep informed and be ready to act if a warning is issued.

Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Complete your storm preparations and leave the area if directed to do so by authorities.

DOUBLE YOUR POWER, CHARGE 2X FASTER... AND PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE #1 MOST DEADLY THREAT

See the Platinum Generator Upgrade Package at www.4patriots.com/products/ppg-plat-upgrade

2 x 120-Volt AC Outlets

4 x USB Outlets

1 x 12-Volt Anderson Powerpole Outlet

1 x 12-Volt DC Outlet



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

FREE Customer Service Line for Patriot Power Generator Owners

1-800-304-4202



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