

News Release

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Ready for a Hurricane? Part II

Tampa, Fla. (July, 2009).

Learn the terms associated with a hurricane. A hurricane watch means a hurricane is possible in your area. Be prepared to evacuate. Monitor local radio and television news outlets or listen to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest developments. A hurricane warning is when a hurricane is expected in your area. If local authorities advise you to evacuate, leave immediately. Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure, and damage potential. Category Three and higher hurricanes are considered major hurricanes, though Categories One and Two are still extremely dangerous and warrant your full attention.

Hurricanes can produce widespread torrential rains. Floods are the deadly and destructive result. Flash flooding can occur due to intense rainfall. Flooding on rivers and streams may persist for several days or more after the storm. Don't wait until the last minute to prepare your home: cover all of your home's windows with pre-cut ply wood or hurricane shutters to protect your windows from high winds; bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down; keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed so they are more wind resistant; turn off utilities and propane tanks as instructed. Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.

Learn about the emergency plans that have been established in your area by your by local and federal agencies and listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.

Take the time to get additional information on how to plan and prepare for a hurricane by visiting the following resources: Federal Emergency Management Agency, NOAA Watch, the American Red Cross, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control.

Remember that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a benefit available to all employees and dependents of companies contracted with Wood & Associates for providing confidential free professional assistance 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. Remember that you or a dependent may contact your EAP regarding any concern that you might have – you don't have to wait until a problem becomes big to seek help. Above all, keep in mind that concerns develop over time but the way you address them can be changed. If you are impacted by a hurricane or other disaster, all you need to do is call your EAP and you will be directed to our experienced team of counselors. It is that simple. We will help you cope, find assistance, and guide you down the path to effectively dealing with the major changes a hurricane can bring.

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