

# 2016 FEMA Hurricane Preparedness Digital Toolkit Template: Sample Blog Post/Op-Ed

Posted by: *[organization]*

## It Only Takes One: What We're Doing to Prepare for Hurricanes

June 1 marks the start of the 2016 hurricane season. May 15-21 has been designated as [Hurricane Preparedness Week](#) to urge Americans to prepare their home and families before the season begins, with each day throughout the week is dedicated to a specific action that people can take to get prepared.

Hurricanes are one of nature's most powerful and destructive natural disasters that we face. It only takes one to change your life. It's not just major hurricanes that we need to worry about. Hurricanes such as Sandy and Isaac remind us that significant impacts can occur without it being a major hurricane at landfall. *[Organization]* is committed to get ready for potential hurricanes in *[state/city]*.

*[Include personal experience or examples of past hurricanes in your area to highlight the importance of getting prepared before it's too late]*

## What can you do before hurricane season begins?

Know your risk, get prepared, and stay informed.

**Know Your Risk:** To search for general information about risks in your area, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and search for your state *[add in specific ready.gov link or state and local emergency websites]*. Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. High winds, heavy rainfall, tornadoes, and flooding can be felt hundreds of miles inland, potentially causing loss of life and catastrophic damage to property. Check out [NOAA's historical hurricane tracks tool](#) to check the severity and frequency of past hurricanes in your area.

**Get Prepared:** As the storm approaches, it is often too late to get ready. Before hurricane season, make sure you:

- **Know your zone.** Evacuations are more common than people realize. Make yourself familiar with your community's evacuation zones, so you'll know exactly where to go. *Remember:* if a hurricane threatens your community and local officials say it's time to evacuate, don't hesitate -- go early.
- **Complete a family communication plan.** Plan how you will assemble your family and loved ones, and anticipate where you will go for different situations. Get together with your family and agree on the ways to contact one another in an emergency, identify meeting locations, and make a [Family Emergency Communication Plan](#).
- **Download the [FEMA app](#).** The FEMA App includes disaster resources, weather alerts, safety tips, and a new feature that will enable users to receive push notifications to their devices to prepare their homes and families for disasters. The app also provides a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, maps of open shelters and recovery centers, tips on how to survive disasters, and weather alerts from the National Weather Service.

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- *Check your insurance coverage.* Many states have increased deductibles for hurricanes and not all hurricane-related losses are covered under traditional policies. Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage or losses from flooding. Review your policy, ensure you're adequately covered and understand exclusions, and contact your agent for any changes. If you're not insured against flood, talk to your agent or visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). Renter's insurance policies are also available and should be considered as a way of protecting your belongings.

**Stay Informed:** Know where to go for trusted sources of information during a hurricane event. Sign up for alerts from your local emergency management office so notifications, including evacuation orders, go directly to your phone and email. Monitor local news for hurricane watches and warnings in your area and follow directions of local officials. Make sure you have a battery-operated or hand-crank radio available should the power go out.

Additional information is available at [www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes) and [insert links to state/local government or company websites].