

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG



Many people believe that hurricanes and other types of storms only affect areas far south of New York. The unfortunate fact is that coastal storms—including hurricanes—can and do impact the City.

Technological advances in meteorology have allowed us to better predict the ways of nature. But we have found that preparedness is the best defense when disaster strikes. The information in this brochure is designed to make the citizens of New York as prepared as possible.

WHY ARE HURRICANES SO DANGEROUS?

No storm combines duration, size and wind speed more destructively than a hurricane. With possible sustained winds of more than 100 MPH, hurricanes can flatten homes, topple trees, and turn loose objects into deadly projectiles. The storm's driving winds and torrential rains can cause massive and dangerous flooding in low-lying and poor-drainage areas. Finally, the most hazardous feature of a hurricane may be storm surge, a dome of seawater pushed forward by the oncoming storm.

Unfortunately, many New Yorkers believe that hurricanes cannot happen here. This is simply untrue. Recent history tells us that devastating storms have struck the City. What makes the hurricane threat so serious is that the City's coastal population has increased dramatically in the past 40 years. However, by educating ourselves, our friends, family and our neighbors about this threat, we can ensure that our communities will be well prepared for this serious hazard.

FREQUENTLY USED TERMS

Hurricane Season — June 1 to November 30

Hurricane Watch — Issued for a coastal storm area when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours.

Hurricane Warning — Issued when hurricane conditions are expected in a specified coastal area in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include winds of 74 MPH or higher and/or dangerously high tides or waves.

**ACTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF
LIFE AND PROPERTY SHOULD BEGIN
IMMEDIATELY AFTER A WARNING IS ISSUED!**

www.nyc.gov/oem

WHAT IS STORM SURGE?

Storm surge is a great dome of water—often 50 miles wide—that is pushed overland by the approaching hurricane. Storm surges can reach up to 30 feet in some locations of the City. The surge, aided by the hammering effect of the breaking waves, acts like a giant bulldozer, sweeping away everything in its path. The stronger the hurricane, the higher the storm surge will be.

**STORM SURGE IS THE MOST DANGEROUS ASPECT
OF A HURRICANE. NINE OUT OF 10 HURRICANE
FATALITIES ARE CAUSED BY STORM SURGE.**

EMOLS

OEM's website features the **EMOLS** (*Emergency Management Online Locator System*) utility, which helps City residents identify whether or not they live in an area that is prone to storm surges and coastal flooding. It also identifies **Reception Centers**, centralized locations throughout the City from which evacuees are transported to area shelters. To use **EMOLS**, visit www.nyc.gov/oem, and click on the "Hazards" link.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

Prepare a Home Survival Kit. There are certain items you should have on hand and be ready to take with you if you are evacuating (*see back*).

Monitor TV and Radio Broadcasts. Emergency information regarding public safety will be aired.

Know How to Secure Your Home. Take in or tie down loose items outside your home. Do not take propane gas barbecue tanks indoors: secure them outside. Shutter windows to prevent breakage: taping windows will only prevent glass from becoming airborne.

Protect Your Pets. Animals will not be permitted into Evacuation Shelters. Arrange to shelter your pets either at a kennel or with friends or relatives outside the surge area.

If Asked to Evacuate, Do So Immediately! The Office of Emergency Management, in conjunction with the National Hurricane Center and the National Weather Service, will monitor the progress of the storm. You will be provided with specific information as to which areas should evacuate and when.

**DECISIONS TO EVACUATE WILL BE MADE WHEN
A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER TO THE PUBLIC
EXISTS. PLEASE HEED ALL WARNINGS--
AND DO NOT EVACUATE UNLESS ASKED TO!**

www.nyc.gov/oem

WHERE SHOULD I GO, AND WHEN?

It is strongly recommended that you seek refuge with friends or family outside of the storm surge area. It is always a good idea to have a "**Family Sheltering Plan**" in place.

The City of New York, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, has developed a hurricane sheltering strategy for those persons without alternate temporary shelter. To minimize crowding, provide adequate vehicle parking, and ensure easy access via public transportation, **Reception Centers** will be opened in advance of a storm. Reception Center locations will be broadcast over local TV and radio stations.

Some Reception Centers with large parking areas are designed to accommodate persons evacuating by private vehicle. Other Reception Centers are connected to existing public transportation routes. Carefully note which Reception Center is most appropriate for you.

After arriving at a Reception Center, you will be transported to a nearby Evacuation Shelter for the duration of the storm. Evacuation Shelters are away from the dangerous storm surge and can withstand hurricane force winds.

**EVACUATE EARLY... WAITING UNTIL
THE LAST MOMENT CAN LEAVE YOU IN HARM'S WAY!**

WHAT IF I NEED MORE INFORMATION?

ONLY DURING TIMES OF EMERGENCY, you can call OEM's Emergency Information Hotline at (888) 6-OEM-NYC (888-663-6692), or contact your local American Red Cross chapter. You can also log on to the following websites:

www.nyc.gov/oem
(NYC Office of Emergency Management)
www.fema.gov
(Federal Emergency Management Agency)
www.nysemo.state.ny.us
(NY State Emergency Management Office)
www.nhc.noaa.gov
(National Hurricane Center)
www.nyredcross.org
(American Red Cross of Greater New York)

ARE YOU PREPARED?

If a hurricane should strike, you should be prepared to live without power and water for several days. Be certain that friends, relatives and neighbors with disabilities or special needs are aware of the danger and assist them if possible.

HOME SURVIVAL KIT:

- Toiletries
- Flashlight, portable radio, extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Prescription medication (5- to 7-day supply)*
- Non-perishable canned or packaged foods
- Non-electric can opener
- Water (one gallon per person, per day)
- Child-care items: baby food, diapers, wipes*
- Portable cooler with ice
- Plastic garbage bags
- Plywood or other shuttering material for windows
- Checkbook, cash, credit cards, ATM cards*

IF YOU ARE GOING TO AN EVACUATION SHELTER:

Pack **only** what you need to live for several days, including:

- Items marked with an asterisk (*) in your Home Survival Kit (listed above)
- Important papers (including valid identification and insurance papers)
- Sleeping bag, blankets, pillows
- Extra clothing, infant necessities
- Personal hygiene items
- Auxiliary medical equipment
- For service animals, bring food and water

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

- Secure windows with shutters or plywood
- Secure patio furniture, loose yard items, trash cans
- Top off automobile gas tank
- Turn off electricity at the main switch
- Shut gas valve at the appliance, not the main
- Let friends, relatives or neighbors know where you are going.

* Items marked with an asterisk should be in your home survival kit.

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The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) broadcasts National Weather Service forecasts, warnings and more, 24 hours a day. For a minimal cost, you can purchase a special weather radio that gives instant access to the same weather reports and emergency information that meteorologists and emergency personnel use.

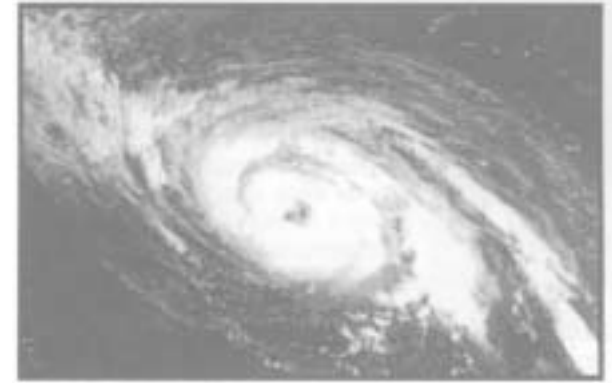
THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

Developed in the early 1970's based on the observations of numerous North Atlantic hurricanes, the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale rates hurricanes in order of increasing intensity from a Category 1 to Category 5.

The scale is utilized by meteorologists and emergency managers to outline the potential damage of an associated categorized hurricane.

Type of Tropical Cyclone	Category	Potential for Damage	Wind Speed (in MPH)
Depression	TD	----	< 39
Tropical Storm	TS	----	39 - 73
Hurricane	1	Minimal	74 - 95
Hurricane	2	Moderate	96 - 110
Hurricane	3	Extensive	111 - 130
Hurricane	4	Extreme	131 - 155
Hurricane	5	Catastrophic	156+

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New York City Guide to **HURRICANE** **PREPAREDNESS**



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*this information available online @
www.nyc.gov/oem*