

FACT SHEET: HURRICANE INFORMATION FOR KIDS

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Description of Event: Category 2-5 Tropical Storm/ Hurricane

- ◇ Tropical Storm/Hurricane which usually occurs in countries closer to the equator
- ◇ Affects areas near the ocean and on sea level the most
- ◇ Storm Surges: Very dangerous strong waves caused by high winds accompanied by heavy rainfall
- ◇ The eye: The center of the tropical storm/hurricane in which the storm's strong winds and rain seem to die down significantly. However, they will start up again very quickly



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Desired Response

Evacuation or leaving an area declared unsafe by emergency officials in which civilians must always follow their instructions when they're told to leave an unsafe area/neighborhood immediately.

Before the Emergency

- ◇ Build an emergency kit: Flashlights, first aid kits, flares, appropriate clothing
- ◇ Family communication plan: Ensure that your family has a plan to cope with the incoming tropical storm/hurricane. The plan should be thoroughly understood by all members of the family, especially children.
- ◇ Follow the instructions of emergency personnel and the local news if possible.
- ◇ Help your family bring in outdoor items: These items include anything that can pose danger if being tossed around by strong winds: pottery, furniture, decorations, or garbage cans.

During the Emergency

- ◇ Do not leave the refrigerator or freezer door open, as you may need to use the cold air which can be contained by doing so.
 - ◇ Stay away from glass doors and windows
 - ◇ Don't go outside if the rain or wind stops because this may be the eye of the storm, and the weather conditions will begin to worsen again quickly.
 - ◇ Try to stay inside a closet or room with no windows, or find a sturdy object to lie under if necessary.
 - ◇ Make sure to have your parents and emergency personnel's full attention. Instructions can change at any time depending on the conditions of storm.
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After the Emergency:

- ◇ Do not go outside without a consenting adult or emergency respondent's permission.
- ◇ Stay away from any dangling wires or fixtures because they can electrocute, or fall on you.
- ◇ Inform your parents or other adult if you smell gas.
- ◇ Do not drink tap water from any faucet unless your parents assure you that it's ok.
- ◇ If you must use your phone to communicate, you should text only. Using your phone to make calls can tie up phone lines, and interrupt emergency personnel's ability to communicate with each other.

Websites where additional information can be obtained:

<http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php>

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/hurricane>

<http://weather.cnn.com/weather/forecast.jsp>

Additional information that kids need to know about tropical storm/hurricane preparedness:

- ◇ Know where shelters in your community are if you live in a tropical storm/hurricane prone area.
- ◇ Be ready well ahead of when the storm will reach you to best increase your chances of safety
- ◇ Educate your younger siblings if need be, as adults may be busy preparing your family for the emergency.
- ◇ Don't be a hero these are dangerous natural disasters
- ◇ Follow instructions in a timely manner

References:

<http://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/hurricanes>



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