

# Be "One Week Ready" During Hurricane Season

## Hurricane Preparedness



MyEscambia.com/BeReady

Escambia County is urging residents to remain prepared before, during and after a storm during hurricane season by stocking up on seven days worth of supplies, otherwise known as being, "One Week Ready." Hurricane season begins Thursday, June 1, and will continue until Nov. 30.

"A new resource we want to showcase this year is 'A Minute with EM'," said Emergency Manager Travis Tompkins. "This is a one-minute preparedness segment that we produce each week to post to our social media accounts. This is yet another way to share our preparedness message and updates on tropical activity. Remember, it's not a matter of if we get impacted by a storm, it's a matter of when."

"A Minute with EM" can be viewed on all Escambia County Emergency Management social media platforms and the MyEscambia YouTube channel. [View the "A Minute with EM" episodes on YouTube here.](#)

Residents are encouraged to follow these steps in preparation for this hurricane season:

1. **Know Your Zone.** Familiarize yourself with evacuation zones and routes. In 2018, Emergency Management released a "[Know Your Zone](#)" website for residents to look up their evacuation zone. You can look up your address to see if your home is in evacuation zone A, B, C, D, E or none as well as view the impacts of storm surge in your

neighborhood. Knowing your evacuation zone is one of the most important hurricane preparation steps you can take. It is very important that you look up your evacuation zone each year to find out if and when you should evacuate, even if you have looked it up in the past, as zones can change. Most importantly, don't rely on previous storm experience.

2. **Know Your Home.** Is your home prepared for a hurricane? Your safest place may be at home instead of a shelter. Pack an emergency supply kit. It should contain one week of clothes, nonperishable food, pet food, water and a battery operated radio and flashlight with extra batteries. Also include a first-aid kit with items such as gloves, adhesive bandages and prescription medications. [Find a printable disaster shopping list here](#). Please remember "Get One Week Ready." Citizens should be equipped to provide for themselves, their families and their pets for at least one week following a major hurricane. [During the 2023 Florida Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, stock up on qualifying disaster preparedness supplies exempt from tax.](#)
3. **Know Your Plan.** Plan how you will assemble your family and loved ones, and anticipate where you will go for different situations. Get together with your family and agree on the best ways to contact one another in an emergency. Inform out-of-town family and friends of your emergency plans and stay in contact. Plan your evacuation route and destination before an evacuation order is issued. Anticipate where you and your family will go for different situations. Be sure to make preparations for pets and family members who made need special accommodations, such as a wheelchair ramp, oxygen tank or specific medications. [More information on planning an evacuation for a person with disabilities or special needs is available here.](#)
4. **Stay Informed.** Know where to go for trusted sources of information during a hurricane event. Sign up for alerts from your local emergency management office so notifications, including evacuation orders, go directly to your phone and email. Monitor local news for hurricane watches and warnings in your area and follow directions of local officials. Make sure you have a battery-operated or hand-crank radio available should the power go out. [Review and sign up for the different types of information/notifications available directly from](#)

[Escambia County](#). Also, ensure your iPhone or Android device has critical alert notifications enabled. Find out how to enable critical alerts on your phone [here](#).

[The National Weather Service](#) also provided some steps to follow as you prepare your home for hurricane season:

- **Determine Your Risk:** Find out today what types of wind and water hazards could happen where you live, and then start preparing how to handle them.
- **Develop an Evacuation Plan:** The first thing you need to do is find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone. If you do, now is the time to begin planning where you would go and how you would get there. Be sure to account for your pets in your plan.
- **Assemble Disaster Supplies:** You're going to need supplies not just to get through the storm but for the potentially lengthy and unpleasant aftermath. Have enough non-perishable food, water and medicine to last each person in your family a minimum of one week. Electricity and water could be out for at least that long. You'll need extra cash, a battery-powered radio and flashlights. You may need a portable crank or solar-powered USB charger for your cell phones.
- **Get an Insurance Checkup:** Call your insurance company or agent and ask for an insurance check-up to make sure you have enough homeowners insurance to repair or even replace your home. Don't forget coverage for your car or boat. Remember, standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. Whether you're a homeowner or renter, you'll need a separate policy for it, and it's available through your company, agent or the National Flood Insurance Program at [floodsmart.gov](#). Act now as flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period.
  - [FLASH Insurance Guide: If Disaster Strikes, Will You Be Covered?](#)
  - Find available coverage at [floodsmart.gov](#)
- **Strengthen Your Home:** If you plan to ride out the storm in your home, make sure it is in good repair and up to local hurricane building code specifications. Many retrofits are not as costly or time consuming as you may think. Have the proper plywood, steel or aluminum panels to board up the windows and doors. Remember, the

garage door is the most vulnerable part of the home, so it must be able to withstand the winds.

- [FLASH: How-To Videos](#)
- Protect Your Home from Flooding Video ([English/Spanish](#))
- **Help Your Neighbor:** Many Americans rely on their neighbors after a disaster, but there are also many ways you can help your neighbors before a hurricane approaches. Learn about all the different actions you and your neighbors can take to prepare and recover from the hazards associated with hurricanes. Start the conversation now with these Neighbor Helping Neighbor.
  - [Hurricane Safety Tips and Resources](#)
- **Complete A Written Plan:** The time to prepare for a hurricane is before the season begins, when you have the time and are not under pressure. If you wait until a hurricane is on your doorstep, the odds are that you will be under duress and will make the wrong decisions. Take the time now to write down your hurricane plan. Know who issues evacuation orders for your area, determine locations on where you will ride out the storm, and start to get your supplies now. Being prepared before a hurricane threatens makes you resilient to the hurricane impacts of wind and water. It will mean the difference between being a hurricane victim or a hurricane survivor.
  - [FEMA: Make a Plan](#)
  - [FLASH: Family Disaster Plan](#)

#### **Additional online safety resources:**

- Escambia County road closures:  
[www.myescambia.com/roadissuesmap](http://www.myescambia.com/roadissuesmap).
- City of Pensacola road closures:  
<http://reports.pensacolapolice.com/SmartWebClient/>
- For the latest closures and updates, travelers can access Florida's 511 service from cell phones, landlines and online at [www.FL511.com](http://www.FL511.com).
- [Escambia County Disaster Guide](#)

More information on what to do before, during and after a storm is available online at [MyEscambia.com/BeReady](http://MyEscambia.com/BeReady). You can also follow [@BeReadyEscambia](#) on Twitter , like [Escambia County Emergency](#)

[Management](#) on Facebook, and follow [@EscambiaBeReady](#) on Instagram for the latest news and updates on emergencies impacting our community.