

Each year, thousands of people come to live in the Gulf States or along the East Coast of the United States. They have never been in a hurricane. They do not know the many kinds of danger. Many of the newcomers do not speak English well. They may not get local news in their own language. They may not know how to prepare. This booklet was written for them.

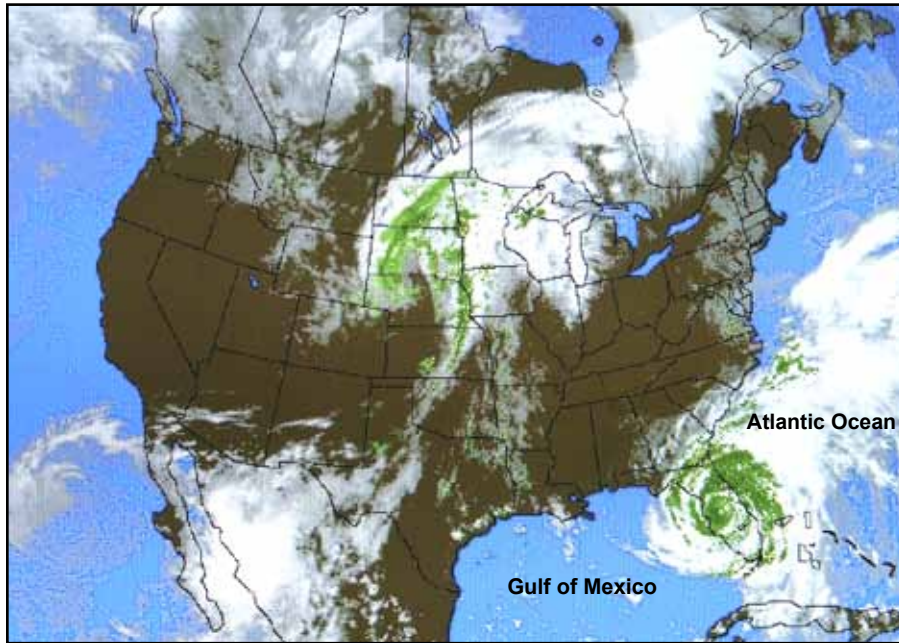
Hurricane Safety

in Simple English

by Elizabeth Claire

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Hurricanes begin over warm water in the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico. Do you live on the **Gulf¹ Coast²** or the East Coast of the United States? It's important to watch the weather news on TV during hurricane **season³** (June 1 to November 30).

A “hurricane *watch*” means that a hurricane *is possible* in your area in the next 48 hours: keep your TV or radio on to hear more news. Be sure you are **prepared⁴**.

A “hurricane *warning*⁵” means that a hurricane will arrive within 36 hours. Be ready!

1. What are the dangers of a hurricane?



Storm surge⁶

When a hurricane gets near land, it brings very high waves of water. These waves can be as high as 15 or 20 feet or more.

This “storm surge” of ocean water can move or **damage⁷** everything that is in its **path⁸**. The storm surge can bring water more than a mile in from the **shore⁹**.

¹**Gulf** *noun*. Gulf of Mexico, the body of water to the south of the United States and east of Mexico.

²**coast** *noun*. The place where the ocean touches the land.

³**season**. *noun*. The time of year.

⁴**prepared** *adjective*. Ready; having what need, *before* you need it.

⁵**warning** *noun*. A message to let people know that some danger that is coming.

⁶**storm surge** *noun phrase*. Ocean waves that rise very high when they get near land.

⁷**damage** *verb*. Break or ruin something.

⁸**path** *noun*. The direction that something is going.

⁹**shore** *noun*. Where the land meets the ocean.

A storm surge can knock down a house and move cars and trucks. A storm surge at **high tide**¹⁰ is the greatest danger of a hurricane.

High winds



Hurricane winds may be from 74 to more than 155 miles per hour

They can blow **roofs**¹¹ off of houses. They can blow down trees.

¹⁰**high tide** *noun phrase*. The time when the ocean is at its highest.

¹¹**roof** *noun*. The top of a house.

No electricity

Winds may knock down **power lines**¹². Electric power may **go out**¹³ during a hurricane. You might not have lights, refrigerator, stove, microwave, TV, computer service or air conditioning.



¹²**power lines** *noun phrase*. The wires that bring electricity to homes and buildings.

¹³**go out** *verb phrase*. Stop working.



*Floods*¹⁴

Heavy rains can cause floods. Rivers and lakes may **overflow**¹⁵.

¹⁴**flood** *noun*. Water that flows through low land, through streets and into homes.

¹⁵**overflow** *verb*. To go over the top (as water or other liquid) of something that was holding it.



*Tornadoes*¹⁶

Tornadoes can form around the sides of a hurricane.

¹⁶**tornado** *noun*. A dangerous funnel-shaped storm with very rapid whirling wind.

2. What to do at the beginning of hurricane season

There are two times to **prepare**¹⁷ for a hurricane. First, you must make plans at the beginning of the hurricane season. You can buy or make things to have ready in your house. Later, when there is a hurricane watch, there are other things you must do. (See page 9.)

Talk about your plans with everyone in your family. Make sure each person understands the dangers and what to do. Don't wait for a hurricane to be on the way. Start preparing early. It's "better to be safe than to be sorry."

Ask your neighbors what plans they make for hurricanes. Is there a **warning system**¹⁸ with **sirens**¹⁹ or **alarms**²⁰ in your town? Ask what plans there are at the place where you work. Ask about plans at your children's schools or daycare center.

You may get a **notice**²¹ from the local police, fire, or emergency services about hurricanes. Read it (or listen to it) carefully. Ask someone to explain it if you don't understand it.

Get the telephone numbers of your police, fire department (911 is only for emergencies), and services that you may need after the hurricane. Write these down and enter them in your cell phone if you have one.

Flying **objects**²² can break windows. Hurricane winds can then **destroy**²³ the inside of your home. Cover your windows with **shutters**²⁴ or **plywood**²⁵. Measure each window. Have a **home supply store**²⁶ cut 5/8 inch plywood to fit your windows. See instructions and pictures at <http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/shutters/index2.html>

Keep these plywood boards in a dry place out of the way (under beds) until you need to put them outside your house.



¹⁷**prepare** *verb*. Get things ready.

¹⁸**warning system** *noun phrase*. A way to let people in a town know that a hurricane is coming.

¹⁹**siren** *noun*. A loud wailing sound.

²⁰**alarm** *noun*. A sign or sound to warn people of danger.

²¹**notice** *noun*. A letter, message, telephone call or email with information.

²²**object** *noun*. Thing.

²³**destroy** *verb*. To break or ruin completely so it cannot be used again.

²⁴**shutters** *noun, plural*. Window coverings that are attached to the house next to the windows.

²⁵**plywood** *noun*. Large flat sheets of wood made from several thin sheets of wood.

²⁶**home supply store** *noun phrase*. A large store, such as Home Depot, that sells tools, wood, paint, etc.

Keep these things in your home:

- Flashlights and plenty of batteries.
- Candles and matches. (Candles can be a **fire hazard**²⁷. They can cause an explosion if there is a **gas leak**²⁸.) Battery-powered lights are safer.



- Water: five gallons for each person in the home. (One gallon per day per person for five days.)

• Food. You will need food that you don't have to cook. Choose food that doesn't need to be kept cold. Keep enough for five days.

Examples: crackers, apples, oranges, bananas, raisins, peanut butter and jam, powdered milk, bottled or canned juice, nuts, canned tuna, canned meat, canned fruit, granola bars, dry cereal, snack foods. Don't forget a can opener.



- A **first aid kit**²⁹ with **peroxide**³⁰, **antiseptic**^{30B}, **bandages**³¹, **antacid**³², medicines for headache or pain, plus any medicines your family uses regularly.
- Large clear plastic garbage bags to protect things from getting wet.
- A **pump**^{32B} to pump water from the basement.



²⁷**fire hazard** *noun phrase*. Something that can easily cause a fire.

²⁸**gas leak** *noun phrase*. Gas that is coming out of a hole in a broken pipe.

²⁹**first aid kit** *noun phrase*. A box or container with medicines and things to treat cuts and pains that don't need a doctor.

³⁰**peroxide** *noun*. An anti-septic to kill germs with: H₂O₂.

^{30B}**antiseptic** *noun*. Something that kills germs and bacteria.

³¹**bandage** *noun*. A covering for a cut or injury.

³²**antacid** *noun*. A medicine for acid in the stomach. (Tums, Rolaids, etc.)

^{32B}**pump** *noun*. A machine that sucks up water and moves it someplace else.

- Some people buy electric **generators**³³. Generators use a gasoline motor to make electricity. A small generator can keep a light on and work a microwave to warm food. However, you cannot run a generator inside a house. It makes **carbon monoxide**³⁴. Carbon monoxide is colorless and odorless. It's a poisonous gas. Inside a closed area this gas can kill people. That's why the generator must run outside. You also need a safe place to keep the gasoline, away from the house.



³³**generator** *noun*. A machine that can produce electricity.

³⁴**carbon monoxide** *noun phrase*. A colorless, odorless gas (CO).

- Tools and **equipment**³⁵ for cleaning up after the hurricane: Tall rubber boots, rubber gloves broom, mop, **disinfectant**³⁶, a water pump if you have a basement.



³⁵**equipment** *noun*. Things you need to do a job.

³⁶**disinfectant** *noun*. A strong chemical that cleans things and kills germs.

Are you in an evacuation zone³⁷?

People who live near the water, or on low ground, should leave their homes when a hurricane is on the way. **Mobile homes**^{37B} are not safe during a hurricane, either. You need to plan:

Where will you stay?

A friend's home on higher ground? A motel or hotel many miles away from the coast? A **shelter**³⁸ in a community building in the next town? Be sure you know where it is and how to get there.

Is your car in good condition?

Get repairs before hurricane season starts.

³⁷**evacuation zone** *noun phrase*. Land or a place that is in danger of flood, hurricane or other disaster.

^{37B}**mobile home** *noun phrase*. A small light factory-built home that can be moved. It is not built onto a foundation.

³⁸**shelter** *noun*. A place where many people can stay during a storm, or after a disaster. It may be in a community center, church, high school gym, etc.

What if you don't have a car?

Find out your town's plan for people with no cars. You may be able to go to a strong building on high ground. The town may have buses to take people out of danger. Find out where you will get the bus and where it will go.

What will you take with you?

Make a list of the things you will need if you have to leave home.

- Rain coats and clothing for each person.
Dry shoes. Boots. Pajamas



- Medicines and prescriptions
- Food and water
- Pillows, blankets or sleeping bags
- Baby needs: diapers, food, water, bottles, clothing
- Paper plates, cups, and plastic knives, forks, and spoons
- A knife, matches
- A map of your area
- Personal items such as extra eyeglasses, **contact lenses**³⁹, sunglasses, sunscreen, combs, hair brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, **feminine hygiene**⁴⁰ items



Take your important papers.

Be sure you have drivers licenses, passports, Social Security cards, medical insurance cards, **immunization records**⁴¹ (your pets' records, too), tax records, bank account numbers, check books, credit cards and account numbers, and immigration papers, for each family member.



³⁹**contact lenses** *noun phrase, plural*. Small “glasses” that a person wears directly on the eyeball.

⁴⁰**feminine hygiene items** *noun phrase*. Things a girl or woman needs for keeping clean.

⁴¹**immunization records** *noun phrase*. Official papers with the dates of each vaccination that a person has had.

Protect your **diplomas**⁴², **deeds**⁴³ to your home and car, business records, your **will**⁴⁴, insurance policies, contracts, family records (birth, marriage, death certificates and important photos). Keep these in plastic bags or containers that can seal out water.

Plan to pack your **valuable**⁴⁵ things, too: money, **jewelry**⁴⁶, watches, cell phones, laptops, Ipads, cameras.

Keep a suitcase, **backpacks**⁴⁷, or strong plastic garbage bags to carry the things you will need and to keep them dry. Keep these in a front closet of your home so you can get them easily. Tape the list of things you need inside the door so you won't forget anything.

Do you have **insurance**⁴⁸ for your home? Will it pay for hurricane **damage**⁴⁹? Take pictures of the things in each room and in the closets and drawers. The pictures will help you if you make an insurance **claim**⁵⁰ for things that are damaged.



What about your pets?

Plan for your pets' safety, too. Don't leave your pets behind in your home.

Some motels and shelters do not **allow**⁵¹ pets. Plan where to take your pets until a storm is over. Get a pet carrier if you don't have one.

Make sure your pet has a **collar**⁵² with your name and a telephone number on it in case your pet is lost. Carry small dogs cats, or other small animals in a pet carrier. Keep a larger dog on a **leash**⁵³



Pack a week's supply of your pet's food, water and any medications. Pack **kitty litter**⁵⁴ for cats. Take the pet to a safe place if you cannot take your pet with you.

⁴²**diploma** *noun*. A document to show that a person has graduated from school.

⁴³**deed** *noun*. A document that shows that a person owns a house or car.

⁴⁴**will** *noun*. A document that tells who will get a person's money after the person dies.

⁴⁵**valuable** *adjective*. Important or expensive.

⁴⁶**jewelry** *noun*. Rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings.

⁴⁷**backpack** *noun*. A bag to carry things on one's back.

⁴⁸**insurance** *noun*. A contract with a company that will pay for lost, stolen, or damaged things.

⁴⁹**damage** *noun*. Harm, injury, loss of value of property, furniture, house, car, etc.

⁵⁰**claim** *noun*. Asking for money to replace things that were lost or damaged.

⁵¹**allow** *verb*. Permit something or someone to come into a place.

⁵²**collar** *noun*. A band (sometimes leather) around a dog's neck.

⁵³**leash** *noun*. A chain, rope, or strap that is attached to an animal's collar and keeps an animal from running away.

⁵⁴**kitty litter** *noun phrase*. A type of sand or gravel for a cat's "bathroom."

Have all these supplies ready at the beginning of hurricane season. Stores, banks, and gas stations are very busy before a hurricane.

Supermarkets may **run out of**⁵⁵ food. They may be closed after the hurricane.

Gas stations may run out of gas.

Be prepared to live without electricity

- There will be no lights, TV, microwave or electric stove.
- Your freezer and refrigerator may not keep your food cold.
- Gas stations won't be able to pump gas.
- Computers at banks and stores won't work.
- **ATM**⁵⁶'s and credit card machines won't work.
- Telephone lines may go down. Cell phone towers may also go down, so cell phones won't work.
- Stores, schools, and many businesses may be closed.

⁵⁵**run out of** *verb phrase*. To have no more; to sell or use all that one had.

⁵⁶**ATM** *noun*. Automatic Teller Machine. A machine that can give a person money from his or her account at a bank.

3. What to do when there is a hurricane watch



Review your plans. Get gas for your car. Get money, in cash, in small **bills**⁵⁷.

Get the medical **prescriptions**⁵⁸ you will need for two weeks.

Fill ice trays and plastic **containers**⁵⁹ with water. Put them in your freezer to make ice. This will help keep food cold.

Decide where it will be safe for your family. There may be no electric power for a few days or even weeks. You may have hot weather with no air conditioning. Or cold weather with no heat.

⁵⁷**bills** *noun, plural*. Paper money: dollar bills, five-dollar bills, etc.

⁵⁸**prescription** *noun*. A medicine that needs a doctor's permission for a pharmacist to prepare.

⁵⁹**container** *noun*. Something that holds something else: box, bottle, etc.

When there is a hurricane watch, fill clean pails, pots, and jugs with water. Clean your bathtub and fill it with water for washing and flushing the toilet.

- **Check**⁶⁰ your food supplies.
- **Back up**⁶¹ your important computer files onto DVD's or **flash drives**⁶² that you can take with you. Put large plastic garbage bags around your computers and **electronic equipment**⁶³ and close tight.
- News can save your life: Have a small battery-powered radio or TV.



Protect your home from wind and water.

The wind throws things around. Bring bicycles, garbage cans, plants, doormats, flags, and furniture inside the house or garage. Loose chairs, tools, toys and other things may break your windows, damage cars, and hit people who are outside. If you have prepared plywood, put them on your windows now.

Move smaller items to a second floor or put them on high shelves. Roll up carpets and put them on top of furniture. Wrap things in waterproof plastic bags.

4. What to do during a hurricane

If you are in a strong house, on high ground, you can decide if you should stay or leave. If you are in a weak house or on low ground, plan to leave.

If you stay: Have your flashlights, lanterns and batteries ready.

Close drapes and curtains. Pull down shades or close **venetian blinds**⁶⁴. This will help keep glass from flying into your home.



Stay away from windows.

If the electricity goes out, **unplug**⁶⁵ your TV, computer,

⁶⁰**check** *verb*. Read your list to see if you have everything you need.

⁶¹**back up** *verb phrase*. To copy a document so you won't lose it.

⁶²**flash drive** *noun phrase*
A small portable device that can hold a lot of digital files.

⁶³**electronic equipment** *noun phrase*. Computers, monitors, radios, stereos, etc.

⁶⁴**venetian blinds** *noun, plural*. A form of window shade that has many thin flat slats.

⁶⁵**unplug** *verb*. Take a computer's or light's power cord out of the electric outlet; disconnect from electricity.

⁶⁶**appliances** *noun, plural*. Things that work with electricity. Labor-saving machines in a home.

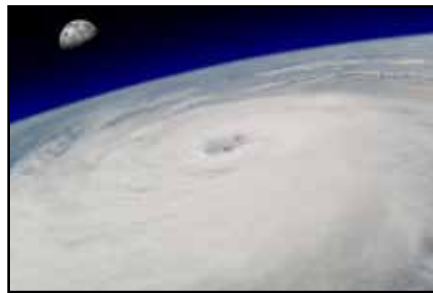
radios, and other electric **appliances**⁶⁶. (When the electric comes back on, a sudden **surge**⁶⁷ can burn out these appliances.)

Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed. You want to keep the food cold as long as possible. If it warms above 40 degrees in your refrigerator, food will **spoil**⁶⁸. Then it will be dangerous to eat. You will have to throw it out.

Stay together in the center part of your home. Tell stories, play games with the children. Stay off the telephone except for emergency calls.

Do not open your doors during a hurricane. Do not go outside. You can get hit hard by things the wind is blowing.

A hurricane has a center, or “eye.” There is no wind in the eye of the storm. You may think the storm is over. That’s a mistake: the storm is not over. The eye will pass and the strong winds will blow again.



5. What to do if you leave your home

You may hear a police or TV announcement that tells you to **evacuate**⁶⁹. Sometimes a town blows a **siren**⁷⁰. In some areas, police or other **authorities**⁷¹ will knock on people’s doors. They may order you to evacuate. Then you must leave very quickly!

Some people want to stay to protect their home. You cannot protect your home from a storm surge. Your whole house can be under water.

Help children understand why you are leaving your house. Tell them you are going to a safer place. Let them bring a favorite small doll, toy, and story books. For school age children, bring homework and textbooks.

⁶⁷**surge** *noun*. Extra power.

⁶⁸**spoil** *verb*. To turn rotten. To become no good to eat.

⁶⁹**evacuate** *verb*. To leave a place that is in danger.

⁷⁰**siren** *noun*. A loud whistle or horn that can be heard for a long distance.

⁷¹**authorities** *noun plural*. People who are in charge of a town, police, officers.

Prepare your home if you are leaving.

Unplug your electrical appliances. Close shades, **drapes**⁷² and curtains on your windows.



Call your **contact person**⁷³. Tell him or her where you are planning to go. Tell everyone in the family the name and phone number of that person, in case you are separated. Call the contact person when you arrive at a safe location or if you change your plans.

⁷²**drapes** *noun, plural*. Cloth coverings for windows, thicker than curtains.

⁷³**contact person** *noun phrase*. A person who lives out of the storm area that family members can call to report their safety and location.

Lock all your windows. Lock your doors.

When should you leave?

Leave early, in daylight, if possible. Know where you are going. Many cars will be on the road. It can take a long time to get to a safe place.



Drive carefully. Heavy winds make driving difficult. Trees may be down across the road. Roads and bridges may be **washed out**⁷⁴. Do not drive on roads that are under water.



⁷⁴**washed out** *verb phrase*. Gone; moved away by running water.

⁷⁵**loose** *adjective*. Not connected; broken.

⁷⁶**live wire** *noun phrase*. A broken electrical wire that is unprotected, with electricity flowing through it.

⁷⁷**advice** *noun*. Information for the best way to do a job.

⁷⁸**bacteria** *noun, plural*. Mi-

When can you return home?

After the hurricane, there are still dangers. Wait until police or other authorities say it is okay to return. Listen to a local radio or television for information.

Electric power lines may be down. Some may be **loose**⁷⁵ in the street. Stay away from them. A **live wire**⁷⁶ can kill a person. Loose branches can fall off trees. Keep children in the house.

When you get back home, the damage may shock you. If you have insurance, take photos of the damage before you start to clean up.

6. Hurricane clean up health and safety

You may need **advice**⁷⁷ about clean up. Flood waters are filled with **bacteria**⁷⁸ and **toxic**⁷⁹ chemicals. These may have **contaminated**⁸⁰ the drinking water supply. Water from your kitchen or bathroom faucets may not be safe to drink. Use rubber gloves to touch things that were touched by flood waters.

Don't drink the water!

Use the water you have stored in clean jugs for drinking. When it is gone, **boil**⁸² the water that you will use for drinking, for cooking, or for washing yourself. One minute of a fast boil will be enough.



Is there water in your basement?



Don't wait for the water to go down by itself. Toxic **mold**⁸¹ can grow in things that have been wet with flood water. Use a pump to get the water out of your basement as soon as possible. If there

is no electricity, call the town's fire department. Ask for help. They may send **pumpers**⁸³ to your neighborhood to help dry up basements.



Do not **wade**⁸⁴ in flood waters without high rubber boots. Bacteria can enter your body through cuts and open **sores**⁸⁵.

Don't turn on electrical appliances while you are standing in water. You can be **electrocuted**⁸⁶.

⁷⁷**advice** *noun*. Information that helps someone decide what to do or think.

⁷⁸**bacteria** *noun*. Microscopic (very tiny) germs that can cause disease.

⁷⁹**toxic** *adjective*. Poisonous; dangerous to health.

⁸⁰**contaminate** *verb*. Make something dirty and unsafe; To put in bacteria or toxic chemicals.

⁸¹**mold** *noun*. A fungus that grows on wet material in the dark.

⁸²**boil** *verb*. Heat water to 212 degrees F. (37 degrees Celcius).

⁸³**pumper** *noun*. A fire truck that has a large pump that can move water.

⁸⁴**wade** *verb*. To walk in water without shoes or boots on.

⁸⁵**sore** *noun*. Injured or diseased skin.

⁸⁶**electrocuted** *verb past participle*. Killed by electricity.

Keep sores and cuts clean with **peroxide**⁸⁷ to prevent infection. Get medical attention if sores become red and warm. If you start to feel sick, get medical attention.

Use your nose. **Sniff**⁸⁸ for **gas leaks**⁸⁹. Leave your house immediately if you smell gas. Report it to the **utility company**⁹⁰. If the house has been flooded, do not turn the power on. Be safe. Get help from the utility company.

Wear rubber boots and rubber gloves while you clean up. Keep children, dogs, and cats out of the water and mud.

Was electricity off for more than four hours? The food in the refrigerator is probably spoiled. When **in doubt**⁹¹, throw it out!



Collect the wet things that you can wash and **disinfect**⁹². Handle wet things with rubber gloves.

Wash all clothes, sheets, pillow cases, curtains, etc. that got wet. Use very hot water and **detergent**⁹³.

Throw away carpets, **stuffed**⁹⁴ furniture, stuffed animals, toys, **mattresses**⁹⁵, pillows, and paper and cardboard things that have gotten wet. You cannot wash and disinfect these things.



Did flood waters rise up into the walls of your house?

Mold and **mildew**⁹⁶ can grow in drywall and **insulation**⁹⁷. Cut the walls out and throw them away. Put in new drywall.



⁸⁷**peroxide** *noun* H₂O₂

⁸⁸**sniff** *verb*. To take air in through the nose in order to smell something.

⁸⁹**gas leak** *noun phrase*. The escape of gas from a broken gas pipe.

⁹⁰**utility company** *noun phrase*. Gas or electric company.

⁹¹**in doubt** *adverb*. Not sure of something.

⁹²**disinfect** *verb*. To kill germs and bacteria on something.

⁹³**detergent** *noun*. Powder or liquid soap that is used to wash clothes in a machine.

⁹⁴**stuffed** *adjective*. Having cotton, feathers, rags, or other material inside.

⁹⁵**mattress** *noun*. The soft part of a bed.

⁹⁶**mildew** *noun*. A type of fungus, similar to mold. It grows on wet material.

⁹⁷**insulation** *noun*. Material that is put inside walls to keep a home from losing heat in the winter.

⁹⁸**goggles** *noun, plural*. Glasses to protect the eyes.

⁹⁹**dehumidifier** *noun*. A

You may need a mask if you are working in a house full of mold. You may wear **goggles**⁹⁸ to protect your eyes.

Use hot water and laundry detergent to carefully clean floors, sinks and toilets, pipes, and everything that has been in the flood water.

Use fans to help dry the rooms and other things dry after you wash them.

A **dehumidifier**⁹⁹ will help get **moisture**¹⁰⁰ out of the air, too.

What if you cannot live in your home?

Losing your home makes everyone sad. **Comfort**¹⁰² each other. **Count your blessings**¹⁰³ if your family has all **survived**¹⁰⁴ Remember: **Property**¹⁰⁵ can be **replaced**¹⁰⁶. People cannot be replaced.

The next step is to find a place to live. The **Red Cross**¹⁰⁷, local churches, temples, or mosques, or other community agencies will help you find **temporary**¹⁰⁸ shelter. The **FEMA**^{108B} Housing Portal has lists of homes and apartments for people who have lost their home in a hurricane.

What if no hurricane came, after all those preparations?

It is very difficult to **predict**¹⁰⁹ where a hurricane will touch land. A hurricane may not hit your area directly. You may think that the dangers are not real.

Don't make that mistake. The truth is, you were lucky. The next hurricane may be extremely dangerous. Prepare for each hurricane.



machine that takes water out of the air.

¹⁰⁰**moisture** *noun*. Wetness; water.

¹⁰¹**damaged** *adjective*. Broken; needing to be fixed or it cannot be used again.

¹⁰²**comfort** *verb*. To show caring and support to someone who is sad or upset.

¹⁰³**Count your blessings**. Be glad for the things you have.

¹⁰⁴**survived** *verb*. Lived through danger.

¹⁰⁵**property** *noun*. Houses, furniture, cars, clothing, and other things a person owns.

¹⁰⁶**replace** *verb*. To get a new one when one is lost.

¹⁰⁷**the Red Cross** *noun phrase*. (The American Red Cross) An organization that helps people after a hurricane, earthquake, flood, etc.

¹⁰⁸**temporary** *adjective*. For a short time; not permanent.

^{108B}**FEMA** [Federal Emergency Management Agency]. The government agency in charge of helping during emergencies such as hurricanes.

¹⁰⁹**predict** *verb*. To tell what will happen in the future.

This Information was compiled and “translated” to simple English by Elizabeth Claire, editor of *Easy English NEWS*, from information at the following websites and organizations:

City-Parish of Lafayette, Office of Emergency Preparedness,
Lafayette, Louisiana

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm>

Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center: American Red Cross Family Disaster Supplies Kit: <http://www.floridaoceanographic.org/hurricane2.html>

Top Ten Hurricane Tips: <http://www.chiff.com/a/hurricane-tips.htm>

National Hurricane Center: Hurricane Preparedness: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/prepare/supply_kit.shtml

Village of Royal Palm Beach Florida: Hurricane Preparedness: http://www.royalpalmbeach.com/Pages/RoyalPalmBeachFL_Hurricane/Checklist

For more information:

Hurricane Safety in [Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and other languages: [Americanredcross.com](http://www.americanredcross.com) Search for Hurricane safety in (your language)

Food safety: <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/emergency/index.html>

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