

### ▲ Watch Your Water

After a storm or other natural disaster, public water supplies and private wells may not be safe to drink. If you receive your water through a public system, know your water provider. Look for updates about the safety of your water supply from your provider or state officials.

Water that is dark, has an odor, or has floating pieces should **NOT** be used. Water in water pipes, hot water heaters, and toilet flush tanks (not bowls) may be safe to drink **IF** the valve to the main water line was closed before the storm.

To disinfect water, use **ONE** of the following methods:

- Boil at a rolling boil for one minute. Make sure water is clear of floating pieces before boiling; **OR,**
- Add eight drops of liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of clear water or 16 drops per gallon for cloudy water. Do **NOT** use household bleach that contains perfumes or ingredients other than sodium hypochlorite as it may be toxic; **OR,**
- Add water purification tablets according to directions on the package.

Mix completely and let water stand 30 minutes before using.

### ▲ Water Tanks & Swimming Pools

The water in your hot water heater may become a critical source of clean drinking water. To isolate the hot water tank from other water supplies:

- (1) Shut off main water valve to the house.
- (2) Open the highest hot or cold water faucet in the house.
- (3) Turn off the gas or electricity to the tank before draining off the water for emergency use.

Swimming pool water may be used for bathing, flushing toilets, etc., but not for drinking or cooking (except as a last resort) because of the chemicals used to treat swimming pools.

### ▲ If You Use Well Water—

Save as much water as possible since your well will not work in a power outage. Fill the bathtub with water to be used for toilet flushing during a loss of power. If your well is flooded or damaged by the hurricane, assume that it is contaminated and do not use it until it has been flushed, disinfected and tested for bacteria.

For information on how to disinfect private wells, go to [www.ct.gov/dph/privatewells](http://www.ct.gov/dph/privatewells).

For more information,  
visit [www.ct.gov/hurricane](http://www.ct.gov/hurricane) or dial 2-1-1.

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2-1-1



# Are You Ready?



## How to Safely Weather Hurricanes & Other Natural Disasters

### Be Aware. Be Prepared.

Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Connecticut Department of Emergency  
Management and Homeland Security

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2-1-1



## ▲ Hurricanes Can Be Dangerous

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone in which the winds move in a counterclockwise motion. Tornadoes may also happen during a hurricane. The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June to November, with the peak from mid-August to late October.

Hurricanes are rated based on the speed of their winds. The higher the rating, the more damaging the wind will be. In addition to wind damage, coastal areas and rivers may flood from storm surge and heavy rain.

Hurricanes can destroy property, uproot lives, and even cause loss of life, so be prepared. Here's how:



## ▲ Plan and prepare

- Have a plan of what everyone is to do and where to go in case of an emergency.
- Know who is in charge of younger children and loved ones, neighbors who may be elderly or have special needs, and pets.
- Know the evacuation routes and public shelters in your area if you have to evacuate.
- Stock up on nonperishable food, water, medications and first aid supplies.
- Have a battery-powered radio and extra batteries on hand so you can stay informed.
- Have an emergency travel kit that includes food, water, battery-powered radio, flashlight, and first aid supplies.
- Consider flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program and take pictures of your belongings before disaster strikes.



## ▲ If a hurricane threatens—

- Secure your home with storm shutters or plywood and stow outdoor objects.
- If you have a boat, secure it.
- Trim trees and shrubs around your home and clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Fill the bathtub with water and keep the refrigerator closed.
- Keep cell phones charged and avoid using them except for serious emergencies.
- Fill up your car's gas tank and have your emergency kit ready to go.
- Listen to the radio or TV for information.

## ▲ Evacuate if—

- Told to do so by local authorities.
- You live in a mobile home or temporary structure.
- You live in a high-rise building. Hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- You live on the coast or near a river.

## ▲ If you cannot evacuate—

- Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all inside doors, and secure and brace outside doors.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed.
- Do not go outside if the storm dies down; it could be the eye of the storm and winds will pick up again.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.

