

Hurricane Preparedness

Member Guide



Dear Members:

A major disaster is something none of us want to experience. But they happen and we must be prepared, not only individually, but as an organization.

This document is consistent with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and is intended as a guide and does not replace federal, local government guidelines. Everyone must decide their own plan. The information in this guide is not binding and ECTBC takes no responsibility for actions or inactions arising from the contents of this document.

However, disasters do alter our lives, communities and churches and we must be ready and equipped to face them. We have an obligation to pray that God averts disasters and if they must come, protect His people and the weak and vulnerable and those who risk their lives to provide needed services before, during and after disasters.

Finally, I hope everyone develops a personal and home plan and pray all of us fare well during this hurricane season and always.

Sincerely,

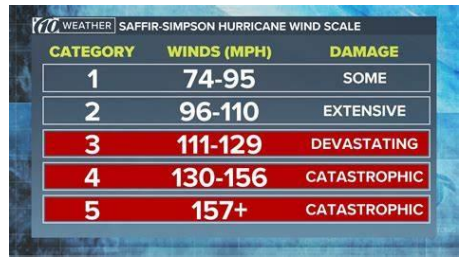
Lennox Zamore

Lennox Zamore, Senior Pastor

Damien Beal

Damien Beal, Facilities Manager

Defining the storm

A graphic of the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. It features a table with five categories, each with a corresponding wind speed range in mph and a description of the damage. The background is a dark blue with a subtle pattern of clouds and a hurricane. The text is white and yellow.

WEATHER SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE		
CATEGORY	WINDS (MPH)	DAMAGE
1	74-95	SOME
2	96-110	EXTENSIVE
3	111-129	DEVASTATING
4	130-156	CATASTROPHIC
5	157+	CATASTROPHIC

Tropical Storm

Strong thunderstorms with maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph

Category One Hurricane Winds of 74 to 95 mph; surge 4 to 5 feet — No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Also, some coastal flooding and minor pier damage.

Category Two Hurricane Winds of 96 to 110 mph; surge 6 to 8 feet — Some roofing material, door and window damage. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, etc. Flooding damages piers and small craft in unprotected moorings may break their moorings.

Category Three Hurricane Winds of 111 to 129 mph; surge 9 to 12 feet — Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings, with a minor amount of curtain wall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures, with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain may be flooded well inland.



Hurricane watch
Issued when hurricane
conditions are possible
within 36 to 48 hours.

Hurricane warning
Issued when hurricane
conditions are expected
within 24 to 36 hours.

Category Four Hurricane *Winds of 130 to 156 mph; surge 13 to 18 feet* — More extensive curtain wall failures, with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Terrain may be flooded well inland.

Category Five Hurricane *Winds of 157 mph plus; surge 18 feet plus* — Hurricanes may result in failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures, with small utility buildings blown over or away. Flooding causes major damage to lower floors of all structures near the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be required.

Source: National Weather Service Hurricane Center, The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale, 2012.

What to do before a hurricane

Insurance — Make sure you have adequate coverage for hurricane damage

Inventory — Make a complete written inventory of all your contents. Also, photograph and/or videotape the contents and store photos and tapes off-site in a secure place

Know your environment

Locate the safe areas

inside your facilities. Safe areas include:

- Interior rooms — without windows
- Closets
- Basements

Prepare a personal

hurricane survival kit for everyone who is regularly in the building in case you and your staff must ride out the storm at your facility.

Each kit should contain:

- Bottled water (three-day supply)
- Flashlights and batteries
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Portable radio and batteries
- First-aid kit and Rx/meds
- Dust masks
- Toiletry kit
- Nonperishable food that does not require cooking

Locate the water, gas, and electrical shutoffs so you can use them quickly if needed.

Conduct practice drills with your family.



If a hurricane watch is issued, cover all windows, doors, and wall openings with a minimum of 3/4-inch exterior plywood.

Annual hurricane preparation checklist

	Yes	no
Does your insurance cover hurricane damage?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are the insurance limits adequate?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has a written inventory of the contents been taken?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are safe areas identified?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have the water, gas and electrical shutoffs been located?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is someone responsible for protecting the windows, doors & wall openings?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are buildings free from overhanging branches and trees?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the roof in good repair?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are electrical appliances and valuable items, such as antiques, off the floor?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are gutters free of leaves and twigs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is valuable property stored in safe areas?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do sewer traps have check valves to stop water from backing up in sewer drains?.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are first-aid supplies on hand?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you have a supply of food that requires little or no cooking?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



What to do during a hurricane

Evacuation plan — If local authorities direct you, leave immediately and follow their instructions

- Have maps and an evacuation route preplanned
- Let others know where you are going
- Have a plan for how you will reach each other if you get separated

If you are unable to evacuate:

- Go to your safe areas — stay indoors
- Close all interior doors
- Stay away from doors and windows

How Will a Disaster Affect Church Communication?

If communication is not disrupted, ECTBC will reach out to its members through REALM, email, or phone. If communication is disrupted through power outage, internet outage or cellular damage, ECTBC will reach out to its members through local news or through emergency local government resources.

Emergency Shelter Items

- Adequate amounts of water
- Radios
- Flashlights
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Medical kits
- Communication devices
- Toiletry items
- Towels and washcloths
- Blankets
- Name, address and telephone number of everyone using your facility
- Food
- Extra batteries



What to do after a hurricane

Once local authorities have authorized you to return, follow these guidelines to minimize losses and stay safe:

- If your facility has suffered damage, report the loss to your insurance company.
- Before reentering the building, check for structural damage. Don't go in if it looks unsafe or if there is a chance of falling debris.
- Don't use matches, candles, lighters or other open flames as gas may be trapped inside.
- Turn off the electricity at the main circuit panel. Keep the power off until an electrician has inspected your system.
- Do not start the heating, cooling or boiler systems until the systems have been inspected.
- Check for sewage and waterline damage. If you suspect damage, avoid using toilets and faucets. Turn off water at the meter and call a plumber.
- Make temporary repairs to protect the property from further damage by covering holes in the roof, walls or windows with tarps, boards, or plastic sheeting.
- Contact utility companies and a reputable contractor to secure the building. Require a certificate of insurance from all contractors coming on site.
- Take photographs of the damage to help document your claim.
- Keep receipts of all expenses related to the loss.
- Wear rubber boots and waterproof gloves and other protection during cleanup.
- Clean walls and hard-surfaced floors with soap and water. Disinfect with one cup of bleach to five gallons of water.
- Remove and discard materials that cannot be disinfected, such as wall coverings and drywall.
- Throw away any food items, including canned goods, that have come into contact with floodwaters.
- Until local authorities declare the water supply to be safe, do not drink tap water or use it in food preparation unless it is boiled first.

Stay Safe, Stay Prepared, and May God Bless You