

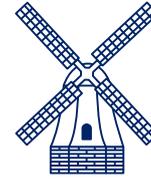
What is a Hurricane?

A hurricane is a type of tropical storm with strong winds circulating around an extreme low-pressure area. When wind speed reaches 74 miles per hour, the storm is officially classified as a HURRICANE.

A hurricane's spiralling wind and rain bands can extend hundreds of miles from its eye. As the storm approaches land, tornadoes may form around its outer edges.

The most dangerous part of a hurricane is the storm surge, the large dome of water that floods the coast as the storm makes landfall. This surge is the greatest threat to life. Even if the storm strikes at low tide, the water level might reach as high as 20 feet at the shoreline. Flooding is also caused by heavy rains as the hurricane moves inland.

The official hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean runs from 1st June to 30th November. However, the record shows that hurricanes have occurred outside of this period. It is important that the public be well advised of precautions to be taken before the actual hurricane season as well as those to be taken during the occurrence of a hurricane and in the aftermath of any such disaster.



Netherlands Insurance



Whichever way the wind blows

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Netherlands Insurance Mobile Contact Numbers

(Only activated during storm & hurricane warnings)

☎ 457-2586

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HURRICANE SAFETY

Claiming for Damage

If your home or personal belongings were damaged during the storm, we recommend the following guidelines for filing your claim:

Make emergency repairs and document them. You should make emergency repairs where possible, to prevent further damage to your home or its contents. Cover up with plastic or board up holes in roof, walls, doors and windows. Be careful! Take before and after pictures and save your receipts. Beware of contractors who encourage you to pay to a lot of money up front.

Take precautions if the damage requires you to leave your home. Secure your property to the best of your ability and remove valuables. Contact Netherlands Insurance and leave a phone number where you can be reached.

Beware of fly-by-night repair businesses. Hire licensed, reputable service people. If you hire someone to make repairs to your home, make sure they have current licenses, insurance and permits. Never pay all costs of a repair job up front and always get a receipt.

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Prestorm

- * Designate a “safe room” usually an interior location on the lowest floor, away from windows.
- * Close all windows.
- * Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings.
- * Freeze water in plastic soda bottles for cooling food in your refrigerator and freezer.
- * Turn off your gas appliances at their inside valves.
- * Organize all the items of your hurricane survival kit for your family and pets.
- * Outside your home install shutters and bracing for all windows, entryways and garage door.
- * Clear your yard of potential flying debris, including lawn furniture, toys, trash cans, etc.
- * Prepare your pool by lowering the water level no more than one foot to accommodate heavy rains (do not drain the pool completely).
- * Add extra chlorine. Cover the filtration system and turn off electricity to pool equipment.
- * Gas up your car and get extra cash.

TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS

Don't use the telephone unless it's absolutely necessary, so that people with emergencies have access to the system. Don't call 911 except for life-threatening situations. Don't report individual interruptions in electric, gas, water or telephone service. Utility companies have emergency plans to restore service after the storm clears the area. Call only after full service is restored in your neighbourhoods. Do call police or utility companies immediately to report hazards such as downed power lines or broken water mains.

During the storm

- * Stay inside, away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
- * Find the safest place in the house to ride out the storm. Generally some place in the interior of the house e.g., an interior closet.
- * 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 off major appliances to reduce power “surge” when electricity is restored.

After the storm

- * Check for gas leaks – If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can.
- * Look for electrical system damage – If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.
- * Check for sewage and water lines damage – If you suspect sewage lines are damaged avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid the water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.

✓ Hurricane Supply Kit Checklist

WATER

- Seven gallons of water per person (half gallon for drinking, and two gallons for bathing, tooth brushing, etc.). Store water in clean, plastic containers.

FOOD

Purchase foods that require no refrigeration and little preparation such as:

- Ready to eat canned food
- Canned juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water)
- Soft drinks, instant coffee and tea.
- Lots of ice (You can freeze your water supply.)

BABY

- Formula, bottles, powdered milk, jarred baby foods
- Diapers, moist towelettes and special medications

PETS

- Newspapers or cat litter for your pet's sanitary needs
- Moist canned foods in order to preserve water
- Plastic sheets to cover the floor of pet's room

MEDICINE

- First aid kit, rubbing alcohol
- Aspirin, non-aspirin pain reliever and antacid
- Extra prescription medication (especially for those with heart problems and diabetics)
- Ask your physician or pharmacist how to store prescription medication.

PERSONAL ITEMS

- Toilet paper, towels, soap, shampoo
- Personal and feminine hygiene products
- Denture needs, contact lenses and an extra pair of eye glasses
- Sun protection, insect repellent

OTHER SUPPLIES

- Battery-operated radio, flashlights, non-electric can opener, extra batteries
- Charcoal, waterproof matches, extra propane for gas grills (Use grills outside only)**
- Fire extinguisher in a small canister
- Portable cooler
- Plenty of absorbent towels, plastic trash bags
- Wind-up or battery-operated clock
- Tarp or sheet plastic, duct tape, hammer and nails (for temporary roof repairs)
- Cleaning supplies such as chlorine bleach
- Aluminium foil, paper napkins and plates, plastic cups.
- Can of spray paint (can be used to identify your home for insurance adjusters in case it's damaged)**

** These items can cause fires and shouldn't be stored inside the house.

CLOTHING/BEDDING

- At least one change of clothing per person, sturdy shoes, hat and work gloves
- Blankets and pillows or sleeping bags