

Busting Hurricane Myths in a FLASH

How do you know when it's time to evacuate? According to the [Federal Alliance for Safe Homes \(FLASH\)](#), more than 84% of Americans base their evacuation decisions on the category of the hurricane. The reality is that most evacuation circumstances are based on flood and storm surge risk, not wind speed!

At this year's National Hurricane Conference, [FLASH](#) launched [#bustamyth](#); an initiative intended to realign America's views regarding when to evacuate in a tropical storm or hurricane and to dispel other hurricane myths such as:

- 54% of Americans think taping windows protects from hurricane damage, when in fact it is a waste of time and money and may prove to be dangerous. Permanent wind shutters provide the best protection against flying debris and wind.
- 84% of Americans believe they need to evacuate based on wind speed, but in fact the greatest threat to life in a hurricane is flood and storm surge risk. Because hurricanes can be detected ahead of time, take heed of authorized evacuation warnings. Head for higher ground or evacuate to somewhere outside of the projected danger zone of the hurricane.
- 69% of Americans believe that it costs more than \$10,000 to strengthen their homes, when it can be done effectively for little more than \$1000. Measures to protect against potential flooding and wind damage include reinforcing windows and roofs, waterproofing basements and elevating critical utilities.

For more facts on how to prepare for a hurricane, check out the [America's PrepareAthon How to Prepare for a Hurricane](#) guide!