

A Homeowner's  
Guide To

# Hurricane Preparedness



Being storm-ready starts today.

A proactive guide to our *Always On*  
approach to hurricane season

# Hurricane Guide

Managed Generator Services passionately believes in the power of proactivity. We apply that mindset through our *Always On* approach to standby generator consultation, installation and preventative maintenance.

With industry-leading response times across the Southeast and 24/7 dedicated account managers, we've quickly become one of the most trusted generator vendors to thousands of clients.

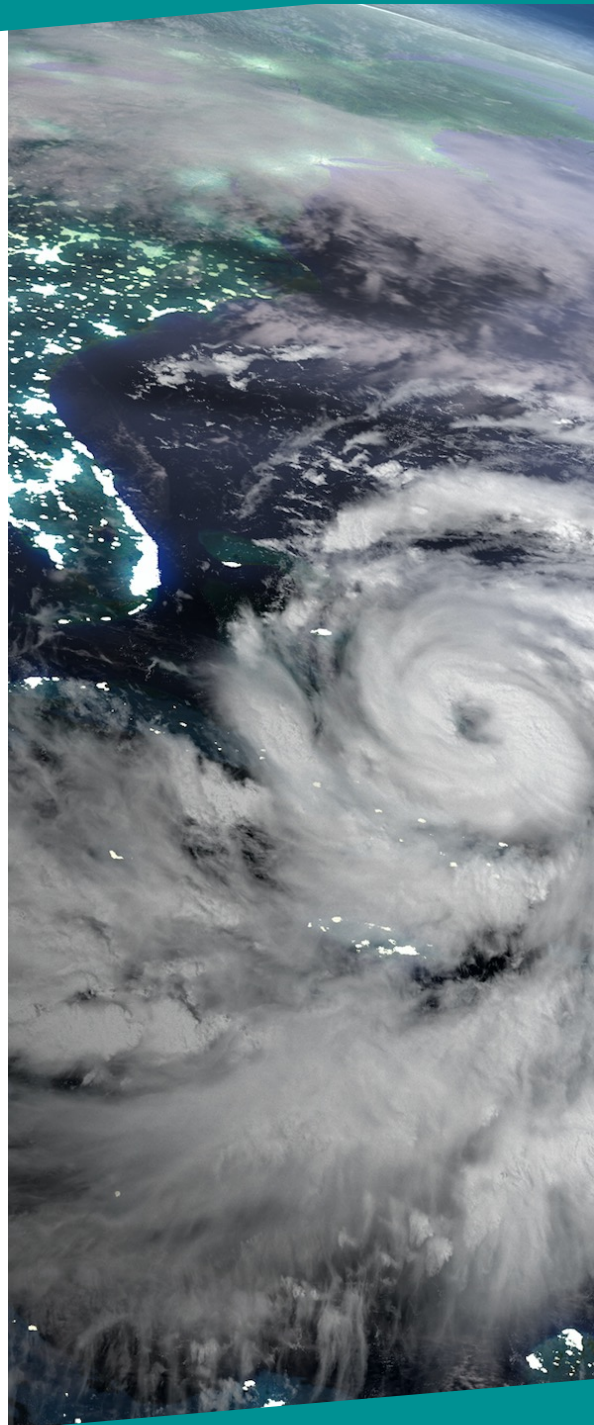
When it comes to hurricanes, no one is better prepared and committed to helping our clients and our communities. We deploy storm response teams before, during, and after major storm events, including hurricanes, to ensure safety, security, and comfort across affected areas.

Our experience and our passion for proactivity gives us a unique perspective on hurricane preparedness, which is why we offer this guide to help all our neighbors.

In the event you are interested in investing in a standby generator to protect your home and family from power outages that can last up to a week as a result of hurricane activity, give us a call or send us an email for a complimentary consultation.

For now, please print or keep this guide handy so that you'll always be prepared for what Mother Nature throws your way.

[MGSLLC.com](http://MGSLLC.com)  
(800) 209-1436



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# Emergency Resources

## Important Contacts

Keep the following contacts handy in the case of emergency:

### FEMA

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
(800) 621-3362

### Food Safety

(888) 674-6854

### CDC Emergency Preparedness & Response

<https://emergency.cdc.gov>  
(800) 232-4636

In the event of emergency  
or when in doubt, call

# 911

We understand that when the power goes out, it makes a difficult situation feel even harder. Whether you are an MGS client or not, we're always available to preform prestorm checks or respond to downed generators as part of our *Always On* mission.

### Managed Generator Services

[www.mgsllc.com](http://www.mgsllc.com)  
(800) 209-1436  
[service@mgsllc.com](mailto:service@mgsllc.com)



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# The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

Category	Sustained Winds	Types of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
1	74-95 mph 64-82 kt 119-153 km/h	<b>Very dangerous winds will produce some damage:</b> Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large tree branches will snap, and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last several days.
2	96-110 mph 83-95 kt 154-177 km/h	<b>Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage:</b> Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.
3	111-129 mph 96-112 kt 178-208 km/h	<b>Devastating damage will occur:</b> Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
4	130-156 mph 113-136 kt 209-251 km/h	<b>Catastrophic damage will occur:</b> Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted, and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks to months.
5	157 mph or higher 137 kt or higher 252 km/h or higher	<b>Catastrophic damage will occur:</b> A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks to months.

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# Terms to Know

## Knowledge Is Power

Being informed of the terminology meteorologists and local officials use in advance of a storm can not only ensure your safety but also decrease your anxiety and stress. Below is a list of common terms you should use when monitoring a storm:

**Advisory:** Official message issued by storm warning centers with details on location, intensity, movement, and precautions for storms.

**Flash Flood:** A rapid flooding in low-lying areas that may be caused by heavy rain as seen with many hurricanes and tropical storms.

**Flood Warning:** Issued when a flood is imminent or already happening.

**Hurricane Eye:** The center of a hurricane.

**Hurricane Eye Wall:** Extreme winds surrounding the hurricane eye. An extreme wind warning can be issued as the eye approaches.

**Hurricane Warning:** Issued 36 hours before expected hurricane force winds (sustained at 74 mph). The warning may stay in effect if dangerously high water and/or waves continue.

**Hurricane Watch:** Issued 48 hours before expected hurricane force winds (sustained at 74 mph). Hurricane preparation becomes more difficult when winds reach tropical storm force.

**Landfall:** When the eye of the storm meets the coastline.

**RealImpact Scale:** Measures storms on a scale of one to five based on flooding rain, high winds, storm surge, and economic impact.

**Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale:** Measures hurricanes on a scale of one to five based on sustained wind speed.

**Storm Surge:** An abnormal rise in sea level due to a hurricane or other severe storm. This is often the greatest threat to loss of life and property damage.

**Storm Tide:** A combination of normal high tide and storm surge.

**Tornado Warning:** Due to the high winds and cyclical nature of hurricanes, tornados can also be common. A warning means a tornado may occur within 36 hours.

**Tropical Storm:** A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained wind speeds ranging from 39 to 73 mph.

# Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

## Before the Storm

Be proactive by performing the following prestorm checklist:

- Review your emergency plans should the power go out for an hour, multiple hours, or even days
- Review emergency evacuation plans
- Identify the safest location in the house to wait out storms
- Identify local shelters
- Conduct maintenance on your standby generator
- Clear the yard of any limbs, trim trees, clean gutters, and secure furniture and décor
- Fill gas cans in the event of an evacuation or for a portable generator
- Use hurricane shutters or board up windows and doors with 5/8-inch plywood
- Reinforce garage doors
- Build an emergency kit
- Print and fill out contact forms, medication forms, and inventory forms (see pages 18, 19, and 20 of this guide)



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# Hurricane Kit Checklist

## Food

- Seven-day supply of nonperishables per person
- Manual can opener
- Disposable plates, cups, and utensils
- Napkins and paper towels
- Cookware to boil water
- Propane tanks for the grill

## Water

- Three gallons of water per person per day (FEMA recommends a five-day supply)

## First Aid

- Fully stocked first aid kit
- Personal prescriptions and medicines
- Medication and allergy list (see page 19)
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Fire extinguisher
- Cash (ATMs may be down)

## Lighting

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Lighters
- Wrench and pliers to turn off utilities
- Lantern or other large light source

## Communication

- Battery-powered radio
- NOAA hazard alert radio
- Charger for mobile devices (should be compatible with car outlets)
- Cell phone
- Small notepad and pencils
- Games and activities that don't require electricity
- A whistle to signal for help
- Extra batteries

## Baby Needs

- Bottles and formula
- Two-week supply of diapers
- Baby wipes and diaper cream

## Transportation

- Local and state maps
- Directions to local shelter
- Spare tire or patch kit
- Roadside flares

## Sanitation & Personal Care

- Trash bags
- Disinfectant wipes or gels
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Spare outfit and shoes
- One blanket per person
- Feminine care products
- Soaps and shampoos
- Face masks, plastic sheeting, duct tape and zip ties

## Pet Needs

- One week of food and water
- Leash and carrier or crate
- Bed, dishes, and toys
- Medications
- Battery-operated air pump for aquarium
- Vet's contact information
- Waste bags
- Photo of you and your pet for proof of ownership



# During A Hurricane

## During a Hurricane

When a hurricane watch is issued, that is your warning that storm conditions are possible and could reach your location within 48 hours or less. While the storm could always change trajectory, it is best to be prepared to take action. Now is the time to get any last-minute supplies and fortify your home.

When a hurricane warning is issued, that is your warning that a storm will move into the area within 36 hours or less. Last-minute preparations may be difficult at this time, so it is important to plan ahead.

## Evacuation

If an evacuation order has not been issued by local authorities, make an informed decision to stay or go.

### Evacuate If:

- You live in a manufactured or mobile home
- Your home was built prior to current hurricane building standards (varies by state)
- Your home is at risk of storm surge or flooding
- An evacuation has been ordered



# Riding Out the Storm

## If Evacuating

- Complete your preparedness checklist and kit checklist (pages 8 and 9).
- Pack your hurricane kits and put them in your vehicle.
- Listen to orders at least twice to determine driving directions. Stick to evacuation routes.
- Unplug major appliances, turn off water at the main valve, and turn off power at the breaker box.
- Pack your vehicle and go directly to your evacuation spot or backup location.
- Stay tuned to the radio for emergency bulletins.

## If Staying Home

It is imperative that you evacuate your home if an evacuation order is in place. However, if you are not under an evacuation order

- Complete your preparedness checklist and kit checklist (pages 8 and 9).
- Unplug major appliances, turn off water at the main valve, and turn off power at the breaker box.
- Stay tuned to the radio for emergency bulletins.
- Anticipate long power outages.
- Take shelter in the safest room.
- Reserve your cell phone battery as much as possible.
- If you are able to do so safely, evacuate the home if it becomes damaged or if evacuation orders come through.

**Never put a generator inside the home or the garage.**



# Portable Generator Safety

## Protect Yourself: Take it Outside

When using a portable generator for energy power, it is critical to be aware of potential hazards and operate your unit safely.

## Carbon Monoxide

CO2 is odorless and colorless and can kill in minutes. The Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association recommends not placing a generator within twenty feet of any livable space. That includes a deck or patio.

- Using a generator indoors **can kill you in minutes**. Exhaust contains carbon monoxide, a deadly poisonous gas you cannot see or smell.
- **Never** run a generator indoors or in partly enclosed areas such as garages.
- **Only** use a generator outdoors and far from windows, doors, vents, crawl spaces and in areas where adequate ventilation is available and will not accumulate deadly exhaust gas.
- It is recommended that you install battery operated carbon monoxide alarms or detectors indoors according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.



**Given the dangers associated with portable generators, always consult your generator's user manual before, during, and after use.**

## Don't Trust Internet Myths:

**Never** place your generator on planks of plywood if the ground is wet. Even if the wood stays dry, there is still an electrocution risk when the cables run across the ground.

**Never** create a tent or box to keep your generator dry from rain. These structures do not allow proper airflow needs for your generator and can also allow for a buildup of CO2.

**Never** move your generator closer to your home to keep it out of the elements. Your generator should always be at least 20 feet from your home.

**Never** use an indoor extension cord for your generator. They do not repel moisture and could result in electrocution.

# Standby Generators

## Safe, Reliable, and Convenient

A standby generator is the best way to stay safe and comfortable during the power outages associated with hurricanes.

A standby generator is installed outside your home or business like an AC unit. It's wired into the electrical panel and comes on automatically during a power outage.

A standby generator runs on propane or natural gas, so there's no refueling needed.

In just 10 seconds, a generator automatically powers your AC, heat, sump pump, and major appliances like your fridge and oven.



## Pre-Storm Checks

Keeping up with regularly scheduled preventative maintenance is the best way to ensure your generator works when you need it, but having a proactive mindset is key to being prepared. Call or email us for a pre-storm system check or check out our self-service videos online.

\*Please refer to our guides on residential standby generators at [MGSLLC.com](http://MGSLLC.com) for more information.

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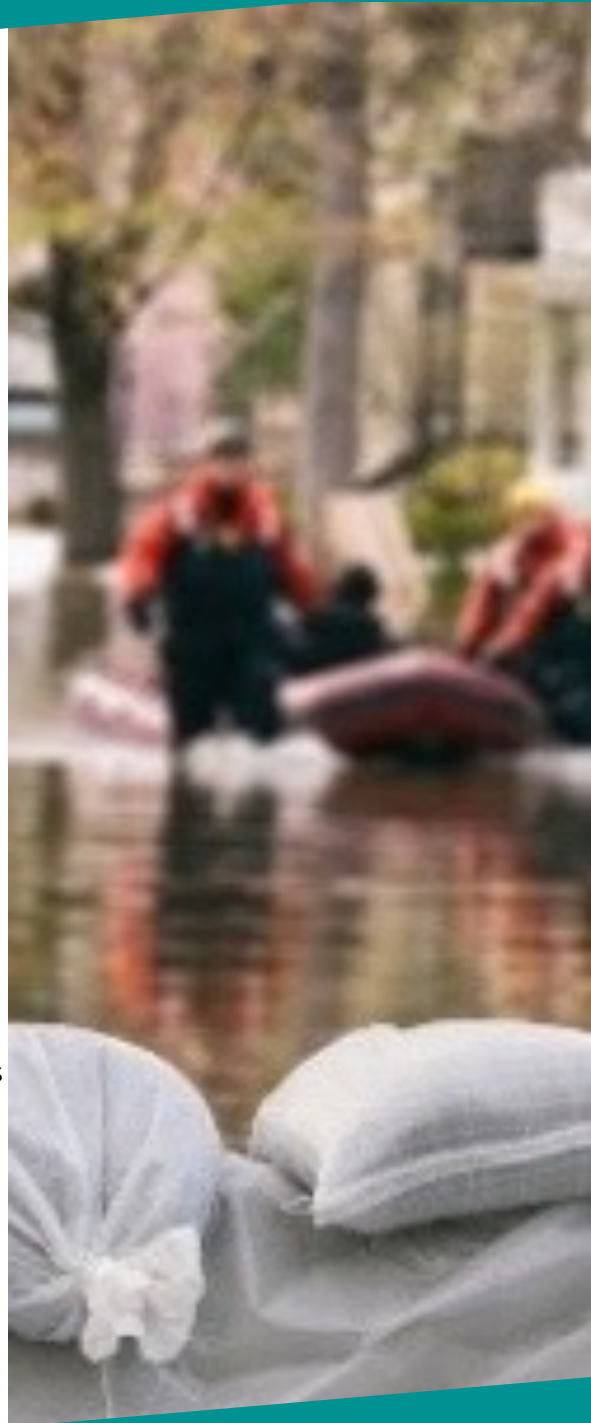
# Hurricane Response Checklist

## After the Storm

Whether you are sheltered in place or returning home after an evacuation, stay alert for potential damage and dangers caused by the storm. Additionally, be vigilant because subsequent rain can cause flooding even after the hurricane has ended.

- Do not return from evacuation unless permission is granted by local authorities.
- If there is severe damage to your home, leave immediately and contact local officials.
- Check for gas leaks. If you suspect a gas leak, leave immediately and contact a licensed professional to check the line. Report it to local authorities.
- Check on your neighbors.
- Report losses to insurance.
- Take photos of your home, yard, and street.
- Make a list of any missing or damaged property.
- Do not drive on closed roads. There may be downed power lines or flooding.
- Consider contacting contractors to clean up large debris.
- Keep receipts for possible reimbursement.
- If the power is out, unplug all major appliances to prevent surge damage when power is restored.
- If the house is flooded, have a professional check the residence before turning the electricity on.

In the event of an extended period without power, keep your freezers and refrigerators closed. Do not use a gas stove to heat your home and only use portable generators outdoors and away from doors and windows.



# Safety Tips

## Food Safety

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food in your refrigerator is safe to eat for only FOUR hours without electricity. It is recommended you discard meat, poultry, fish, and leftovers in that timeframe. A full freezer can hold a safe temperature for 48 hours as long as the door remains closed, and for 24 hours if it is half full.

### Do:

- Keep items sealed and use storage containers
- Clean utensils before and after use
- Keep trashcan lids closed
- Wash hands frequently
- Use ready-made formula for infants

### Do Not:

- Eat from busted or rusted cans
- Eat anything that smells or looks questionable
- Eat food that has had contact with flood water
- Eat refrigerated foods that have sat at room temperature for more than two hours

## Caring for Your Refrigerator:

- Don't open your refrigerator if the power goes out
- Use a thermometer to check whether food is 40 degrees or below
- Freeze gallons of water into blocks of ice, which will last longer than cubed ice

## MGS Tip

Freeze a full, transparent plastic cup of water. Place a quarter on top and time how long it takes for the quarter to fall three-fourths of the way to the bottom, one half of the way to the bottom and, finally, one fourth of the way to the bottom. Now, refreeze your cup of water and place the quarter back on top.

Now you have a simple device that will let you know not only if your home lost power in your absence, but also for how long.

# Child Safety

Disasters can be traumatic for anyone, including children. Reducing a child's fear and anxiety during a storm is important. Proving guidance and reassurance can help ease their fears and stress.

## Constant Communication

Keep in constant communication with your children during a hurricane. Talk to them about your plans and let them help gather supplies.

Discuss why hurricanes occur and what they are made of. Use simple words that young children can understand. Make sure to explain that a hurricane is a natural event outside of our control and that its occurrence is nobody's fault.

## Practice Makes Perfect

Practice your family's evacuation plan so that you can evacuate quickly and safely during an emergency. Make sure your child knows where the local meet-up spot is and how to get there.

## Child-Friendly Kits

In the event you choose to evacuate, make sure to include toys, games, and other items that don't require power.

## Involving Your Child In Recovery

After a hurricane, encourage children to join clean-up and recovery efforts in age-appropriate ways. Participation can increase their sense of control over the situation and nurture empathy and other character traits that encourage emotional maturity and development.



# Hurricane Pet Care

The ASPCA estimates that one third of cat and dog owners do not have a disaster plan in place for their animals. Not all hotels or shelters accept pets, so make sure you locate a pet-friendly option before a storm hits. If you decide to stay home, stay vigilant for news of evacuation notices and pick an inner room in your home ahead of time to store supplies and emergency kits.

## Emergency Kits For Pets

- Three days ration of food
- One week of medication
- Pet carrier or crate
- Photo of you and your pet to establish ownership
- Pet ID tags, vaccination records, leashes and collars

## Staying Home

If you decide to stay home, keep your pet on a leash or crated at all times to ensure they are safe and don't get separated from you.

## Rescue Sticker

A rescue alert sticker on your door can help rescue workers identify pets that may need assistance. If you have evacuated, make sure to write "EVACUATED" across the sticker so rescuers know you are safe.

A power outage could be deadly for aquarium fish. You can maintain stable water temperature by covering the tank with a blanket. A battery-powered pump and filter can help maintain the delicate balance your fish depend on.





# Family Contacts

## Contact Information

Out-of-Town Contact: Phone #:

Evaluation Center: Phone #:

Local Meeting Spot: Phone #:

## Family Members

Name: Social Security No:  
Date of Birth: Note:

Name: Social Security No:  
Date of Birth: Note:

Name: Social Security No:  
Date of Birth: Note:

Name: Social Security No:  
Date of Birth: Note:

## Where We Might Be

Name: Location 1:  
Phone: Location 2:

Name: Location 1:  
Phone: Location 2:

Name: Location 1:  
Phone: Location 2:

Name: Location 1:  
Phone: Location 2:

# Family Medication Form

Print out and complete for each family member

This form is for

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Important Contacts	Company Name	Phone #	Policy #
Medical Insurance:			
Homeowners Insurance:			
Veterinarian:			

Medical Allergies	
Medication Name:	Reaction:

Current Prescriptions			
Medication Name:	Doctor's Info:	Dosage:	Frequency:

# Home Inventory

Use the following inventory sheet for each room in your home to make sure all your valuables are documented in the event of an insurance claim. Videos and pictures are also recommended.

Item	Brand	Purchase Date	Price
Furniture:			
Electronics:			
Other:			

Interested in a Home  
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**(800) 209-1436**

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