

## Use the Emergency Alert System for the Best Updated Information:

Tune your radio or television to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) Stations. The EAS is a joint effort by broadcasters and Federal, State and Local Governments to alert the public to possible or impending natural and technological disasters. Local radio and television stations will rebroadcast emergency announcements. Baltimore's stations are:

WBAL Radio (1090 AM)  
WBAL TV Channel 11  
Baltimore City Cable TV 25 for Official Emergency Updates

### Watch vs. Warning: Know the Difference

**A HURRICANE WATCH** issued for your part of the coast indicates the possibility of hurricane conditions within 36 hours. A watch should trigger your family's disaster plan; protective measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat.

**A HURRICANE WARNING** issued for your part of the coast indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours or less. Once the warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

## When Tuning in You Should:

- LISTEN for instructions
- FOLLOW those instructions

In a hurricane, you may be instructed to evacuate or shelter in place.

## What to Do If You Are Instructed to Shelter in Place:

Indoor sheltering, also known as sheltering in place, is a method of protecting yourself from the effects of a hurricane, if you are not located in an evacuation zone. To be protected from hurricane force winds, you may need to place shutters on your windows and take shelter in a "safe room" you have identified - an interior room that has no windows. In a hurricane, dangerous conditions may last for 24 hours or more. Your pre-assembled disaster supply kit will be an essential resource for your family if you have to shelter in place.

## What to Do If You Are Instructed to Evacuate:

- Follow instructions from authorities if you are told to evacuate.
- Make sure you leave when authorities instruct you to. Don't wait until the last minute - as the hurricane approaches, it will become dangerous to go outside.
- Take essential supplies with you.
- Your first option should be to seek shelter with friends or family who do not live in an evacuation zone.
- The City will open emergency shelters, typically public high schools, where you can go if you are instructed to evacuate your home.

# BASIC DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

Your family should have a kit of basic supplies that can keep your family warm, informed, fed, clothed and safe.

### Your Most Important Supplies:

- Three-day supply of water**  
one gallon of water per person, per day.
- Portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries.**
- Flashlight and extra batteries.**



These items are the most important supplies that can help you and your family get through the first 72 hours after an emergency or until basic services are restored.

### Additional Supplies:

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- First aid kit and manual.
- Special items such as prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solutions, and hearing aid batteries.
- Items for infants such as formula, diapers, bottles, and pacifiers.
- Pet care items such as food, water, cage, and immunization records.
- Sanitation and hygiene items (moist towelettes and toilet paper).
- Matches and waterproof container.
- Tools.
- Whistle.
- Extra clothing.
- Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils, including a manual can opener.
- Photocopies of credit and identification cards.
- Cash and coins.
- Other items to meet your unique family needs.

# READY? SET? GOOD.



The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30.

A hurricane is an intense storm that generally forms in the tropics. Hurricanes rotate in a counterclockwise direction around an "eye" and are fed by warm tropical water, moisture and winds above them. A hurricane can produce violent winds, incredible waves, torrential rains and floods.

A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when winds reach 74 mph. There are on average six Atlantic hurricanes each year.

Hazards from hurricanes come in three main forms: storm surge, flooding, and high winds. It is important your family understands each of these and plans accordingly. Most importantly, you and your family should prepare ahead of time, use common sense, and listen for information and instructions when facing a hurricane. By knowing your vulnerability and taking action to prepare, you can greatly reduce the effects of a hurricane on your family and your home.

### Storm Surge

Storm surge is water pushed inland by the force of the hurricane's winds. Combined with normal tides the surge can increase the water level 15 feet or more, creating a storm tide powerful enough to destroy buildings. Make sure you know if your home is in a hurricane inundation zone that is susceptible to storm surge

### Inland Flooding

Hurricanes typically produce intense rainfall, which can lead to inland flooding. From 1970 to 1999, inland flooding was responsible for more than half of the deaths associated with tropical cyclones in the United States. Inland flooding can be a major threat to communities far from the coast.

### High Winds

Hurricane- and tropical-storm force winds are incredibly dangerous. They can damage buildings, hurl debris, and knock out utilities. Additionally, over half of landfalling hurricanes produce at least one tornado. Evacuations should be complete before the onset of tropical-storm force winds.

# WHAT SHOULD YOU DO TO PREPARE?

## Have Your Family Action Plan Ready:

- Discuss the types of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home.
- Learn the safe evacuation routes, and plan your way out accordingly.
- Determine a meeting place for your family to meet should you get separated.
- Have an out-of-the-area friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.
- Use a NOAA weather radio. Remember to replace its battery every 6 months, as you do with your smoke detectors.
- Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.

## Before the Storm

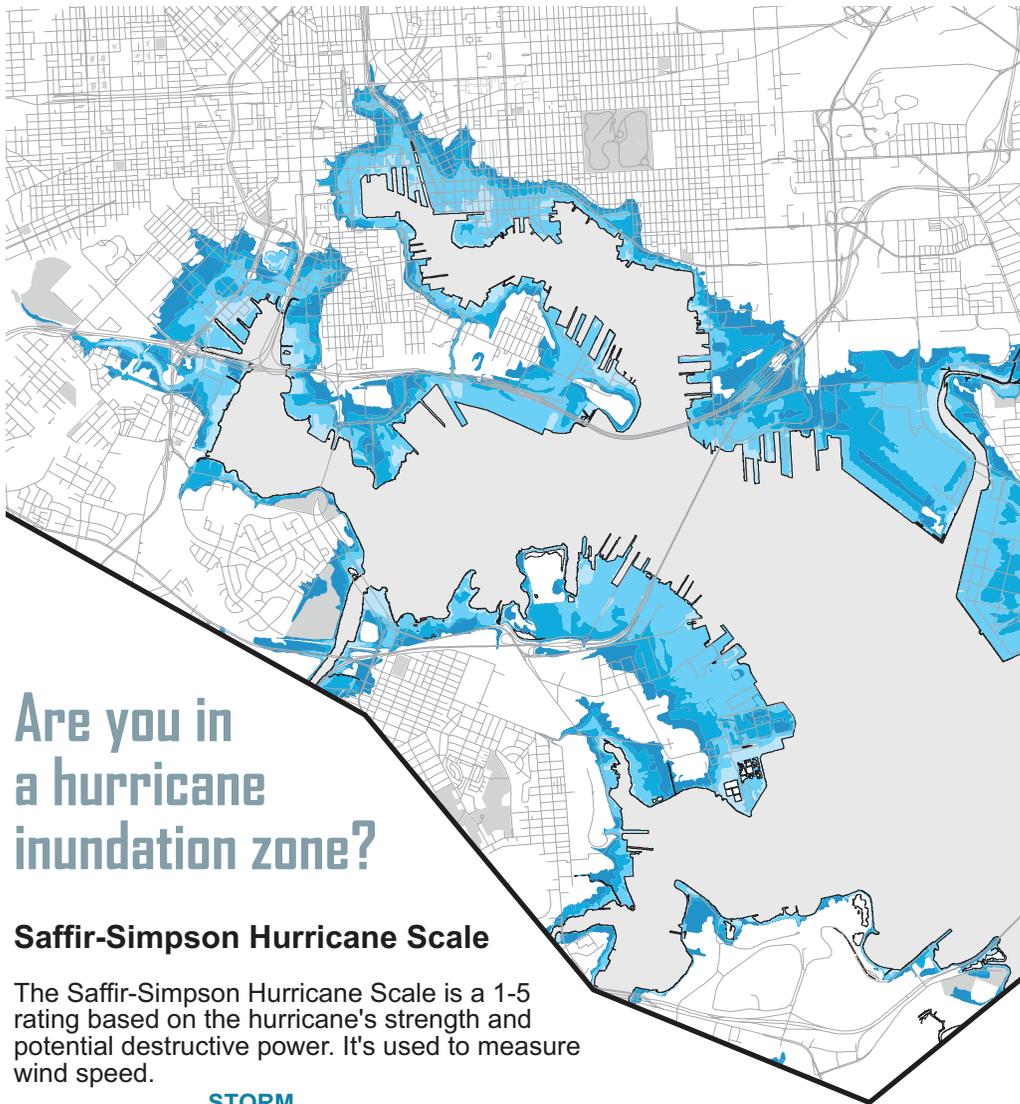
- Make plans to secure your property. If needed, board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install.
- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks. Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.
- Check radio or TV for information.

## During the Storm:

- Close all interior doors.
- Stay in the basement or identified safe room such as an interior room, bathroom, closet on the first floor.
- In multiple story buildings, stay on first or second floors in hallways or interior rooms away from windows.
- Stay tuned to a battery powered radio or television for official information

## After the Storm:

- Stay in a protected area and await official instructions announced on radio or television.
- If your home suffered structural damage wait for inspection by officials before entering.
- Do not use candles or other open flames indoors.
- Avoid downed power lines.
- Be aware of weakened tree limbs and damaged overhanging structures.
- Unless absolutely necessary, do not use the telephone.



## Are you in a hurricane inundation zone?

### Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale is a 1-5 rating based on the hurricane's strength and potential destructive power. It's used to measure wind speed.

	WINDS	STORM SURGE	POTENTIAL DAMAGE
<b>I</b>	74-95 mph	4-5 ft. above normal	No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees.
<b>II</b>	96-110 mph	6-8 ft. above normal	Some damage roofing to roofing material, doors/windows of buildings. Some trees blown down. Considerable damage to mobile homes.
<b>III</b>	111-130 mph	9-12 ft. above normal	Some structural damage to small residences. Large trees blown down. Mobile homes destroyed.
<b>IV</b>	131-155 mph	13-18 ft. above normal	Some complete roof structure failures on small residences. Trees and all signs are blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Extensive damage to doors and windows.
<b>V</b>	155+ mph	18 ft. + above normal	Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures. All trees and signs blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Severe and extensive window and door damage.

## Significant Weather Event History

### JUNE 1972 MARYLAND/ CHESAPEAKE BAY

- ▶ Hurricane Agnes brings torrential rain to State with record rainfall throughout Chesapeake Bay basin
- ▶ Flash flooding kills 19 people

### JUNE 2, 1998 FROSTBURG

- ▶ An f-4 tornado (the strongest recorded in the state's history) destroys or damages 100 buildings.

### SEPTEMBER 24, 2001 COLLEGE PARK

- ▶ Tornado kills two people and injures 50.
- ▶ Widespread property damage.

### JUNE 6, 2002 MARYLAND

- ▶ Severe thunderstorms cross state and topple Maryland's historic Wye Oak on the Eastern Shore.

### SEPTEMBER 18, 2003 MARYLAND

- ▶ Tropical Storm Isabel causes massive flooding, destruction of businesses and homes.
- ▶ Waters up to 8 feet above normal tides surged into lower Fells Point and across Pratt and Light streets into downtown Baltimore.
- ▶ 1.34 million customers who lost electricity
- ▶ Property damage reached \$410 million in Maryland alone.
- ▶ Other areas of Maryland on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay also suffered from extensive flooding.

### MARCH 6, 2004 BALTIMORE

- ▶ Water taxi capsizes during a thunderstorm. Winds exceeding 50 mph.
- ▶ Five people killed.

### MAY 2, 2004 CENTRAL MARYLAND

- ▶ Strong thunderstorms with winds exceeding 60 mph knock down trees, damage property.
- ▶ Cause power outages to 62,000 customers.

[www.baltimorecity.gov/emergency](http://www.baltimorecity.gov/emergency)  
for more information