READY NEW YORK

HURRICANES AND NEW YORK CITY

OEM

New York City
Office of Emergency Management

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor

Joseph F. Bruno, Commissioner

2006 edition

APPROVED Ready U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Many people believe that hurricanes only affect areas far south of New York. But coastal storms, including hurricanes, can and do impact the City. In fact, New York's densely populated and highly developed coastline makes the City among the areas most vulnerable to hurricane – related damage.

Due to regional geography, hurricanes in New York City – though infrequent – can do more damage than hurricanes of similar strength in the southern United States. In a major hurricane, storm surge could put some parts of New York City under more than 30 feet of water. The New York City Office of Emergency Management works to ensure the City is prepared for coastal storms and hurricanes. Read on to learn more about how you can prepare.

cover photography: Jonathan Gaska, Queens CB 14

COASTAL STORM TERMS

Hurricane Season
June 1 to November 30*

Tropical Cyclone
An organized rotating weather system that develops in the tropics and has a warm center of low barometric pressure

Tropical Storm
A tropical cyclone with sustained winds of 39-73 mph

Hurricane
A tropical cyclone with sustained winds of 74 mph or greater

Hurricane Watch
Issued for a coastal 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.

* Historically, the greatest potential for hurricanes in New York City occurs from August to October.

HOW IS HURRICANE STRENGTH MEASURED?

Hurricanes are categorized according to wind strength using the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. A Category 1 storm has the lowest wind speeds, while a Category 5 has the strongest.

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

RESOURCES

NYC Office of Emergency Management
NYC.gov/oem

NY State Emergency Management Office
www.nysemo.state.ny.us

Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov

Department of Homeland Security
www.ready.gov

American Red Cross in Greater New York
www.nyredcross.org
877-RED-CROSS

National Hurricane Center/Tropical Prediction Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

National Weather Service
www.weather.gov

NOAA All Hazards Radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day.

In the event of an approaching hurricane, call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) or access NYC.gov for tips and information.

HOW CAN I PREPARE MYSELF?

The best way to prepare for a hurricane evacuation is to know your evacuation zone and develop a plan ahead of time.

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DETERMINE IF YOU LIVE IN AN EVACUATION ZONE

Use the Hurricane Evacuation Zone Finder at NYC.gov/oem, call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115), or consult the map provided in this brochure to find out if your address is located in an evacuation zone.

Areas of the City subject to storm surge flooding are divided into three zones based on how storms of different strengths will affect them. Residents in some or all of these zones may need to evacuate depending on the strength of the approaching storm.

IF YOU LIVE IN AN EVACUATION ZONE

Prepare A Disaster Plan
Develop a plan with your household members that outlines what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate if a hurricane strikes New York.

Know Where You Will Go
The City strongly recommends evacuees stay with friends or family who live outside evacuation zone boundaries. For those who have no other shelter, the City will open hurricane shelters throughout the five boroughs.

To ensure efficient use of resources, the City will ask all evacuees to report to an evacuation center. Once at the evacuation center, evacuees will either be assigned to a hurricane shelter in the same facility or transported to an associated hurricane shelter by bus.

To find the location of your evacuation center, use the Hurricane Evacuation Zone Finder at NYC.gov/oem, call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115), or consult the map provided in this brochure.

Keep a Go Bag Ready
Every household member should have a small Go Bag – a collection of items you may need during an evacuation packed in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack. A Go Bag should be easily accessible if you have to leave your home in a hurry. (See Go Bag list on the right)

Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit
Depending on the severity of the storm, you may be instructed to shelter in place (stay at home) during a hurricane even if you live in an evacuation zone. Keep enough supplies in your home to survive for at least three days. (See Supply list on the right)

IF YOU DO NOT LIVE IN AN EVACUATION ZONE

Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit
All areas of the City could face hurricane-related hazards such as high winds, flooding, tornadoes, and loss of utilities. You may be instructed to shelter in place (stay at home) for several days until the hurricane passes. (See Supply list on the right)

IF YOU LIVE IN A HIGH-RISE APARTMENT BUILDING

Residents of high-rise apartment buildings may face special risks from hurricanes even if they live safely outside evacuation zone boundaries.

If you live in a high-rise building outside an evacuation zone, be prepared to take shelter on or below the 10th floor.

If you live in a high-rise building located in an evacuation zone, heed evacuation orders.

A GO BAG SHOULD INCLUDE

- Copies of your important documents in a waterproof and portable container (insurance cards, photo IDs, proof of address, etc.)
- Extra set of car and house keys
- Credit/ATM cards and $50-$100 cash in small denominations
- Bottled water and nonperishable food such as energy or granola bars
- Flashlight
- Battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries
- Up-to-date medication information and other essential personal items. Keep a list of the medications each member of your household takes, why they take them, and their dosages. Also include all doctors' names and phone numbers
- First-aid kit
- Contact and meeting place information for your household and a small regional map
- Child care supplies or other special care items

AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT SHOULD INCLUDE

- One gallon of drinking water per person per day
- Nonperishable, ready-to-eat canned foods and manual can opener
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight
- Battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries
- Whistle
- Iodine tablets or one quart of unscented bleach (for disinfecting water ONLY if directed to do so by health officials) and eyedropper (for adding bleach to water)
- Personal hygiene items: soap, feminine hygiene products, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- Phone that does not rely on electricity
- Child care supplies or other special care items

BEFORE THE STORM

Stay Informed
For the latest information about an approaching storm or to find out if you should evacuate, stay tuned to TV and radio broadcasts, access NYC.gov, or call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115).

Secure Your Home
If a tropical storm or hurricane watch is issued:

- Bring inside loose, lightweight objects, such as lawn furniture, garbage cans, garden tools, and toys.
- Anchor objects that will be unsafe to bring inside, like gas grills or propane tanks. Turn off propane tanks.
- Shutter windows securely and brace outside doors.
- Place valuables in waterproof containers or plastic bags.

Help Others Prepare
Check on friends, relatives, and neighbors, especially those with disabilities or special needs, and assist them with their preparation and evacuation.

If you live outside an evacuation zone, offer to shelter family and friends who may need to evacuate.

If Asked to Evacuate, Do So Immediately
The City will communicate specific instructions about which areas of the City should evacuate through local media.

If the City Issues an Evacuation Order for Your Area:

- Evacuate immediately.
- If you are going to an evacuation center, pack lightly, and bring:
  - ☐ Your Go Bag
  - ☐ Sleeping bag or bedding
  - ☐ Required medical supplies or equipment
- Let friends or relatives know where you are going.

WHAT ABOUT MY PETS?

Make sure your disaster plan addresses what you will do with your pet if a hurricane requires you to leave your home. Plan to shelter your pet at a kennel or with friends or relatives outside the evacuation area.

Be sure you have supplies ready for your pet in the event of an evacuation, including food, a leash, a muzzle, proof of shots, and a cage or carrier.

ACCOUNT FOR YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS

- Consider your capabilities and make sure your preparedness plan addresses how your special needs affect your ability to evacuate.
- Determine if you will need assistance and arrange help from friends, family, or neighbors.
- Consider additional supplies and equipment that you may need to bring with you, such as medical devices and backup equipment.
- Include additional time and evaluate your transportation options.

Llame al 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) o visite NYC.gov/oem para obtener acceso a este folleto en español.

Per ottenere una copia di questa pubblicazione in lingua italiana, chiamare il 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) o recarsi all'indirizzo web NYC.gov/oem.

Rele 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) oswa vizite NYC.gov/oem pou jwenn tiliv sa a an Kreyòl.

Telefonować pod nr 311 (teletekst dla osób z upośledzeniem słuchu: 212-504-4115) lub wejść na stronę NYC.gov/oem, aby przeczytać broszurę w jęz. polskim.

Звоните 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) или посетите NYC.gov/oem чтобы получить эту брошюру на русском языке.

한국어로 된 브로셔 입수를 원하시면 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) 로 전화하시거나 또는 NYC.gov/oem 을 방문하십시오.

請致電 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115)，或訪問 NYC.gov/oem，查看中文版的手冊。

311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) پر کال کریں یا اردو میں اس کتابچہ تک رسائی کے لئے NYC.gov/oem ملاحظہ فرمائیں۔

اطلب هاتف رقم 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) أو قم بزيارة موقع الإنترنت NYC.gov/oem لقراءة هذا الكتيّب باللغة العربية.

רופט 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) אדער באזוכט NYC.gov/oem צו זעהן דעם בראשור אין אידיש.