



HURRICANE GUIDE 2011



The Town of Dewey Beach encourages all of its property owners, businesses, and visitors to be prepared in the event of a hurricane threat in our area.

With the high volume of renters in our Town it is important for property owners to ensure their property is safe and secure. Below you will find information that we hope is helpful in understanding the difference between hurricane watches and warnings as well as information regarding hurricane preparation.

With the unique layout of Dewey Beach being only two blocks wide with the ocean on one side and the bay on the other, even a Category 1 or 2 could prove to be a real threat to our community. Please be proactive and prepared to ensure the safety of yourself and others.

Hurricane Watch

A hurricane watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 36 hours.

- Fill up your car with gas
- Secure buildings
- Review evacuation plan
- Listen to a radio or television for official instructions
- Check your family's emergency supplies
- Bring in outdoor objects such as toys and garden tools
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings
- Secure outdoor objects which cannot be brought inside, such as boats and lawnmowers
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, and bottles



Hurricane Warning

A hurricane warning is issued when hurricane conditions are expected in 24 hours or less.

- Listen to a radio or television for official instructions
- If in a mobile home, check tie downs and prepare to evacuate
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container
- Stay inside, away from windows, skylights, and glass doors
- Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy
- Avoid open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light
- If power is lost, turn major appliances off to reduce a power surge when electricity is restored

Before Hurricane Season

Insurance

Begin by checking your Property or Rental Insurance. Flood Insurance is NOT included in your property insurance. Also be aware that Insurance companies are **NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE ANY POLICY CHANGES**, or sell new policies once a Tropical Storm has been identified that may threaten the East Coast or Gulf Coast of the United States.

Know what your policy covers, and will not cover. Review your deductibles. They may be different for Flood insurance. Take a photograph or video inventory of your possessions.

Organize Important Documents

Make a list of the important documents that you would want to protect. This may include;

- Insurance Policies, home and vehicle
- Medical and Bank records
- Photos
- Important phone numbers
- Legal documents

Make plans to be able to quickly assemble and transport these in waterproof containers should an evacuation be ordered.

Plan Your Evacuation

There are multiple routes out of Sussex County. You should familiarize yourself with these routes *prior to an evacuation*. Plan a weekend drive to explore Sussex County and locate these different routes. **ALWAYS CARRY A STATE MAP IN YOUR VEHICLE**. GPS units and navigation systems may not show all alternate routes.

Choose a Destination and an Alternate

Having an Out-of-Town contact serves 2 purposes. This person could be your host for you and your family during the evacuation as well as the Contact person for friends and relatives trying to contact you. Local phone networks, both land-line and cellular will be overloaded during these types of events. Ask those wishing to contact you to use your Out-of-Town Contact.

Pets are Family Too

Keep pet records current and have copies to take with you. Plan for the pets need as well. Include;

- Carriers or kennels
- Food and water
- Leashes and possibly muzzles
- Toys

If you plan to stay in motels or shelters, understand that not all places allow pets.

Please do not abandon your pets.

Protecting Your Home

At the beginning of hurricane season is the best time to buy supplies to fortify your home. Once a storm is forecast to be a potential threat to our area, hurricane supplies become scarce and expensive. Buy plywood and cut it to fit each window, remember to identify where each piece goes and include fasteners.

Preparing to Evacuate

Stock Up

- Trash bags, can be used for emergency waterproof covers
- Personal hygiene products
- Toiletries
- Bug spray
- 2 week supply of meds
- 1 week supply of clothing
- Snacks, drinks and water
- Entertainment for kids
- Fill cars with gas and check fluid levels

Prepare Your Home

Remove items from your yard that can become flying debris. Lawn furniture, trash cans, grills, potted plants, decorations can become projectiles even in minor storms. Install shutters or plywood to protect windows. Pack freezers and refrigerators with water jugs to fill voids and help retain cold. Wrapping these with blankets will also help insulate and keep cold in. Group furniture to center of rooms and drape with tarps. Pack valuables in thicker lawn and leaf bags to waterproof. Place rolled towels in window sills and door bottoms to help keep out water. Unplug all unnecessary electrical devices.

If You Choose Not to Evacuate

There simply is no good reason to take chances. If ordered to evacuate, LEAVE. However, should you insist on staying behind there are some things you should prepare for.

No Electricity

When we experience high winds combined with heavy rainfall, trees will be blown down. Power lines will be damaged and electrical service interrupted. The length of the outages depends on the severity and duration of the storm, and the availability of repair crews.

No Water

Whether your water comes from a municipality or your own well, pumps rely on electricity to deliver water. See above.

No Stores or Gas Stations

Businesses will be closed and operators will have evacuated. They too will need electricity to operate.

No 911 Services

Once an evacuation has been ordered AND sustained winds reach 35 mph, Public Safety services cannot operate. Large vehicles such as ambulances and fire trucks are very susceptible to high winds and rollovers.

You should be prepared to have 7 to 10 days of food, water, medicines, emergency first aid supplies, and any other items that may be needed.

Emergency Workers and Utility Crews will have to cut and push their way back into the County should we experience heavy destruction. 7 to 10 days is a conservative number to be prepared for.

After a Storm Makes Landfall

Never Go Barefoot

Storm debris will be everywhere. Broken glass in grass and in water cannot be seen easily. Flood waters may be contaminated.

Never Go Out During the Eye of the Storm

Hurricanes can appear calm in the center or eye. A change in wind speed and direction can occur suddenly with devastating results.

Never Leave Candles or Oil Lamps Unattended

Try to avoid using any type of open flames for light or heat.

Never Operate Outdoor Grills Indoors

Grills produce carbon monoxide that can cause death in enclosed areas.

Things You Should Do

Check on family, friends and neighbors.

Be extremely cautious with pets that have experienced storm conditions. They may be stressed.

Watch out for wild animals that may be displaced.

Take pictures of damages; notify insurance company, landlord or property owner as soon as possible.

Monitor local news for information.

Be patient and considerate with family, neighbors and government employees. Surviving a storm is traumatic for everyone.

Lend a helping hand when and where you can.

The Important Thing to Remember After a Storm Is That You Survived. And Give Thanks.

Hurricane Preparedness



History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

The goal of this Hurricane Preparedness Web site is to inform the public about the hurricane hazards and provide knowledge which can be used to take ACTION. This information can be used to save lives at work, home, while on the road, or on the water.

Hurricane Hazards

Hurricane hazards come in many forms: storm surge, high winds, tornadoes, and flooding. This means it is important for your family to have a plan that includes all of these hazards. Look carefully at the safety actions associated with each type of hurricane hazard and prepare your family disaster plan accordingly.

But remember this is only a guide. The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

You should be able to answer the following questions before a hurricane threatens:

- What are the Hurricane Hazards?

What does it mean to you?

What actions should you take to be prepared?

Visit the NOAA Coastal Services Center [Historical Hurricane Tracks website](#) to learn about historical tropical cyclones occurring in different areas located throughout the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.

American Red Cross



**American
Red Cross**

Disaster Preparedness should be on every family's mind throughout the year and especially before hurricane season. Remember that hurricane season begins June 1st and lasts until November 30th. Being prepared for any type of disaster will mean a better outcome for you and your family.

The Red Cross recommends the following safety steps and tips to prepare for the upcoming season:

- Assemble a Disaster Supply Kit
- Gather emergency supplies including: emergency medications, nonperishable foods, a non-electric can opener, bottled water (at least one gallon per day per person), a battery-powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries, extra clothes, important documents, cash and credit cards, a first aid kit and other items for infants, elderly, disabled family members, and/or pets
- Store supplies in a waterproof, easy-to-carry container, such as plastic tub with handles
- Prepare a Personal Evacuation Plan
- Identify an evacuation route ahead of time; discuss with family members
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately
- In case of evacuation to an American Red Cross shelter, be sure to bring the disaster supplies kit, medications, extra clothing, pillows and blankets and other hygiene and comfort supplies
- Make advance preparations for pets so you can bring them with you when you leave, but remember, due to health department regulations, pets aren't allowed in most public shelters