

Be Prepared!

When there is the chance of a storm hitting our area you want to be sure your family is prepared BEFORE! When you are prepared there is no reason for anxiety! Here are some resources to be sure you are ready, just in case! Also, keep a listen out for local shelters that will open if needed.

Often local churches and the Red Cross will have these resources available. These can be found on the ReadyNC app or by listening to the local radio stations. North Carolina's website for storm preparedness is a great resource for you and your family, <https://readync.org/EN/Index.html>

Before a storm:

- Build an emergency kit.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Know the routes you need to leave your home. Locate your local emergency shelters.
- Closely watch/listen to the weather reports. Listening every hour as the storm nears.
- Put fuel in all vehicles and withdraw some cash from the bank. Gas stations and ATMs may be closed after a storm
- If you leave, be alert to flooded or washed-out roads. Just a few inches of water can float a car. Think: **Turn Around, Don't Drown**.
- Secure your property.
 - Bring inside all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
 - Cover windows with permanent storm shutters or board up windows with 5/8" plywood, cut and ready to install. Tape does not stop windows from breaking..
 - Trim trees and shrubs around your home, so they are more wind resistant.
 - Clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts.

During a storm!

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Secure your home, close storm shutters and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- Turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Try not to use the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Make sure you have a [supply of water](#) for sanitary purpose such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water.
- Leave your home or area if you are:Told to do so by local police. In a mobile home or temporary structure. Such structures are particularly dangerous during high wind events no matter how well fastened to the ground. In a high-rise building because hurricane winds are stronger at higher levels.
- If you are unable to leave, go to the safest room in your house.
- Stay indoors during the storm. Stay away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed.
- Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm – winds will pick up again.
- Take shelter in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level.

After a Storm!

- Stay tuned to local radio, television or NOAA Weather Radio for the latest news.
- Stay alert for extra rainfall and following flooding even after the storm has ended.
- Drive only if needed. Stay away from flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Stay off the streets. If you must go out, look for fallen objects, downed electrical wires, and weakened bridges, roads and sidewalks.
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines. Report them as quickly as you can to the power company.

- If you need to reach your family, use your family communications plan or contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS/1-800-733-2767 or visit the ARC Safe and Well site: www.safeandwell.org.
- If you cannot return home and need shelter, text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345) or use the ReadyNC app.
- Walk carefully around the outside your home and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage. Stay out of any building if you smell gas, if floodwaters remain around the building.
- Use battery-powered flashlights in the dark. Do **NOT** use candles.
- Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to not get hurt.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- **NEVER** use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or other enclosed areas, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for airing. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can stay around for hours, even after the generator has shut off.

Checklist of Supplies:

- 3-day supply of non-perishable food (dried fruit, canned tuna fish, peanut butter, etc.)
- Can opener Paper plates, plastic cups and utensils, paper towels, moist towelettes
- Water – at least a gallon per person, per day for drinking and hygiene (you can fill plastic bags with water and place in the freezer)
- First aid kit
- Prescription medication and glasses
- Fill your car with gas
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for everyone in your family
- Change of clothes to last for at least 3 days, including sturdy shoes; consider the weather where you live
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and other personal items
- Fire extinguisher

- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and extra batteries
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger, extra battery and solar charger
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper (when diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.)
- Local maps
- Cash
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, ID, and bank records in a waterproof, portable container
- Infant formula and diapers
- Paper and pencil Books, games or puzzles (let your kids pick these out themselves!)
- Your child's favorite stuffed animal or security blanket
- Pet food and extra water for your pet

Don't forget to think about infants, elderly, pets, or any family members with special needs!

You can find a digital checklist

here: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1e04d512b273e2133cb865833cc0e32d/FEMA_c hecklist_parent_508_071513.pdf