

Natural Disaster Preparedness Sheet

	Before	During	After
Hurricanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listen to weather reports. ▪ Gather your Disaster Preparedness Kit, including individual medications, a First Aid Kit, food, water, battery-operated radio with extra batteries, flashlights with extra batteries, cash and credit cards, clothes and shoes. ▪ If anyone requires electricity to sustain their basic medical needs, take them to a nearby hospital. ▪ Identify backup facilities that all occupants can go to, depending on the severity of the hurricane. ▪ Secure outdoor equipment. ▪ Close storm shutters or cover windows and glass doors. ▪ Turn refrigerators and freezers on their coldest settings and open them only when necessary. ▪ Place valuables in waterproof containers. ▪ Follow any agency-specific guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stay in the center of the building, away from windows and doors. ▪ Turn off electricity. ▪ If the structure gets damaged and the occupants must leave, follow posted evacuation routes. Look out for flooded roads and bridges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wait for authorities to announce that it is safe to return. ▪ Report power outages and downed power lines. ▪ Enter the structure slowly, and look and listen for signs of structural damage. Open doors and windows for ventilation. ▪ Check for damage to electrical system, sewage, and gas lines. Report any damages, and do not attempt to use until repairs are complete.
Floods	<p>Listen to weather reports to see if flooding will be occurring in your area. If flooding seems likely to occur, make sure all residents that require electricity (e.g., medical equipment) are removed to a safer place. If it seems likely that the entire structure will flood, identify an emergency location to which all occupants can be moved.</p>	<p>Turn off all breakers in the electrical box to shut off electricity. Gather necessary items, such as medications, First Aid Kit, clothing, food, water, blankets, and other items, to a safe place away from the flood area.</p>	<p>Make sure everyone is present. Assess physical conditions of everyone and provide medical care as needed until the place where people who receive services live is ready to occupy again.</p>
Tornadoes	<p>Listen to weather reports. Once a tornado warning has been issued for your area, take all residents to an area or areas that are as close as possible to the center of the building, preferably without windows. If your building has a basement, this would be the best location for everyone to stay until the tornado passes. Take a battery-operated radio with you!</p>	<p>Stay together. If possible, place mattresses or bedding over people for added protection.</p>	<p>Count everyone and assess everyone's injuries. If injuries require medical care, call 911. If structural damage has occurred, remove people from the place where people who receive services live.</p>
Forest Fires	<p>Since forest fires often occur quickly and without warning, keep fire-fighting supplies handy. These include rakes, shovels, buckets, handsaws, and chain saws. Decide now who will use which equipment.</p>	<p>Make sure you have a reliable water source.</p>	<p>Practice fire drills.</p>