

Prepare for Severe Weather: Hurricanes



COLCHESTER
REGIONAL
EMO



April 2021

72 Hours

Nova Scotians are encouraged to be ready to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency

Causes: Strong winds that develop over warm water and move inland

Prepare

- Check your 72 hour safety kit to make sure nothing is missing or expired.
- Sign up to Alert TC to receive updates on storm development.
- Gather supplies needed for 72 hours (3 days).
- Secure all outside items or move them inside a building.
- Remove hanging exterior decorations from your home and out buildings and store them inside.
- Park your car in an area that is not close to compromised trees and shrubs.
- Keep your pets indoors.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.

During

- If told to do so by authorities, evacuate immediately.
- Follow Alert TC, radio stations, and Municipal social media for updates during the storm.
- Stay indoors unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Do NOT go to the beach or other shoreline to watch the storm.
- If lightning is present, remember you can use a cellular phone but not a landline during the storm.

After

- If you have been without power for more than 24 hours check with the pharmacy that issued your refrigerated medication before taking any.
- If damage has occurred, take photos of your property and get in contact with your insurance company.
- If you were told to evacuate, follow steps and guidelines from emergency personnel about re-entering your home.
- If flooding occurred in your home follow the steps outlined on the flooding handout for steps on re-entering your home.
- Begin cleanup of any loose branches and debris that may have broken off in the storm.



Hurricane Checklist

Items to have on hand in the event of a severe weather emergency

- Flashlight
- Battery bank for cell phone charging
- A whistle to call for help if trapped
- First Aid Kit
- Emergency numbers for RCMP, Fire and utilities
- Bottled water - 2 liters per person, per day
- Extra clothing and footwear that are suitable for the season
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Credit card and cash
- Extra batteries

What to do when a Hurricane Warning is issued

- Hurricanes can often be predicted two or three days in advance of their landfall. The key to hurricane protection is preparation. By taking precautions before, during, and after a hurricane, lives can be saved and property damage averted. It is important to stay informed by listening to the latest warnings and advisories on radio, television, or web sites. The Canadian Hurricane Centre will issue and update these when necessary.
- If a hurricane is forecasted, secure everything that might be blown around or torn loose. Flying objects such as garbage cans and lawn furniture can injure people and damage property.
- Stock up on water, ready-to-eat food and heating fuel, as well as battery-powered or wind-up flashlights and radios - and extra batteries. Make sure that there is gasoline in the car. For a complete list of emergency supplies, go to emergency kits. Also, learn what to have in your car emergency kit.

Hurricane season officially runs from June through November when the waters of the Atlantic Ocean are warm enough to produce a tropical cyclone, a category of weather systems that includes tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes. There are five (5) categories of hurricanes:

Category 1

Winds: 119-153 km/hr

Some damage and power outages

Category 2

Winds: 154-177 km/hr

Extensive Damage

Category 3

Winds: 178-208 km/hr

Well built homes suffer major damage

Category 4

Winds: 209-251 km/hr

Severe damage to homes and trees uprooted

Category 5

Winds: 252+ km/hr

Many buildings destroyed, roads cut off