

GENERAC[®]

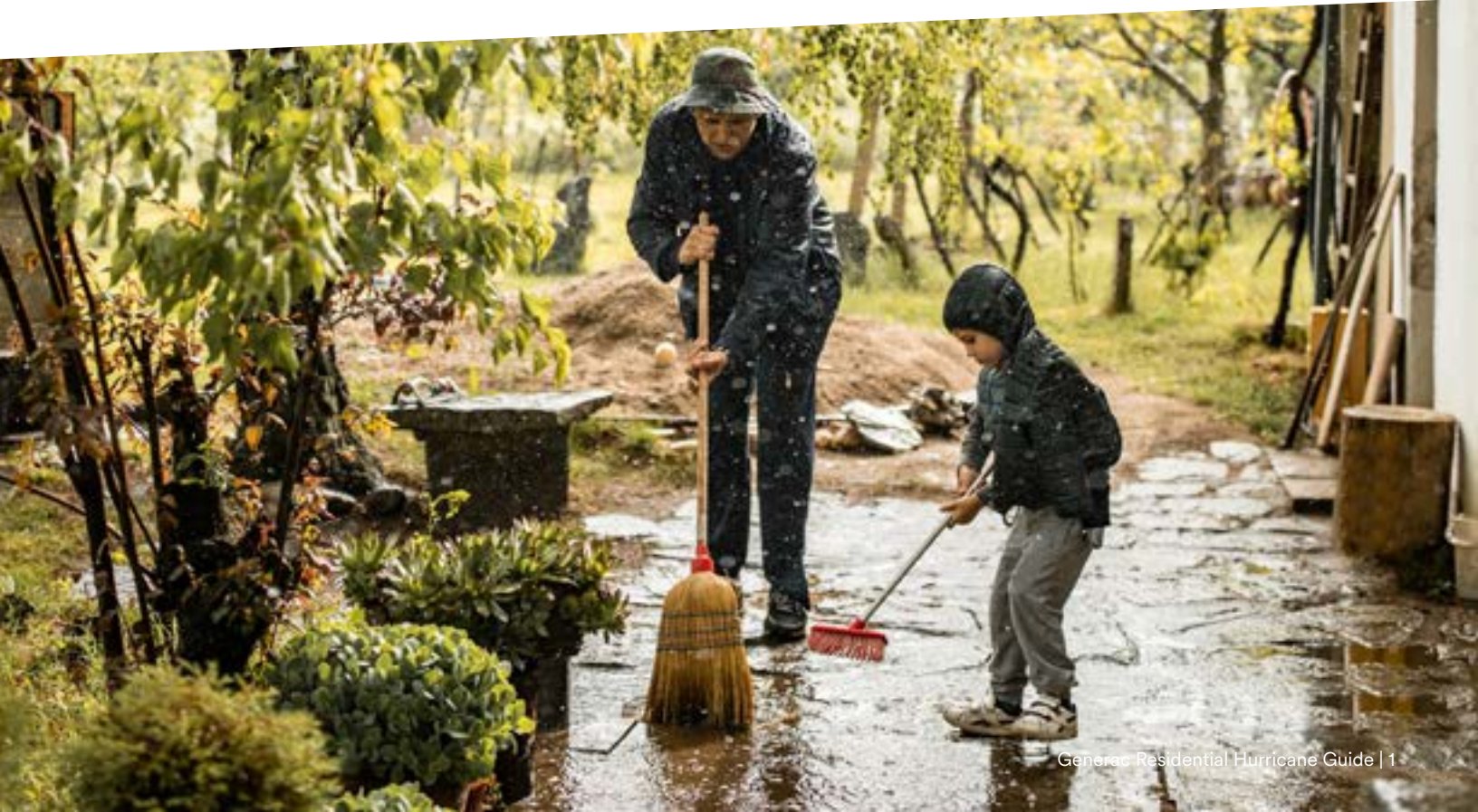


Residential Hurricane Preparedness Guide



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Hurricane Home Readiness

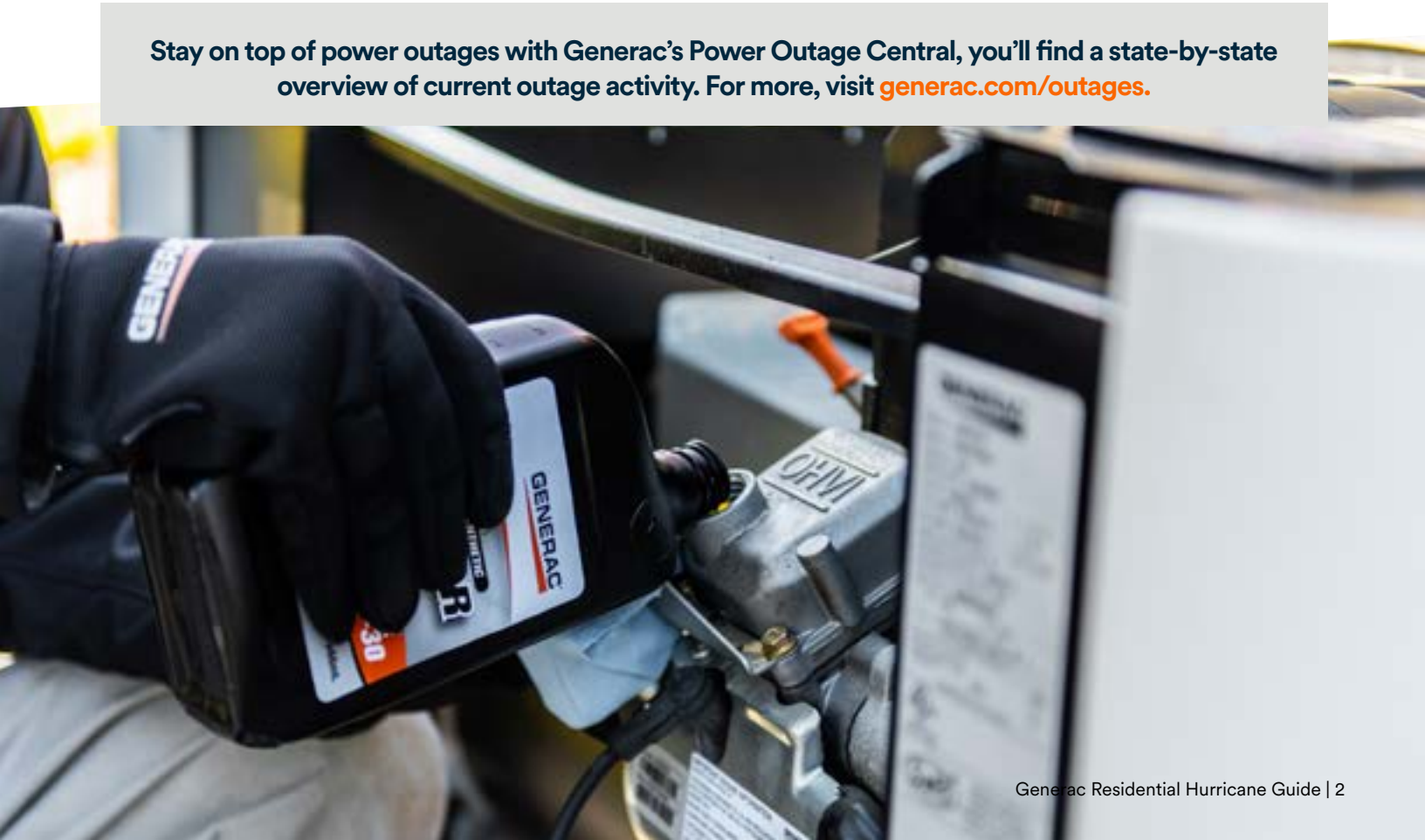
While hurricanes and tropical storms are inevitable, being without power is not. With early planning, you can help ensure that you, your loved ones and your home are prepared when severe weather strikes.

As a leader in backup power solutions for the past 65 years, Generac has proudly helped millions of customers at home, at work and everywhere in between be ready for unexpected outages before they occurred.

Ensuring Your Standby Generator Is Storm-Ready

- Clear debris and any obstructions away from the generator.
- Keep at least 3 ft. of clearance around the generator. This also includes moving plants and decorations away from the generator.
- Ensure the inside of the enclosure is free of debris (such as leaves, sticks, dirt, etc.).
- Check your battery for proper charge and clean any corrosion on the terminals.
- Check the air filter. If it's dirty or damaged, replace it.
- Inspect lines and connections for fuel or oil leaks. Fix as necessary.
- Check spark plugs. If gap is out of tolerance, re-gap or replace.
- Check sediment trap. Empty if necessary.
- Watch out for low oil levels if your generator is running continuously. Remember to check the oil level each day and keep extra oil on hand.
- Request service from your licensed service provider or get matched with one in your local community at [generac.com/dealer-locator](https://www.generac.com/dealer-locator).

Stay on top of power outages with Generac's Power Outage Central, you'll find a state-by-state overview of current outage activity. For more, visit [generac.com/outages](https://www.generac.com/outages).



Your Backup Power Options

Portable vs. Automatic Home Standby Power

Considering a generator to help keep the power on during outages? Here are a few things to keep in mind to help make the best choice for you.



	Portable Power Stations	Portable Generators	Automatic Home Standby Generators
Uses	Clean, quiet, emission-free power with no fumes or fuel; a great option for apartments or condominium residents. Additional non-emergency uses: camping, tailgating	Emergency backup power. Additional non-emergency uses: camping, job sites, tailgating.	Whole home or essential circuit backup power.
Starting	A simple ON/OFF button.	Must be home when the power goes out to start and connect almost all portable generators.	Starts automatically when utility power is lost – whether you're home or away.
Connecting	Ports on the unit itself offer numerous connection options, including 2 USB-A and 2 USB-C receptacles in addition to AC, DC and a wireless charging pad.	Can be connected to individual appliances via extension cord but must be connected to the home via a manual transfer switch for whole home/specific circuit backup.	Permanently connected to your home's electrical system.
Refueling	No refueling necessary. Simply recharge the unit by connecting to a wall outlet when power returns. The unit also supports recharging with the available solar panels or connection to a car or generator.	Must be refueled every 6-12 hours, depending on loads and size of fuel tank. Fueling options include gasoline and liquid propane.	No refueling necessary if connected to a natural gas line or propane tank.
Capacity	Able to power smaller, specific devices, such as a kitchen appliance, laptop or phone. Can also be paralleled for additional capacity and backup power.	A wide range of options for every need, including smaller units that can be paralleled for additional power, or units large enough to provide whole home backup when paired with a manual transfer switch.	Can power your entire home or selected circuits.
Monitoring	With no refueling and zero maintenance, no monitoring is necessary.	Must monitor operation in person.	Monitor the generator's performance with Mobile Link™ from anywhere.

Protect Your Backup Solution

No matter what generator option you select, it is important to conduct regular maintenance on your generator to ensure it runs properly. A local Generac dealer is always available to support and service your generator through the life of the product.

PWRcell Solar + Battery Storage System

A Cost-Effective Backup Power Solution

How the PWRcell Solar + Battery Storage System Works:



Store Excess Energy

PWRcell's revolutionary battery storage technology captures and stores energy from your solar panels or the electrical grid.



Prepare For Power Outages

PWRcell can provide whole home backup power during utility power outages, helping you and your family stay comfortable and secure in your home. Pairing your system with a PWRmanager advanced load management device can extend your backup capabilities even further.



Reduce Energy Costs

The stored energy can be discharged to power your home during peak demand times when the cost of utility power is higher, which can help you save money on your utility bill.

To learn more about PWRcell, visit: www.getpwrcell.com.



Monitoring Fuel Levels

Without propane, your LP generator and appliances won't turn on. Please be sure to connect with your propane supplier well ahead of a potential storm.

Don't Rely on Manual Tank Checks

In the event of a hurricane or tropical storm, checking your propane tank for proper fuel levels is not always possible. Consider when:

- You or your family aren't at home while LP-appliances are running, or the generator turns on and starts burning fuel.
- The tank dial is physically difficult for you or your family members to access.
- Inclement weather makes it dangerous to walk out to the tank.
- The dial is inaccessible due to a stuck tank lid or flooding around an underground tank.

Avoid Hidden Costs

Storms increase the likelihood of running out of fuel. Run outs are frustrating, costly and:

- You may have to pay for a qualified technician to perform a leak test. Some jurisdictions require this test after an out-of-gas call before propane/fuel delivery occurs.
- You may pay up to \$300 for an expedited/emergency delivery fee to get your tank refilled.
- You could have to pay to replace spoiled food in your refrigerator and freezer.
- You might even pay for a hotel stay if you are without electricity for an extended period.

Use the Generac LTE Fuel Monitor

Measure the remaining fuel level in any propane tank – no matter what LP appliances are connected. Plan for deliveries and protect yourself against run out with:

- Easy installation in under 5 minutes on any above-or below-ground tank.
- Mobile Link integration to see your tank level in real-time, from anywhere via phone/computer.
- Text and email notifications that alert you when your tank level drops below a certain threshold.
- Peace of mind that you will always be prepared for the storm and protected against run outs.

Don't Wait Until the Last Minute

- Schedule fuel delivery for your home standby generator in advance of any inclement weather. And ensure you have what you need for your home, when you need it most.

Tank Monitoring is the easiest, most reliable way to ensure you always have enough propane to weather the Storm.



Generator Safety

Using a portable generator for emergency power? It's important to be aware of potential hazards. Always keep these basic guidelines in mind when running your generator and be sure to follow the instructions in the owner's manual first.

- Never run a generator indoors or in partly enclosed areas such as garages.
- Only use outdoors, far away from windows, doors and vents. Be sure to point the engine exhaust away from occupied buildings.
- Always use a battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm indoors, installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Keep children away from portable generators at all times.
- Keep the area surrounding a generator clean and free from debris and keep a clearance of five feet on all sides to allow for proper ventilation.
- Generators can be used during a wide variety of weather temperatures but should be protected from the elements when not in use to prevent shorting and rusting.
- Operate the generator only on level surfaces and where it won't be exposed to excessive moisture, dirt, dust or corrosive vapors.
- Inspect the generator regularly and contact the nearest authorized service provider for repair or part replacements.
- Always disconnect the spark plug wire and place it where it won't contact the spark plug to prevent accidental starting when setting up, transporting, adjusting or repairing the generator.
- Do not connect your generator directly to your home's wiring or into a regular household outlet to avoid electrocution and shock hazards.
- Only start or stop the generator when there is no electrical load connected.
- Do not operate the generator in wet conditions, such as rain or snow.
- **Please remember:** Using a generator indoors can kill you in minutes.

For more information on generator safety, visit <https://bit.ly/3UKlsvF>.



Hurricane 101

Now more than ever, our homes have become our sanctuary. Our safe space. Understanding what extreme natural occurrences we may be up against – and how they impact our potential power supply – is crucial.

We know that a normal hurricane season typically includes 14 storms. The 2023 hurricane season alone delivered:

- 20 named storms
- 7 storms reaching hurricane force
- 3 hurricanes turning into major hurricanes

In 2024, Colorado State University (CSU) Tropical Meteorology project team predicts the highest active Atlantic hurricane season since 1995, citing a likely transition from El Niño to La Niña that could yield:

- 23 named storms
- 11 storms that could become hurricanes
- Upwards of five storms that could reach major hurricane strength with sustained winds of 111 mph or greater

Are You in a High-Risk Area?

While every mile of the U.S. Gulf and East Coast is vulnerable during hurricane season, some locations are more at risk of being hit in any given year.

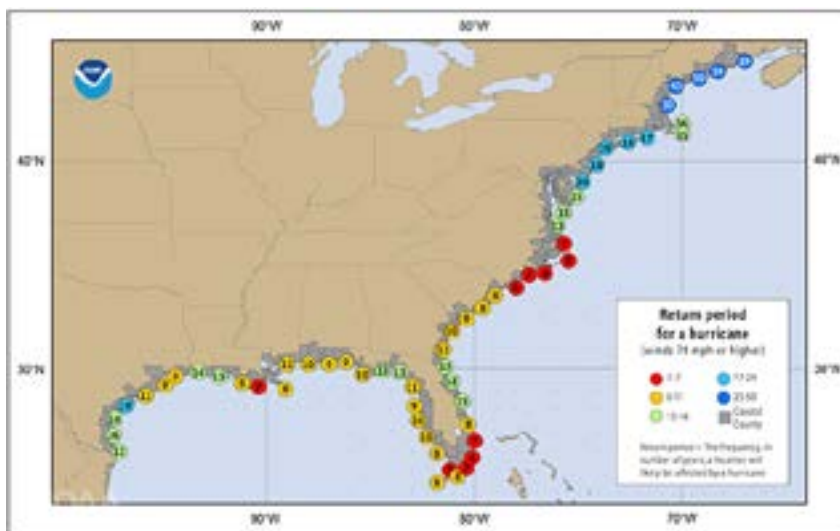
The National Hurricane Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) uses an analysis tool that predicts if a hurricane can be expected to pass within 50 nautical miles of a specific location.

According to their models, the areas with the highest return periods for a hurricane within the next 100 years (of any category) are coastal North Carolina, south Florida and southeast Louisiana, about every five to seven years.

Probabilities for at least one major hurricane landfall for 2024:

1. Entire continental U.S. coastline - 62% (average from 1880–2020 is 43%)
2. U.S. East Coast Including Peninsula Florida (south and east of Cedar Key, Florida) - 34% (average from 1880–2020 is 21%)
3. Gulf Coast from the Florida Panhandle (west and north of Cedar Key, Florida) westward to Brownsville - 42% (average from 1880–2020 is 27%)

Data source: CSU Tropical Meteorology Project Team



Be Prepared. Take Action.

The best time to prepare for a storm is well before it happens. Stay ahead of any weather event with the supplies and information you need to keep you and yours ready for anything.

Start Now

- Identify the safest location in your home to wait out a storm and review emergency plans for evacuation based on your local government's recommendations.
- Identify your nearest evacuation centers. Know when they open and, if applicable, which ones allow pets. As an alternative, create a list of options with friends or family who live outside of the forecasted storm area.
- Create a communication plan and designate a primary location (as well as a backup location) to meet after the storm.
- Gather local area maps in case mobile devices lack service.
- Build an emergency kit. See a list of recommended items to include at the end of this guide.
- If a hurricane damages your home, your insurance claim can be made easier if you make a list and photograph your most expensive items (both inside and outside the home).
 - Prioritize high-priced items such as jewelry, collectibles, electronics, power tools, lawn mowers, etc.
 - Show the items closeup and where they are in the home – include a piece of paper with the date and the value of the item.
 - Photograph wills, proof of insurance, receipts and other vital documents.
 - Be sure to talk with your insurer to understand the claims filing process and how these photos can best be used.
 - A printable form to list your household inventory is at the end of this guide.

Working Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms Save Lives

- Interconnected CO alarms are best; when one sounds, they all sound.
- Install both on each level and outside separate sleeping areas.
- Test alarms monthly and replace batteries as needed.
- Never ignore an alarm. Get outside immediately when it sounds. Then call 911.

Source: <https://bit.ly/4b8aWne>

How Long Do You Have to Prepare?



When a Watch is Issued

This means conditions are favorable to produce potentially dangerous weather in your area within 48 hours or less.



When a Warning is Issued

Severe conditions have been observed and potentially dangerous weather is imminent in or near your area within 36 hours or less.



Before the Storm

- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting.
- Fill bathtubs and large containers with water for sanitation purposes.
- Turn off and properly secure propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances in the rooms you do not plan to use during a storm.
- Charge cell phones.
- Check the yard and landscaping for any trees that should be trimmed, clear gutters and bring in outside items if they can be picked up by high winds.
- Fill gas cans in the event of an evacuation or to run a portable generator.
- Use hurricane shutters or board up windows and doors with $\frac{5}{8}$ inch plywood.
- Reinforce garage doors using a door bracing kit.



During the Storm

Should You Stay or Should You Go?

Prepare to Depart If:

- You live in a manufactured or mobile home.
- Your home was built prior to current hurricane building standards.
- Your home is vulnerable to a storm surge or flooding.
- An evacuation has been issued.

When Evacuating:

- Know where you're going. Plan primary and alternative routes ahead of time.
- Create an evacuation destination with a backup location in mind.
- Listen to orders at least twice to determine driving directions.
- Grab your emergency kit in anticipation of long power outages.
- Bring backup maps/directions in the event mobile services aren't available.
- Unplug appliances, turn off water at the main valve and deactivate electricity at the breaker box.
- Pack your vehicle and go to your designated evacuation spot or backup location.
- Turn on the radio to stay tuned to emergency bulletins.
- Stick to evacuation routes.

When Sheltering in Place:

- Cover all windows with permanent storm shutters or 5/8-inch exterior grade marine plywood.
- Take refuge in a small, interior room or closet in the lowest level of your home. Avoid windows and glass doors.
- Stay tuned to updates and have a battery-powered emergency radio on hand.
- Save phone battery as much as possible.
- Unplug all devices from outlets during outages to reduce power surge damage.
- If flooding nears the home, turn off all electricity.
- Evacuate immediately if given the order OR if the home is damaged.

Never operate a generator indoors (including in a garage) even with windows open. Carbon monoxide gas is odorless, colorless and can be deadly within minutes. Only use a portable generator outdoors, positioned at least 20 feet from windows, doors and vents with the engine exhaust directed away from windows and doors.



After the Storm

- **Do not** return before local authorities recommend.
- Whether sheltered in place or returning, stay alert for potential damage and dangers – including post-storm rain that can produce flooding.
- If your home was seriously damaged, leave immediately and contact local officials.
- If you suspect a gas leak, leave immediately and report it to local authorities.
- Check on neighbors.
- Report downed power lines to the utility company and local police/fire departments.
- Take photos of your home, yard and street.
- Contact your insurance.
- Do not drive on closed roads – avoid flash-flooding or downed power lines.
- Consider hiring contractors to clean up large debris to avoid personal injury.
- Keep receipts for possible reimbursement through insurance or government programs.
- If power is out, unplug all major appliances before turning the electricity back on to minimize possible surge damage.
- If your home flooded, have a professional electrician check the residence before turning electricity on.
- Save all phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often downed or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.

Extended Power Outages

- Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices.
- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Only use portable generators outdoors and **at least 20 feet** away from windows, doors and vents.
- **Do not** use a gas stove to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid potential surge damage.

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. Beyond that, they recommend discarding meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers.

However, a full freezer will hold a safe temperature for 48 hours (24 hours if half full). These times are only true if the appliance door remains closed. It's important to adhere to these guidelines during and after a power outage:

- Keep your refrigerator closed.
- Use a thermometer to check if food is 40 degrees or below before consuming.
- Consider backup options to power your refrigerator, especially during long outages.

Child Safety

Help keep children as calm as possible before, during and after a hurricane with a little guidance and reassurance to ease fears and stress.

Constant Communication

- Talk about your safety or evacuation plans before a storm arrives.
- Let them help gather supplies and feel part of the process.
- Keep in constant communication during a storm or hurricane. Talk through what you're experiencing and share your plans for what happens after the storm.

Child-Friendly Evacuation Kit

- Pack water, snacks and first aid items including bandages and antibiotic ointment.
- Include toys, games and other comfort items that don't require power.

**Living in an apartment and unable to install a home standby generator?
Consider Portable Power Stations: they produce zero emissions, are safe
for indoor use and can power a 120W refrigerator for over 7.5 hours.***

**Depending on model size*



Pet Safety

When preparing for a hurricane, keep your four-legged family members in mind as well. The ASPCA estimates one third of cat and dog owners don't have a disaster plan in place for their animals, leading to last-minute stress during evacuation situations.

Please remember: Not all hotels or shelters accept pets. If you decide to stay home, continue to monitor any evacuation notices.

Emergency Kits Should Include:

- 7 days food and water (with a can opener, if needed).
- 1 weeks' worth of medication.
- Pet carrier/kennel.
- Extra leash.
- Photo of you and your pet together to prove ownership.
- Pet ID tags, rabies vaccination tag and collar.
- Medical or vaccination records. You may need to show these to be allowed into a pet-friendly shelter.

Tips to Consider:

- Talk to your vet about getting your pet microchipped.
- If staying home, protect your pet with a leash or in a kennel at all times.
- A rescue alert sticker on your door can help rescue workers know if there are pets inside your home with you.
- If you evacuate, be sure to cross out the sticker and write "EVACUATED" so the rescuers know you and your pets are safe.
- When returning home, slowly reintroduce your pet – a disheveled house may cause stress and debris can be harmful to a pet.



A power outage is inconvenient for you – but it can be deadly for aquarium fish. To maintain the delicate balance in an aquarium, you must keep your filtration system and heater running 24/7. Whether the outage lasts for a few hours or a few days, here are several things you can do to minimize damage:

- Unplug your filter and rinse it before restarting.
- Maintain stable water temperature by covering the tank with a blanket.
- Make up for lost oxygen with a battery-powered air pump.
- Have a Generac generator to keep the power on.



Key Terminology

Know the terms used by meteorologists and be prepared for whatever is coming your way.

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

Direct Hit: Locations that experience the center and eye wall of a hurricane.

El Niño, La Niña, ENSO: El Niño and La Niña are warming and cooling phases of a recurring climate pattern in tropical Pacific (aka El Niño-Southern Oscillation or ENSO). The pattern shifts every two to seven years, creating disruptions in temperature, wind and precipitation. These changes affect the number and intensity of hurricanes.

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/Typhoon/Cyclone: A hurricane, typhoon and cyclone are all the same type of storm – a tropical cyclone that has reached 74 mph or more – just given different names based on where in the world it hits.

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 (or center of a hurricane) approaches.

Hurricane Warning: Issued 36 hours in advance of expected hurricane force winds (sustained at 74 mph). The warning may stay in effect if dangerously high water or dangerously high water and waves continue, even if winds dip below hurricane force.

Hurricane Watch: Issued 48 hours in advance of possible hurricane force winds (sustained at 74 mph or higher). Hurricane preparation becomes more difficult when winds reach tropical storm force.

Indirect Hit: Locations that do not experience a direct hit from a hurricane or tropical storm, but do experience the hurricane force winds.

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

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, an agency within the Department of Commerce that works to understand and predict changes in climate, weather and oceans. The National Weather Service (NWS) is a branch under NOAA.

ReallImpact Scale: Developed by AccuWeather and used for the first time during the 2019 hurricane season. 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: Most popular and recognized hurricane rating system, created in the late 1960s and expanded in the 1970s. 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, measuring the total seawater level during a storm.

Tornado Warning: Due to the high winds and cyclical nature of hurricanes, tornadoes can form. A tornado warning may be issued before, during or after hurricanes, and may occur within 36 hours.

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

Wind Shear: Strong high-atmospheric winds typically found during El Niño that blows the tops off storms, decreasing the likelihood they turn into tropical storms or hurricanes.



Emergency Kit Checklist

Food

- 7-day supply of non-perishables per person
- Manual can opener for food
- Disposable plates, cups, utensils
- Napkins or paper towels
- Cookware to boil water
- Propane tanks for your grill so you can cook

Water

- Three gallons of water per person, per day for both drinking and sanitation (FEMA recommends a 5-day supply)

First Aid

- Fully stocked first aid kit
- Additional prescriptions or essential medicine
- List of current medications and allergies
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Fire extinguisher
- Extra cash in case ATMs are down

Lighting

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Utility lighter
- Wrench and pliers to turn off utilities
- A large light source (e.g. lantern)

Communication

- Battery-powered AM/FM radio
- NOAA hazard-alert radio
- Car or emergency charger for mobile devices
- Cell phone
- Small notepads 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 rash ointment

Transportation

- Maps of local and state roads
- Directions to nearby shelters
- Spare tire or tire patch kit
- Emergency roadside flares or triangles
- List of local services and contact information

Sanitation & Personal Care

- Trash bags
- Disinfectant wipes or gels
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Spare set of clothes and shoes for each person
- One blanket per person
- Personal, feminine care items
- Soaps and shampoos
- Dust masks, plastic sheeting, duct tape, plastic ties

Pet Needs

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

Family Contact Information

Contact Information	
Out-of-Town Contact:	Contact Number:
Evacuation Center:	Phone Number:
Local Meeting Spot:	Phone Number:

Family Member Information	
Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:
Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:
Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:
Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:

Where We Might Be	
Family Member: Location 1: Address: Phone Number:	Location 2: Address: Phone Number:
Family Member: Location 1: Address: Phone Number:	Location 2: Address: Phone Number:
Family Member: Location 1: Address: Phone Number:	Location 2: Address: Phone Number:
Family Member: Location 1: Address: Phone Number:	Location 2: Address: Phone Number:

Resources

Provide the following for each family member and update with any changes.

Important Contacts	Company Name	Phone Number	Policy Number
Medical Insurance			
Homeowner's insurance			
Veterinarian			

Family Medication Form

Print out and complete for each family member. This form is for: _____

Medicinal Allergies	
Medication Name	Reaction

Current Prescriptions					
Medication Name	Doctor's Name	Doctor's Number	Reason for Treatment	Dosage (mg)	How Often I Take It

Non-Prescription Medications Including Vitamins & Supplements			
Name	Reason for Treatment	Dosage (mg)	How often I take it

Home Inventory

Use the following home inventory form for each room in your home to make sure all your valuables are documented in the event of a major storm.

Item	Price	Date	Brand
Furniture			
Electronics			
Other			

Reliable Support When You Need It Most

We know that when your power goes down, anxiety can go up. Everyday tasks get more difficult. And the lack of security that you and yours can feel is very real.

As the backup power experts, we're here to provide peace of mind in the face of severe weather, unreliable grid services and any other reason power to your home might fail.

But we go beyond just providing the backup power solutions you need – we're here with the customer and technical support for your Generac products 24/7, 365 days a year.

Call us at 888-GENERAC (888-436-3722) or visit [generac.com/service-support](https://www.generac.com/service-support).

Please keep these contacts readily available during Hurricane Season:

- **FEMA**
www.fema.gov
800-621-3362
- **Food Safety**
www.fsis.usda.gov
888-674-6854
- **CDC Emergency Preparedness & Response**
<https://emergency.cdc.gov>
800-232-4636

As always, dial 911 first in any emergency.

GENERAC®

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