



City of Mexico Beach, FL Hurricane Preparedness BE READY!

Hurricane season runs from June 1st- November 30th and is fast approaching. No matter the situation, being prepared is always the best choice. Here are some ways to become better prepared in the event of a hurricane. Make no mistake although it has been quiet over the last several years one storm can change everything.

Some highlights on how to prepare and take action are available below:

- [Gather information](#)
- [Plan & Take Action](#)
- [Recover](#)
- [Resources](#)

Gather Information

Know if you live in an evacuation area. Assess your risks and know your home's vulnerability to [storm surge](#), [flooding](#) and [wind](#). Understand National Weather Service forecast products and especially the meaning of NWS [watches and warnings](#).

Contact your local National Weather Service office and local government/emergency management office. [Find out what types of emergencies could occur](#) and how you should respond.

Contacts

Keep a list of contact information for reference

- Emergency Management Offices
- Local/County Law Enforcement
- County Public Safety Fire/Rescue
- State, County and City/Town Government
- Local Hospitals
- Local Utilities
- Local American Red Cross
- Local TV Stations
- Local Radio Stations
- Your Property Insurance Agent

Risk Analysis

Online hazard and vulnerability assessment tools are available to gather information about your risks.

- Check your hazards risks with [FEMA'S Map Portal](#).
- Rate your flood risk with the [FloodSmart.gov portal](#)

Plan & Take Action

Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected. Your friends and family may not be together when disaster strikes. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children or parents are safe? You may have to evacuate or be confined to your home. What will you do if water, gas, electricity or phone services are shut off? Each of these questions should be addressed and a plan made in the event we are faced with tropical storm or hurricane. Knowing the answers to these questions will help you weather the storm better.

Supplies Kit

Put together a [basic disaster supplies kit](#) and consider [storage locations for different situations](#). Help community members do the same.

Emergency Plans

Develop and document plans for your specific risks. (e.g. flood, storm surge, tropical storm, hurricane, tornado)

- Protect yourself and family with a Family Emergency Plan
- Be sure to [plan for locations away from home](#)
- Business owners and site locations should create [Workplace Plans](#)
- Make sure schools and daycares have [School Emergency Plans](#)
- Pet owners should have [plans to care for their animals](#). The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention offer information on [animal health impacts in evacuation shelters](#).
- Prepare your boat and be aware of [marine safety](#).

Health and Environment

Follow your community's guidelines to protect your health and the environment during and after the storm.

- Review the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) [health considerations before, during and after a storm](#).
- Remember to follow the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) [food and water safety guidelines during disasters](#).
- Review the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggestions for [health and environmental safety in disaster preparedness](#).

Evacuation

Follow your community's guidelines to protect your health and the environment during and after the storm.

- Review the [FEMA Evacuation Guidelines](#) to allow for enough time to pack and inform family and friends if you need to leave your home. FOLLOW instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered!
- Consider [your protection options](#) to decide whether to stay or evacuate your home if you are not ordered to evacuate.

When waiting out a storm be careful, the danger may not be over yet...

Be alert for:

- TORNADOS- they are often spawned by hurricanes.
- The calm "eye" of the storm- it may seem like the storm is over, but after the eye passes, the winds will change direction and quickly return to hurricane force.

Recover

- Wait until an area is declared safe before returning to home.
- Remember that [recovering from a disaster](#) is usually a gradual process.

Resources

- [FEMA- Are you ready? Guide](#)
- [National Weather Service Weather Safety](#)
- [Be a Force of Nature with NOAA's Weather-Ready Nation](#)
- [NWS Storm-Ready Sites & Communities](#)
- [Occupational Safety & Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#)
- [Ready.gov Kids](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)
- [Local Government, Law Enforcement, Fire/Rescue](#)

Being prepared is always your best chance to weather a storm. Please don't wait until the last minute, start you're planning now!

Mexico Beach City Hall

118 N. 22nd St.

Mexico Beach, FL 32456

Phone (850) 648-5700 Fax (850) 648-8768

Mexico Beach Police

118 14th St.

Mexico Beach, FL 32456

Phone (850) 648-4790 Fax (850) 648-4579

Mexico Beach Water/Sewer (850) 227-5504

County Emergency Management

700 Highway 2300

Southport, FL 32409

Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00p.m.

24 Hour Phone: (850) 784-4000 Fax: (850) 784-4010

Basic Disaster Supply Kit

Stock- Up Checklist:

Start gathering these items today for your hurricane survival kit.

Food and Water:

Stock a 3-day supply for each family member including pets. Store in sealed unbreakable containers.

Identify the expiration date and replace every 6 months.

- Bottled water (3 gal per person/ per day) Don't forget water for animals too
- Water purification tablets
- Non-perishable foods
- High-energy packaged foods (peanut butter, crackers, nuts, raisins & dried fruits, snacks, cookies, etc.)
- Shelf-packaged juices (cans or cartons)
- Canned, prepared meats
- Canned, prepared foods
- Baby food/formula
- Pet food (Note: Check with shelters to see if they allow pets, before a storm)
- Powdered or canned evaporated milk
- Special dietary needs
- Toilet paper & moist towelettes
- Sponges & paper towels
- Soap, shampoo, other misc.
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant)
- Baby diapers and wet wipes

Gear:

- At least one change of clothing for each person
- Rain gear (ponchos, umbrellas, boots, etc.)
- Blankets, sleeping bags, pillows
- Flashlights (1 per person with 1 extra package of batteries each)
- Battery powered radio, with extra batteries
- Alarm clock (wind-up or battery powered)
- Portable cooler/ice chest
- Bleach (pure, unscented liquid)
- Can opener (hand operated) & utility knife
- Pots, pans and cooking spoons
- Disposable plates, cups, utensils
- Sterno cans
- Butane lighters & waterproof matches (in plastic bag)
- Portable barbeque grill or camp stove
- Charcoal and lighter fluid or stove fuel

- Pet carriers, bowls, leashes, chain and stake
- Plastic grocery bags (as many as you can save-you'll use them for everything)
- medications
- Vitamins
- First Aid kit
- Sun screen
- Insect repellent
- Feminine hygiene products

It is always good to have cash on hand in case debit/credit card machines are down, they could be down for days.

Important Documents:

- Driver's license (for each person or photo ID)
- Important phone numbers (updated address book)
- Home video tape or photos for insurance
- Extra set of car keys
- List of important family information (i.e., serial numbers of medical devices such as pacemakers, etc.)

Health Needs:

- Prescription medicine (2-week supply)
- Doctor and pharmacy
- Contact information
- Medical paperwork, including insurance cards, a copy of prescriptions and a list of allergies.

Pain relief and anti-diarrhea

Please start your preparations now, don't be someone who waits until the last minute to gather supplies or make arrangements to leave. That last minute may be the last one you have.