

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Tega Cay Fire Department Wants You to Be Ready

Because the Carolinas experience tropical storms, we want to make sure our citizens have what they need to be better prepared in the case of severe weather in our area. The City of Tega Cay Fire Department has put together a go-to-guide from various Federal and State Agencies to make sure that our citizens are ready. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has comprehensive information available at [Ready.gov/hurricanes](https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes).

#1: GATHER INFORMATION

- Know if you live in an evacuation area. Assess your risks and know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind. Understand National Weather Service forecast and especially the meaning of NWS watches and warnings. Contact your local National Weather Service office and local government/emergency management office. Find out what type of emergencies could occur and how you should respond.
- Establish a list of contacts for reference:
 - [Local Emergency Management Office](#)
 - [City Law Enforcement](#)
 - [City Public Safety Fire/Rescue](#) – 9-1-1 (All emergencies)
 - [City Government](#)
 - Local Hospitals
 - [Local Utilities](#)
 - [Local American Red Cross](#)
 - Local TV Stations
 - Local Radio Stations
 - Your Property Insurance Agent
- Complete a Risk Analysis. Online hazard and vulnerability assessment tools are available to gather information about your risks.
 - Check your hazards risks with [FEMA's Map Portal](#)
 - Rate your flood risk with the [FloodSmart.gov](#) portal

#2: PREPARE & TAKE ACTION

- Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected. Your friends and family may not be together when disaster strikes. Think through questions such as how will you find each other? Will you know if your children or parents are safe? You may have to evacuate or be confined to your home. What will you do if water, gas, electricity or phone services are shut off?
- Put together a [basic disaster supplies kit](#) and consider [storage locations for different situations](#). Help community members do the same.
- Develop and document plans for specific risks.
 - Protect yourself and family with a Family Emergency Plan - [[PDF](#)]
 - Be sure to [plan for locations away from home](#)
 - Business owners and site locations should create [Workplace Plans](#)

- Pet owners should have [plans to care for their animals](#). The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention offer information on [animal health impacts in evacuation shelters](#).
- Prepare your boat and be aware of [marine safety](#).

#3: CONSIDER HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT IN PLANNING

- Follow guidelines to guard your community's health and protect the environment during and after the storm.
 - Review the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) [health considerations before, during, and after a storm](#).
 - Remember to follow the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) [food and water safety guidelines during disasters](#).
 - Review the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggestions for [health and environmental safety in disaster preparedness](#).
- Review the [FEMA Evacuation Guidelines](#) to allow for enough time to pack and inform friends and family if you need to leave your home. FOLLOW instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered!
- Consider [your protection options](#) to decide whether to stay or evacuate your home if you are not ordered to evacuate.
- When waiting out a storm be careful, the danger may not be over yet...
- Be alert for:
 - Tornadoes – they are often spawned by hurricanes.
 - The calm "eye" of the storm – it may seem like the storm is over, but after the eye passes, the winds will change direction and quickly return to hurricane force.

#4: RECOVER

- Wait until an area is declared safe before returning home.
- Remember that [recovering from a disaster](#) is usually a gradual process.

RESOURCES

- [FEMA - Are You Ready? Guide](#)
- [National Weather Service Weather Safety](#)
- [Be a Force of Nature with NOAA's Weather-Ready Nation](#)
- [NWS Storm-Ready Sites & Communities](#)
- [Occupational Safety & Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#)
- [Ready.gov Kids](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)