Each year in New Orleans, hurricane season lasts from June to November.

You’re probably no stranger to storms. Still, it's important to make a plan with your family in case a storm comes our way. This guide offers the basics.

As a city on the Gulf Coast, New Orleans regularly experiences tropical weather and is at a higher risk for hurricanes. Dangers include high winds, heavy rains, tornadoes, flooding, and power outages, which means you should ensure your property for both wind and flood damage.

There are extra things to consider during an emergency for seniors, young children, people with medical needs, and pet owners.

Find more information at ready.nola.gov.

Helping you stay ready year round,

- THE TEAM AT NOLA READY

NOLA Ready is the city of New Orleans’ emergency preparedness campaign, managed by the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

- STAY CONNECTED
  - Sign up for NOLA Ready emergency alerts. Text NOLAREADY to 77295 or go to ready.nola.gov

- MAKE A PLAN
  - Make plans in case you need to evacuate or shelter at home. Include your family’s and pets' specific needs in your plans.

- GATHER SUPPLIES
  - Gather supplies for a "go bag" and a "home kit" in advance.
Measuring the wind strength of a storm:

- **TROPICAL STORMS**
  - **CATEGORY 1** 39-73 MPH
  - **CATEGORY 2** 74-95 MPH
  - **CATEGORY 3** 96-110 MPH
  - **CATEGORY 4** 111-129 MPH
  - **CATEGORY 5** 130-156 MPH
  - **MAJOR** 157+ MPH

If an evacuation is NOT ordered, it’s up to you to decide to evacuate or shelter in place.

If the City of New Orleans issues a mandatory evacuation, all residents and visitors MUST leave.

Clean & secure your property
- Remove debris from gutters & downspouts.
- Clear debris from catch basins.
- Prune trees & shrubs around your property.
- Bring outdoor furniture & decoration inside.
- Secure or bring garbage bins indoors.

Prepare for power & water outages
- Fill a bathtub with water to clean & flush toilets.
- Turn the fridge to its lowest temperature.
- Charge electronic devices.
- Preserve cell phone battery life.

Stay safe and informed
- Bring pets inside.
- Lock doors & windows.
- Stay inside until officials say it’s safe.
- Storms can be scary for kids. Talk about what’s happening & entertain with games & toys.

Sign Up for Smart911

The New Orleans Health Department recommends that ALL residents add their medical information to Smart911, especially if they have a disability, rely on electricity-dependent medical equipment, or if they have mobility needs. This will enable you to receive customized alerts and resources that may be available during all types of emergencies.

Make a “go bag”
- Identification
- Cash
- First Aid Kit
- Emergency contacts
- Clothes
- Soap, toothbrush, & toothpaste
- Insurance policies
- Non-perishable food
- 3 gallons of water
- Manual can opener
- Flashlight & batteries
- Books & games
- Medications & medical records
- Birth & marriage certificates
- Documents proving residence
- Medications & medical records
- Pets supplies
- Bedding

Plan your route
- Know where, how & with whom you’re going.
- Leave with a full tank of gas. Plan for a trip that is longer than 4 times the usual.

Use the city-assisted evacuation if you can’t evacuate on your own
- During a mandatory evacuation, the city will set-up a centralized evacuation location. Get there by making your way to your nearest bus stop.
- If you can’t self-evacuate because of medical needs, you may be eligible to be picked up from your home. Call 3-1-1.
- Buses will bring you to a state shelter outside of the affected area and bring you back when it’s safe.
- Registration is not required to use this service. Identification documents are recommended, but not required.
- Each person may bring only 1 carry-on size bag, and any necessary medical equipment.
- Families will be kept together, and all pets are welcome.
- Pets should have an ID collar, leash, medications, and a carrier.

Depending on impact and resource needs, the City may operate a post-storm evacuation.

Create a Smart911 Safety Profile for your household at www.smart911.com or download the Smart911 App (Apple Store or Google Play)

Call 9-1-1 in an emergency. Call 3-1-1 for info.