



Scenario Four: Hurricane/Flood

A key element to successfully responding to and recovering from a major disaster is the overall preparedness of individual citizens and their families. With that in mind, we invite you to participate in a series of ‘What would you do?’ scenarios with your loved ones to assess your level of preparedness. These tabletop activities are intended to be low-stress conversation starters to be discussed, as the name implies, around your dinner table. We do not want to know your results. Following the situation, we have included some discussion questions for the activity, as well as some helpful links to enhance your individual preparedness.

Scenario: The local news reporters are growing more concerned with an approaching hurricane. You can’t turn on the TV or radio without hearing about how this could be the “Storm of the Century.” You don’t want to panic, but you really don’t want to take any chances. The storm is two days away - now is the time to act.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the flood risk for the area you live in? Do you know where to find that information?
2. What is the difference between a Hurricane Watch and a Hurricane Warning?
3. What actions can you take around your house to help reduce the impact of a flooding event?
4. Discuss your family’s plan for a hurricane or major flood. What supplies do you have saved for such an event?
5. Where do you keep copies of important documents such as birth certificates, insurance policies, marriage license, or favorite photos?
6. If you have pets, what is your plan for them? Do you know if your town allows pets in shelters?
7. Does anyone in your family have any special needs (such as medical, emotional, or physical needs, or limited English proficiency) that might present challenges if you must stay at a shelter? If so, have you prepared a special plan for them?
8. Do you know your evacuation route? Do you have a plan to stay with family or friends if you need to evacuate your home?
9. How will your family members communicate with each other if phone lines and cellular towers have been damaged?
10. Have you discussed purchasing flood insurance for your property/properties?
11. I know that my neighbors have elevated their homes to make it safer, and they save money on their flood insurance premium. Is there anything else I can do to make my home less vulnerable?
12. Do you know when hurricanes are most active?
13. How can you be safe after a hurricane or flood?

Time to see how you did!

To learn more about this scenario and to check your plan, go to <https://community.fema.gov/take-action/hazards>. With your loved ones, discuss what steps you think that you should take to improve your safety in the event such a tragedy occurs.

Helpful Links

To learn more about hurricane and flood preparedness, please visit <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes> and <https://www.ready.gov/floods>