



THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

HURRICANE AND TROPICAL STORM WATCHES AND WARNINGS

It is important to know the difference between hurricane or tropical storm watches and warnings.

WATCHES:

A hurricane or tropical storm watch means that, within 48 hours, the threat of a hurricane or tropical storm exists for various sections of The Bahamas.

PROCEDURES:

When a hurricane or tropical storm watch is issued:

- Fuel family vehicles.
- Store and secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture and other loose lightweight objects such as toys, garden tools, and garbage cans.
- Prepare to cover all window and door openings with boards, shutters, or other shielding materials.
- Check food and water supplies.
- Have clean air-tight containers on hand to store at least two (2) weeks of drinking water (4 gallons per person) and stock up on can goods.
- Keep a small cooler with frozen gel packs handy for packing refrigerated items.
- Check prescription medicines – obtain at least ten (10) days to two (2) weeks supply.
- Stock up on extra batteries for radios, flashlights, and lanterns.
- Check and replenish first aid supplies.
- Have on hand an extra supply of cash.

WARNINGS:

A hurricane or tropical storm warning means that, within 36 hours, hurricane or tropical storm conditions could impact your area.

PROCEDURES:

When a hurricane or tropical storm warning is issued:

- Follow instructions issued by the Department of Meteorology, and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).
- Leave immediately if ordered to do so.
- Know where the nearest shelter is to your location.
- Complete preparation activities, such as boarding up windows and storing loose objects.
- Wedge sliding glass doors to prevent them lifting off of the tracks.
- Turn your refrigerator to maximum cold and don't open unless necessary.
- Evacuate areas that might be affected by storm surge flooding.
- If evacuating, leave early and leave food and water for pets (shelter will not take them).
- Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warning area of your evacuation plan.
- Use phones only for emergencies.