



Hurricanes

The Weather Channel®

kids!

Hurricanes are powerful tropical storms that form in the southern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and in the eastern Pacific Ocean. In other parts of the world they are called typhoons and tropical cyclonic storms. Hurricanes gather heat and energy through contact with warm ocean waters. They grow in severity when evaporation occurs from the sea water.

Hurricanes rotate in a counter-clockwise direction around an "eye." With winds at least 74 miles per hour they can crush anything in their path. When they hit land, the heavy rain, strong winds and waves can take out buildings, trees and cars. They also cause heavy waves that are called storm surges. Storm surges are very dangerous and a major reason why you **MUST** stay away from the ocean during a hurricane warning or hurricane.



What to do

- Get updates from The Weather Channel, weather.com or your local TV or radio station.
- Have a family meeting to discuss a place to meet in case you are separated. Choose a friend or relative out of state for your family members to call to say they are OK.
- Assemble your disaster supplies kit. Store extra water, canned and dried foods, fresh batteries, flashlights and warm blankets. Have a designated area so everyone in the family knows where the supplies are.
- Storm shutters are the best protection for windows. If your house does not have them, remind your parents board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood. Tape is useless and does NOT prevent windows from breaking!
- Ask your parents to bring in outside furniture. An adult should remove roof antennas, if they can do so safely.
- Help your parents shut off your utilities -- water, electricity and gas.
- Make sure your parents know if there is enough gas in the car and cash on hand so you can be ready to evacuate immediately if you are told to do so.
- If you don't need to evacuate, be sure to **STAY INDOORS** during a hurricane. You could be hit by flying debris and objects. Don't be fooled if there is a pause in the wind. It could be the eye of the storm, and the winds will come again.
- Avoid using the phone except for an emergency so the phone lines can stay open for others.
- If you do evacuate, do **NOT** go back home until local officials say it is safe.
- Hurricanes can be very scary. If you are scared be sure to talk about it. You are not alone. Even adults get scared and it's good to share your feelings with each other.