



The greatest danger during a severe storm/hurricane comes from high winds that can topple trees and produce deadly flying debris. Another deadly threat comes from heavy rain that can produce flash floods. To stay safe individuals should follow these steps:

- Stay inside and away from windows, skylights and glass doors. Find the safest area in the interior of the building (a room without windows, a closet or bathroom on the lower level).
- If flooding threatens a home, turn off electricity at the main breaker.
- If a home loses power, turn off electrical at the main circuit panel.
- Do not go outside. If the eye of the storm passes over your area, there will be a short period of calm, however, on the other side of the eye, the wind speed rapidly increases to hurricane force and will come from the opposite direction. Also, do not go outside to see "what the wind feels like" – you could be hit by flying debris and seriously injured.
- Beware of lightning. Stay away from electrical equipment. Don't use the phone or take a bath/shower during the storm.
- Severe storms sometimes generate deadly tornados – another reason to stay inside in the safest interior rooms.
- Electrical lines frequently fall during storms with strong winds – do not go near fallen electrical lines, pools of water, or fallen trees. Fallen electrical lines may appear "dead" when they are not. Touching fallen trees, limbs, other materials, or water can lead to electrocution resulting in serious injury or death.
- Never attempt to cross flooded roads or creeks in vehicles or on foot. It may appear safe but it is not. Flood waters may be deeper than they appear, hide deep sink holes or washes, and are likely moving faster, and with more force, than appears on the surface.
- Don't count on emergency management services to rescue you as they would under normal conditions! DON'T RISK IT – STAY INSIDE, STAY SAFE.
- If you have a life-threatening emergency, call 911 and be able to clearly give your location and emergency.
- If you take prescription medication have an adequate supply, keep in a sealable water tight plastic bag.
- Keep your passport, identification and other critical documents with you in a sealable water tight plastic bag.
- Keep a flashlight and batteries handy. Keep matches in a sealable water tight plastic bag.
- Have at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water on hand.
- Don't drink tap water until you know it is safe. Throw out any food that has spoiled.
- Never use a generator, gasoline powered equipment, grill, camp stove, charcoal burning device indoors or in semi-enclosed areas – keep these devices at least 20 feet from doors, windows, vents.

It is advisable that you NOT to consume alcohol in excess as this could alter your judgement and cause you to put yourself and others in danger and cause serious injury or death.