

HURRICANE

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PRECAUTIONS

New Jersey, Division of Civil Defense and
Disaster Control

Foreword

History has taught us that New Jersey has been faced with many types of natural disasters over the years. The type most common to our state, however, is the hurricane. Records show that many hurricanes of varying intensity have hit the Garden State.

Hurricanes are more prevalent during August, September and October, with September being the time when the largest number have struck in New Jersey.

Public awareness of the dangers of a hurricane is the greatest safeguard against this type of natural disaster. By taking common sense precautionary measures, the loss of life and property caused by hurricanes can be greatly reduced.

This booklet has been prepared by the New Jersey Division of Civil Defense and Disaster Control to acquaint the general public with the primary steps to take during the hurricane season.

THOMAS S. DIGNAN

State Director of Civil
Defense and Disaster Control



**KEEP EXTRA FOOD
THAT NEEDS NO
COOKING**

RIGHT NOW BEFORE THE HURRICANE
SEASON ARRIVES YOU SHOULD:

--Have handy a flashlight, candles and matches (in protected container). Also a battery powered radio should be available. Power lines are usually among the first victims of a hurricane.

--Check your home for loose shingles and shutters, shaky chimneys; your yard for dead or dying tree limbs.

--Residents of exposed areas should store a supply of boards to nail over windows. A source of canned heat and an emergency food supply should be stored in the least vulnerable spot in the home.

DURING THE HURRICANE YOU SHOULD:

--Stay indoors. Be sure that a window or door can be opened on the lee side of the house-- the side opposite the one facing the wind. If the "eye" of the storm passes directly over, there will be a period of calm lasting up to a half hour but the wind will return suddenly from the opposite direction, frequently with even greater violence. Again, keep calm.



STAY INSIDE THE HOUSE



STAY AWAY FROM THE WINDOW

I Thought
He Was
Just
KIDDIN'



IF TOLD TO
EVACUATE
DO IT...AND FAST!

AFTER THE HURRICANE PASSES YOU
SHOULD:

--Not touch loose or dangling
wire. Report damage to police
or light and power company. If
live wire falls on your car while
you are driving, stay inside and
wait for aid.

--Guard against spoiled food
in refrigerators.

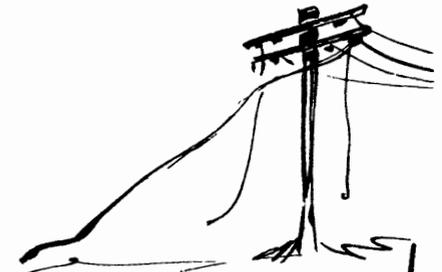
--If house is flooded or damaged,
it must be inspected by public
health officials and building
inspectors before you may re-enter.

--Unless you are qualified to
render valuable aid, stay away
from disaster areas where you may
hamper rescue or first aid work.

--Drive cautiously. Watch for
debris; pavement may be undermined
by water.



NEVER TOUCH A FALLEN WIRE!



SPECIAL WARNINGS FOR VACATIONISTS:

The following safety measures apply particularly to vacationists and boat owners:

--Follow storm warnings carefully.

--Tune in frequently on radio or TV before starting on a fishing trip or cruise.

--Secure pleasure craft when official storm warnings are issued by the Weather Bureau.

--Haul boats to safe locations upon receiving storm notices.

--Give vessels at anchor plenty of slack in moorings to avoid swamping.



--Add an extra anchor to secure boats.

--Secure loose gear.

--Leave beaches or other spots which may be threatened by high tides.

--Keep a sharp eye out for high water in places where streams may flood from heavy rains.

What is a Hurricane?

It's a hurricane when the winds are 74 miles per hour or stronger rotating around its center. The winds move counterclockwise.

Most of the hurricanes that seriously affect North America are born during the months of August, September and October. Nearly 60 per cent of these hurricanes form during August and the first half of September.

About four hurricanes develop each year from tropical storms, but an average of two of them hit the U.S. shores. This has been averaged out over a 40-year period.

A hurricane has two types of motion. One is the forward motion, which is usually five to 15 miles an hour. The other is the rotating motion about its center, which represents its hurricane winds.

Wind speeds of hurricane force may cover an area outward from the eye to a distance of one hundred miles, with lesser but still destructive winds extending two hundred and fifty miles from the center.

The highest wind speed observed was the 186 miles per hour recorded in New England in 1938, but wind damage indicates that speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour have occurred. Winds of 90 to 100 miles per hour are fairly common in well-developed hurricanes.



Names for Hurricanes?

The U.S. Weather Bureau each year publishes a group of girls' names to label hurricanes that may develop. It notes 21 names that will be used for storms in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico. An equal number are allocated for storms of the Eastern North Pacific.

There is a good reason for adopting this form of identification for tropical storms. For several hundred years many hurricanes in the West Indies were named for the particular saint's day on which they occurred. Later, a cumbersome latitude-longitude system was used to locate and differentiate storms.

It was not only difficult to transmit this information with speed and accuracy, but the inexperienced landlubber trying to do his own map plotting might find he had misplaced a full-blown Atlantic hurricane. This often led to disastrous personal results.

A single hurricane can spark an untold number of phone calls, news bulletins, news stories, and messages to millions of people who might be affected. To fill the need for positive identification in high speed communication, a better method had to be found.

Experience proved that hurricane name tags should be short, clearly pronounceable, quickly recognized, and easily remembered.

In 1953 the practice of using girls' names came into being and met all the requirements. In 1960 four alphabetical lists were chosen by the Weather Bureau. One set is used each year. At the end of the fourth year the first set of names is used again and the process is repeated.

There is one exception to this system. When a particularly severe storm occurs, the name is retired from usage for a period of 10 years to avoid confusion.

Who in the Weather Bureau actually selected girls' names? This is one bit of information the Bureau has never divulged.

