



In a New York Minute



“All the News you Need to Know – in a Minute”

A Weekly Update for New York National Guard Service Members & Families

For more information on items featured in “In a NY Minute”: stephanie.duell@us.army.mil

HURRICANE INFORMATION & PREPARATION

NY NG Family Programs is providing this information in anticipation of Hurricane Irene affecting the citizens of NY State. Please refer to the links included for current watches, warnings, and guidance

In preparing for the hurricane season, the first step is understanding the watches and warnings that are issued by the National Weather Service:

Hurricane Watch

A hurricane WATCH means that hurricane conditions MAY threaten an area within 48 hours. When a hurricane WATCH is issued, everyone in that area should listen for further advisories and be prepared to act promptly.

When a hurricane WATCH is issued, people in the affected area should:

- **Frequently listen to your radio, television, or NOAA Weather Radio**
- **Fuel and service family vehicles**
- **Moor small craft or move to safe shelter**
- **Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs**
- **Tape, board, or shutter all window and door openings**
- **Wedge sliding glass doors**
- **Check for batteries, flashlights, and battery-operated radios**
- **Check on your supply of canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water, and medications**
- **Secure or bring inside lawn furniture and other loose, lightweight objects, such as garbage cans**
- **Have cash**

Hurricane Warning

A hurricane WARNING is issued when hurricane conditions are expected in a specified coastal area in 36 hours or less.

Hurricane conditions include winds of 74 miles an hour (64 knots) and/or dangerously high tides and waves.

Actions for protection of life and property should begin immediately when the warning is issued, including:

- **Frequently listen to your radio, television, or NOAA Weather Radio**
- **Complete preparation activities**
- **Store drinking water**
- **Check your battery-powered equipment**
- **Follow instructions issued by local authorities**
- **Leave low-lying areas**
- **If you plan to leave your home, leave early**
- **In any case, leave mobile homes for more substantial shelter**
- **Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans**
- **Put food and water out for a pet if you cannot take it with you**

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Weather Service http://www.noaawatch.gov/2011/tc_at09.php

Weathering the Storm

Follow these tips as the hurricane approaches: If you are traveling, find safe shelter immediately.

If you are at home or at work:

Only stay in a home if you have NOT been ordered to leave. Stay inside a well constructed building. In structures, such as a home, examine the building and plan in advance what you will do if winds become strong. Strong winds can produce deadly missiles and structural failure.

Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.

Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.

Turn off propane tanks.

Unplug major appliances.

Fill large containers with water.

If winds become strong:

Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway.

Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors.

If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior first-floor room, such as a bathroom or closet.

If you are in a multiple-story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls or other interior rooms away from the windows.

Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.

Remain indoors during the hurricane. Do not be fooled by the "eye" or the lull that occurs as the storm center moves overhead. The other side of the hurricane "eye" has winds that will rapidly increase and will come from the opposite direction.

Evacuation

Follow the instructions and advice of local government officials. If you are advised to evacuate, do so promptly. If you are advised to go to a certain location, go there. Do not go anywhere else. If certain travel routes are advised, use those routes rather than trying to find short cuts. If you are told to shut off water, gas or electrical service to your home before leaving, do so. Also, find out from the broadcast reports where emergency housing and feeding stations are located, in case you need to use them. Leave as soon as officials instruct that you do to avoid being marooned on flooded highways. Make certain you have enough fuel for your car. As you travel, keep listening to the radio for additional instructions. Watch for washed-out roads, earth slides, broken water or sewer mains, loose or downed electrical wires and falling or fallen objects. Watch out for areas where rivers or streams may flood suddenly. Do not try to cross a stream or pool of water unless you are certain that the water will not be over your knees, or above the middle of the wheels of your car, all the way across. Sometimes the water will hide a bridge or part of a road that has been washed out. If you do decide it is safe to cross, put your car in low gear and drive very slowly to avoid splashing water into your engine and causing it to stop. Also, remember that your brakes may not work well after the car has been in deep water. Try them out a few times when you reach the other side.

Inland Flooding

In high flood-prone areas, keep materials on hand like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, plastic garbage bags, lumber, shovels, work boots and gloves. Call your local emergency management office to learn how to construct proper protective measures around your home. Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood, so you or your evacuation routes are not cut off. If you choose or are told to evacuate, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water. Monitor local radio / television broadcasts or NOAA Weather Radio. Avoid driving into water of unknown depth. Moving water can quickly sweep your vehicle away. Restrict children from playing in flooded areas. Do not use fresh food that has come in contact with floodwaters. Wash canned goods that come in contact with floodwaters with soap and hot water. Stay away from downed power lines.

After the Storm

Remain where you have taken shelter until informed by local authorities that it is safe to leave. Keep the radio/television turned on for advice and instructions from local government on where to go for medical care, emergency assistance for housing, clothing and food, as well as other ways in which you can help your family and community recover. If possible, advise relatives and friends that you are safe. Stay out of the disaster area. Do not sightsee. Sightseeing disrupts essential rescue work and may be dangerous. Obey all curfew and emergency orders which are issued.

If you must drive, use caution. Be aware of road and bridge washouts and storm debris on roadways. Avoid loose or dangling wires and report them immediately to the proper authorities. Assume that all downed wires are alive with electricity. Report broken sewer or water mains and downed electrical lines. Take extra precautions to prevent fire. Lowered pressure in water mains may make firefighting extremely difficult. Check for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not use candles and other open flames indoors. Have your electric, gas and water connections checked by professionals before turning them back on. Use your emergency supply of water or boil water before using until there is official word that the water is safe. Check refrigerated food for spoilage if the power has been off during the storm.

Preparedness Websites:

National Hurricane Center

<http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/checklists/Hurricane.pdf>

Red Cross Hurricane Safety Checklist

<http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/hurricanes.html>

Ready America <http://www.hidefromthewind.com/>

HideFromTheWind.com/Hurricane Preparedness – Includes several other useful links

<http://www.emergencyplanningexperts.com/hurricane-preparedness-checklist/>

NY Alerts <http://www.nyalert.gov/>

 NYC: Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island, Bronx and Brooklyn :

Residents can identify if they live in a storm surge area and shelters: <http://gis.nyc.gov/oem/he/index.htm>

Ready New York: http://nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/hurricane_guide.shtml

Con Edison (electric): <http://www.coned.com>

National Grid (gas): <http://www.nationalgridus.com>

New York City Police Department: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/home/home.shtml>

New York City Fire Department: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/home2.shtml>

NY Hospitals: <http://hospitals.nyhealth.gov>

Mass Transit: <http://www.mta.info>

 LONG ISLAND: Nassau and Suffolk Counties: Storm surge and shelter information

Nassau : http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/oem/Docs/PDF/Nassau_HurricaneReadiness2011_001.pdf

Suffolk: http://www2.sunysuffolk.edu/mandias/38hurricane/storm_surge_maps.html

LIPA/Long Island Power Authority (electric): <http://www.lipower.org/stormcenter>

National Grid (gas): <http://www.nationalgridus.com>

Suffolk County Police Department: <http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/police>

Nassau County Police Department: <http://www.police.co.nassau.ny.us>

Long Island Fire Departments: <http://www.longisland.com/fire-departments/suffolk-county.php>

Long Island Hospitals: <http://www.longisland.com/hospitals.php> or <http://hospitals.nyhealth.gov>

Westchester County <http://www3.westchestergov.com/>

Ulster County <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/emergencyservices/management/links.html>

Orange County <http://www.co.orange.ny.us/content/1162/4272/default.aspx>

Dutchess County <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CountyExecutive/20369.htm>