

# Be Red Cross Ready

## Hurricane Safety Checklist

Hurricanes are strong storms that cause life- and property-threatening hazards such as flooding, storm surge, high winds and tornadoes.

Preparation is the best protection against the dangers of a hurricane.

### Know the Difference

**Hurricane Watch**—Hurricane conditions are a threat within 48 hours. Review your hurricane plans, keep informed and be ready to act if a warning is issued.

**Hurricane Warning**—Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Complete your storm preparations and leave the area if directed to do so by authorities.

### What should I do?



- ❑ Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- ❑ Check your disaster supplies and replace or restock as needed.
- ❑ Bring in anything that can be picked up by the wind (bicycles, lawn furniture).
- ❑ Close windows, doors and hurricane shutters. If you do not have hurricane shutters, close and board up all windows and doors with plywood.
- ❑ Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and keep them closed as much as possible so that food will last longer if the power goes out.
- ❑ Turn off propane tanks and unplug small appliances.
- ❑ Fill your car's gas tank.
- ❑ Talk with members of your household and create an evacuation plan. Planning and practicing your evacuation plan minimizes confusion and fear during the event.
- ❑ Learn about your community's hurricane response plan. Plan routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs as required and make plans for your pets to be cared for.
- ❑ Evacuate if advised by authorities. Be careful to avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- ❑ Because standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding, it's important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact the U.S. For more information on flood insurance, please visit the National Flood Insurance Program Web site at [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov).

### What supplies do I need?



- ❑ Water—at least a 3-day supply, one gallon per person per day
- ❑ Food—at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food
- ❑ Flashlight
- ❑ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- ❑ Extra batteries
- ❑ First aid kit
- ❑ Medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)
- ❑ Multi-purpose tool
- ❑ Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- ❑ Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- ❑ Cell phone with chargers
- ❑ Family and emergency contact information
- ❑ Extra cash
- ❑ Emergency blanket
- ❑ Map(s) of the area
- ❑ Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- ❑ Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- ❑ Tools/supplies for securing your home
- ❑ Extra set of car keys and house keys
- ❑ Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- ❑ Rain gear
- ❑ Insect repellent and sunscreen
- ❑ Camera for photos of damage

### What do I do after a hurricane?



- ❑ Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.
- ❑ Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- ❑ If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.
- ❑ Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- ❑ Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.
- ❑ Stay out of any building that has water around it.
- ❑ Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes.
- ❑ Use flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles.
- ❑ Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.
- ❑ Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- ❑ Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.
- ❑ Watch animals closely and keep them under your direct control.
- ❑ Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

### Let Your Family Know You're Safe

If your community has experienced a hurricane, or any disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well Web site available through [RedCross.org/SafeandWell](http://RedCross.org/SafeandWell) to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don't have Internet access, call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.



For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org).

# How to Tarp a Roof

## Things You'll Need

- 5/8-inch or 3/4-inch exterior-grade plywood
- Circular saw
- 2 1/2-inch deck screws
- One-by-three lumber
- Cordless drill/driver

## Instructions

1 Examine the roof inside and/or outside for signs of damage, including discoloration, indentations, holes, and missing roofing materials. Also inspect flashing at plumbing vents, roof valleys, wall joints, and other areas for damage.

2 Cover any holes or indentations with 5/8-inch or 3/4-inch exterior-grade plywood. Cut the plywood patch to size with a circular saw so it extends well beyond the damaged area on all sides. Center the patch over the damage and fasten it to the surrounding roof sheathing with 2 1/2-inch deck screws driven at each corner of the patch and every 8 inches in between, using a cordless drill/driver. Patches help to prevent further damage from falling objects and protect against someone stepping through a hole or onto weakened roof decking.

3 Unfold the tarp and center it over the damaged area so its top edge lies over the roof peak and extends at least 2 feet down the adjacent roof plane. It's extremely helpful to have an assistant for the tarping process.

4 Lay one or more pieces of one-by-three lumber over the bottom edge of the tarp. The lumber should extend beyond the tarp's side edges and should be slanted to one side horizontally, to promote drainage. Roll up the tarp's edge, with the lumber inside, two or three times, maintaining the slight pitch for drainage. Place a second layer of one-by-three lumber on top of the roll, then secure the lumber and tarp to the roof sheathing with 2 1/2-inch deck screws.

5 Move to the top edge of the tarp and repeat the same process of rolling up and sandwiching the tarp in lumber. Pull the tarp tight and secure the top edge to the sheathing, as before. It's important to get the tarp tight to prevent wind from driving underneath and ultimately tearing the tarp.

6 Secure both side edges of the tarp with 3- or 4-foot-long pieces of one-by-three lumber and screws. Gap the pieces a foot or so apart to allow for drainage, and secure the tarp along the entire length of each side. You do not need to roll the side edges of the tarp into the lumber.

7 Create a leak-proof seam between two tarps by overlapping the bottom edge of the upper tarp and the top edge of the lower tarp. Roll up both tarps over one-by-three or two-by-four lumber, making three complete rolls. Secure the roll to the roof deck with 3-inch screws.