

## Hurricanes and Tropical Storms

Hurricanes and tropical storms are some of the most powerful storms known to man. Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30 with the peak season from mid-August to late October. **Start preparing now** for you and your family in case a hurricane threatens this area.

### Winds:

- **Tropical Depression:** Disturbed winds up to 38 mph
- **Tropical Storm:** Winds of 39 to 73 mph
- **Hurricane:** Winds of 74 mph or greater.

### SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE

Category	Winds - mph	Damage	Storm Surge (ft)
1	74-95	Minimal	4-5
2	96-110	Moderate	6-8
3	111-130	Major	9-12
4	131-155	Severe	13-18
5	Above 155	Catastrophic	Greater than 18

**Storm surge** is a rise in sea level across the coast. Along the immediate coast, storm surge is the greatest threat to life and property.

Hurricanes also produce **tornadoes**, which add to the hurricane's destructive power.

**Warnings and Advisories** - It is important to stay informed and know the difference between "watches" and "warnings."

**Tropical Storm Watch:** A tropical storm may pose a threat within 36 hours.

**Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical storm conditions within 24 hours.

**Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions threaten within 36 hours.

**Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane conditions within 24 hours.

**Flooding** - Flash flooding can occur due to the heavy rainfall, which is very dangerous on roads and in cities. Tropical storms produce more rain. Flooding is the worst storm hazard.

**Evacuation Order:** An evacuation order is only given in life-threatening emergencies. If you receive this order, you **must** leave your house immediately.

### Checklists

1. Shelter Checklist - If you go to a shelter, you will need to take the following items:

Extra clothing	_____	Infant needs	_____	Elderly needs	_____
Rain gear	_____	Dietary needs	_____	Deodorant	_____
Blankets	_____	Toothpaste	_____	Toothbrush	_____
Sleeping bags	_____	Air Mattresses	_____	Pillows	_____
Cash	_____	Identification	_____	Vital papers	_____
Child toys	_____	Books	_____	Eyeglasses	_____
Lawn chairs	_____	Cots	_____	Snacks	_____
Battery Radio	_____	Flashlights	_____	Batteries	_____
Prescribed drugs	_____	Other medicine	_____	Battery fan	_____

### AFTER THE STORM

2. Disaster Supplies Kit Checklist – for after the storm

It is a good idea to get these items at the beginning of the hurricane season because as a storm approaches, stores become very busy and stock is quickly depleted.

3 days of food \_\_\_\_\_

1 gallon of water per person per day for 5 days) \_\_\_\_\_

Fill sinks, bathtubs, washing machines

With water \_\_\_\_\_

Bleach \_\_\_\_\_

Grill, charcoal, wooden matches (**never use indoors**) \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. First Aid Kit (Two kits-one for your home and the other for your car)

First aid book	_____	Bandages	_____	Antiseptic	_____
Tape	_____	Compresses	_____	Scissors	_____
Tweezers	_____	Soap	_____	Latex gloves	_____
Lubricant	_____	Safety pins	_____	Antacid	_____
Non-prescription drugs	_____	Mosquito repellent	_____	Anti-diarrhea medication	_____

#### Care of Pets

Be sure their ID tags are up-to-date and that you have leashes or carriers for each pet. If your pet has medical or behavioral problems, tape that information to the carrier or leash. Prepare a waterproof evacuation kit for pets. It should include: Three to seven days of food, bottled water, recent photos of pets, paper towels, and garbage bags for cleanups. If you leave home and leave pets behind, place a "Pets Inside" sticker on front and back doors listing the number and kinds of pets inside.

#### Tools and Other Supplies

Create a basic tool kit with items to make temporary repairs after the storm. Also have plastic sheeting, paper plates, plastic utensils, flashlights, battery-operated radio, batteries, tent, matches, aluminum foil, plastic storage containers, and small shovel. A corded phone (not cordless - they require electricity) will help if you have phone lines but no power. Small, portable antennas will provide access to local television stations if there is power but no cable. Small televisions often have adapters for use in automobiles.

#### Clothing and Bedding

Clothing and bedding items should be protected by covering them with plastic drop cloths and placing them in waterproof boxes, plastic bags or other suitable containers. Be sure to have work boots and gloves, rain gear, blankets or sleeping bags, lots of towels, hats, and sunglasses.

#### Special Items

Always remember family members with special needs. Get prescriptions filled before a storm hits. Also have some form of entertainment for everyone. Keep all important family documents – such as wills, insurance policies, bank account numbers, credit cards, address books - in a waterproof container. Make a household inventory complete with serial numbers and pictures or video if possible.

#### Other Items

2 coolers	_____	Fire extinguisher	_____	Insect repellent	_____
Tire sealer	_____	Whistle	_____	Plastic tarp	_____
Nails	_____	Water purification kit	_____	Diapers	_____
Baby Formula	_____	Baby Bottles	_____	Mop	_____
Buckets	_____	Towels	_____	Disinfectant	_____
Camera and film	_____	Can opener	_____	Garbage can	_____
Trash bags	_____	Toilet paper	_____	Paper towels	_____

#### Relatives and friends to contact with emergency information

Name/phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name/phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Medical and Insurance

Call your agent and ensure you are adequately covered before a storm hits. Put your agent's name/phone number and policy in a safe place along with an inventory of your belongings.

**Vital Information for you and your household members**

1. First / last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone: \_\_\_\_\_

SS #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employed by \_\_\_\_\_

Blood type: \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs \_\_\_\_\_

2. First / last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone: \_\_\_\_\_

SS #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employed by \_\_\_\_\_

Blood type: \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs \_\_\_\_\_

3. First / last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone: \_\_\_\_\_

SS #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employed by \_\_\_\_\_

Blood type: \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs \_\_\_\_\_

For more information regarding hurricanes or other emergencies:

Escambia Emergency Operations Center: (850) 471-6600 [www.bereadyescambia.com](http://www.bereadyescambia.com)

Pensacola Police Department (850) 435-1905 [www.pensacolapolice.com](http://www.pensacolapolice.com)

Escambia Sheriff's Office (850) 436-9630 [www.escambiaso.com](http://www.escambiaso.com)

Escambia County Dept. of Public Safety (850) 525-0321 [www.escambia-emergency.com](http://www.escambia-emergency.com)

# **Pensacola Police Department**



## **Hurricane Brochure**

**John W. Mathis  
Chief of Police  
711 N. Hayne St.  
(850) 435-1900**