



Hurricane Floyd, 1999, NASA.

The Plainville-Southington Health District urges all residents to take preventive action as your best defense against having to deal with the 2014 Atlantic Hurricane Season. The principal threat period for Connecticut runs from mid-August to mid-October.

Connecticut is at risk for experiencing these tropical weather events annually with weather ranging from locally mild wind and rain to severe events that affect the entire state, so residents should take these storms and their impact seriously.

Preparing for these weather events is similar to preparing for other emergencies:

- ✓ Discuss hurricanes and other natural hazards with family members and develop a communication plan
- ✓ Consider those in your family and community who may need extra assistance
- ✓ Don't forget your pets
- ✓ Stay informed via traditional or social media
- ✓ Gather emergency supplies

Discuss hurricanes and natural hazards with your family:

- ✓ Make a Communication Plan ahead of time in writing
- ✓ Have an emergency contact list that includes out-of-town contacts since this contact may be out of the storm impact area and easier to contact than a local number
- ✓ Ensure all family members have the contact numbers or know where they are located

- ✓ Cell phone users are encouraged to store emergency contact number as “ICE”, (In Case of Emergency) should emergency personnel need to contact that person if you are not able to
- ✓ Instruct/confirm family members can text as this form of communication can often bypass clogged phone systems
- ✓ Subscribe to “ALERT” services such as <http://www.ct.gov/ctalert>
- ✓ Identify contact person and check-in time for everyone to check in after a disaster or evacuation

Before a Storm:

- ✓ Secure your property such as shutters/boards over windows, trim shrubs/trees close to residence, clear gutters, store or secure loose items in your yard
- ✓ Make sure your vehicle’s fuel tank is full, gas pumps need electricity to work or pumps may be damaged by a storm
- ✓ If using a generator, make sure it is installed safely and exhaust gases are appropriately vented due to Carbon Monoxide risk. NEVER use a generator inside homes, garages, sheds or similar areas even with doors and windows open
- ✓ Know where your utility shut off valves for natural gas, electricity and water are and how to use them
- ✓ Have cash on hand. If the power goes out so do ATMs and credit card machines
- ✓ Charge you cell phones and try not to use them if the power goes out. Use text messaging when possible to save power
- ✓ Ensure specialty needs are met: medications, baby formula, and diapers

During a Storm:

- ✓ Listen to radio/television for storm progress updates
- ✓ Turn refrigerator and freezer on coldest settings
- ✓ Store drinking water and fill your bathtub with water for sanitary purposes
- ✓ Review evacuation plan
- ✓ Observe and report problems such as flooding , downed power lines or gas leaks to the proper authorities
- ✓ **Travel Trailer/Mobile Home Safety – No travel trailer or mobile home-no matter how new it is- can be a safe shelter from storm force winds**
- ✓ **If you are told to evacuate:**
 - Leave as soon as possible
 - Communicate with family and tell someone outside your area where you are going with your contact information

- Take emergency supplies, warm protective clothing, and blankets/sleeping bags to a shelter
- Protect your home by unplugging appliances, turning off electricity at main power switch and main water valve and disconnect your hose
- Turn off propane tanks
- Lock up your trailer and leave

Don't forget your pets:

- ✓ Have a safe place to take your pets
- ✓ Consider special needs such as medication, special diet or if the pet is exotic
- ✓ Find boarding kennels outside your area
- ✓ Keep informed by media if pet emergency shelters being setup
- ✓ Have a portable pet carrier on hand
- ✓ Have identification for each pet
- ✓ Have enough pet food

After a Storm:

- ✓ Consider safety first when returning home
- ✓ Watch for downed electrical wires and consider all downed wires live
- ✓ Flooding can damage your property, roads, and bridges and leave debris that can injure you or your family members or hide washed out structures. Be careful when entering your home or driving.
- ✓ Don't drive through flooded streets, turn around, don't drown. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet or stall your car. Two feet of moving water can carry your car away
- ✓ Be on the lookout for animals (wild as well as domestic) displaced by the storm. They may be using your home as shelter and may bite or carry disease
- ✓ Debris is not a play scape, supervise children closely
- ✓ Food may have spoiled so check your food items and if in doubt throw it out
- ✓ Water supplies (municipal and private) may be contaminated. Water that is dark-colored, has an odor, or floating objects present should be considered suspect
- ✓ As you inspect your residence, if walls and carpets/floors have become wet, mold could develop
- ✓ Inspect your home for damage by checking for loose power lines, gas leaks, and structural damage

- ✓ Take pictures of damage for insurance purposes
- ✓ Use battery powered flash lights in the dark, never use candles in case of a gas leak
- ✓ Stay tuned to local radio or television for information from your local or state officials
- ✓ Return home only after state or local officials advise that it is safe to do so

Stay informed:

- ✓ Sign up for state alerts via: Email; PDAs; Mobile Phones; and/or Text/ Instant Messaging wherever you are with CT Alert ENS Citizen Sign Up by going to <http://www.ct.gov/ctalert/site/default.asp>
- ✓ The Town of Plainville uses the Everbridge Reverse 911 System to relay important storm-related emergency information to our residents if and when necessary and also encourages residents to sign up at <http://www.ct.gov/ctalert/site/default.asp> as mentioned above
- ✓ Southington residents can register their email addresses on the Town of Southington Website, <http://www.southington.org> to receive Email Notifications of any Emergency Information that is posted to the site. To register your email go to www.southington.org; click on “Email Notifications”, add your email address and place a check in the ****ALERTS & EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS**** box. To submit your email click “Join” at the bottom of the page
- ✓ National Weather Service – <http://www.weather.gov>
- ✓ National Hurricane Center – <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>
- ✓ CT Department of Emergency Management and Public Protection – <http://www.ct.gov/demhs>
- ✓ American Red Cross, CT Chapter – <http://www.redcross.org/ct>
- ✓ Federal Emergency Management Agency – <http://www.ready.gov>
- ✓ Consider individuals with access and functional needs and be aware of the following community resources ahead of time at:
 - Southington Social Services - 860-628-3761
 - Plainville Social Services - 860.793.0221 x294
 - Visit and sign up for the Southington Police Special Needs Registry at: <http://www.southingtonpolice.com/joomla/index.php/component/k2/item/152-special-needs-registry>

Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit

- ✓ Stock a minimum of three (3) days but consider having a two week supply of emergency necessities
- ✓ Store clean-up and repair supplies in a safe place
- ✓ Make your kit portable in case you need to evacuate

- ✓ Don't forget special supplies for babies, the elderly, and those with access or functional needs
- ✓ Review your homeowner's or renter's insurance plan as it relates to natural disasters and add a copy to your emergency kit

BASIC NEEDS

<input type="checkbox"/> Alarm clock (battery operated)	<input type="checkbox"/> Eating and cooking utensils
<input type="checkbox"/> Battery or crank-operated	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency cooking facilities, grill
<input type="checkbox"/> NOAA All-Hazards radio	<input type="checkbox"/> Propane gas for grill
<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights (1 per/person)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gas in approved container, generator
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries	<input type="checkbox"/> Butane lighter
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire extinguisher	<input type="checkbox"/> Work boots/shoes
<input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit and manual	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothes
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash, credit cards	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bags, sheets & towels
<input type="checkbox"/> Driver's license	<input type="checkbox"/> Blankets and pillows
<input type="checkbox"/> Cellular phones and chargers	<input type="checkbox"/> Bleach in well-marked container
<input type="checkbox"/> Important phone numbers	<input type="checkbox"/> Soap, shampoo, toiletries
<input type="checkbox"/> Prescriptions & eyeglasses	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponges/paper towels
<input type="checkbox"/> Water, 1 gallon/person/day	<input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper & toweletes
<input type="checkbox"/> Water purification tablets	<input type="checkbox"/> Feminine hygiene products
<input type="checkbox"/> Coolers for food & water	<input type="checkbox"/> Baby food, diapers & formula
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned & dried food	<input type="checkbox"/> Toys/books to occupy family members
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-electric can opener	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet food
<input type="checkbox"/> Pots & pans	<input type="checkbox"/>

IMPORTANT PAPERS

<input type="checkbox"/> Social Security cards	<input type="checkbox"/> Stocks & bonds
<input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificates	<input type="checkbox"/> Household inventory
<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage & death records	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer file backups

<input type="checkbox"/> Wills	<input type="checkbox"/> Pictures (personal & of belongings)
<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance policies	<input type="checkbox"/> Savings & checking books
<input type="checkbox"/> Deeds & mortgages	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLEANUP AND REPAIR SUPPLIES	
<input type="checkbox"/> Axes, hammers & hatchets	<input type="checkbox"/> Extension cords
<input type="checkbox"/> Bars, wrecking and crow	<input type="checkbox"/> Generators
<input type="checkbox"/> Brooms	<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy plastic tarps
<input type="checkbox"/> Camera to record damage	<input type="checkbox"/> Inflatable raft
<input type="checkbox"/> Chains, steel	<input type="checkbox"/> Ladders
<input type="checkbox"/> Chain saw & fuels	<input type="checkbox"/> Lanterns & fuels
<input type="checkbox"/> Caulk & caulking gun	<input type="checkbox"/> Lumber
<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito repellent
<input type="checkbox"/> Duct & masking tape	<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic trash bags
<input type="checkbox"/> Drills & bits	<input type="checkbox"/> Nail, screws & bolts

Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the supply kit in the trunk of your car.

Change your stored water supply every six months so it stays fresh. Replace batteries and update clothes.

The Plainville-Southington Health District is concerned about your health and safety. If you have additional questions, please contact the Plainville-Southington Health District at 860-276-6275 or visit our web site at <http://pshd.org>