FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TIPS
FOR EVACUATING
DURING A COASTAL STORM

Stay alert to storm advisories
Watch and Warning—know the difference.

Enact your family disaster plan

Map out your route
Use travel routes specified by local authorities. DO NOT get on the road without a place to go.

Fill your car with gasoline

Evacuate if told to do so
DO NOT get stranded, EVACUATE EARLY.

Enact your pet plan
Before a storm threatens, contact your veterinarian or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency. Shelters do not usually accept pets.

Bring your disaster supply kit
Including important documents, identification, and proof of residency.

Secure your home before leaving
Board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside and lock your doors.

Get cash
Following a coastal storm, banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed.

Notify family and friends of your plans

When evacuating:
If possible, evacuate to the home of either friends or family in a non-vulnerable area within your county. Next, try a motel or hotel and as a last resort go to a shelter.

People who require special assistance in evacuating should register with their local emergency management office.

www.state.de.us/dema

Disaster Supply Kit

WATER—at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 days

FOOD—at least enough for 3 days
— non-perishable packaged or canned food/juices
— food for infants or the elderly
— snack foods
— non-electric can opener
— cooking tools/fuel
— paper plates/plastic utensils

CLOTHING—seasonal/ rain gear/ sturdy shoes

BLANKETS/PILLOWS, etc.

FIRST AID KIT/ MEDICINES
— prescription and non-prescription medications
— glasses, dentures, hearing aids, etc.

SPECIAL ITEMS—for babies and elderly

TOILETRIES—Hygiene items

MOISTURE WIPES

FLASHLIGHT/ BATTERIES

RADIO— Battery Operated and NOAA Weather Radio

CASH

KEYS—Extra set of home and car keys

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS in a waterproof container
— insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
— identification and proof of residency such as a utility bill
— document all valuables

TOYS/BOOKS/ ENTERTAINMENT

TOOLS—Keep a set with you during the storm

VEHICLE FUEL TANKS FILLED

PET CARE ITEMS
— proper identification/immunization records
— ample supply of food and water
— a carrier or cage
— medications
— muzzle and leash

Watch and Warning—Know the Difference

A WATCH issued for your part of the coast indicates the possibility that you could experience coastal storm or hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family’s disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated—especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, etc.

A COASTAL FLOOD WARNING issued for your part of the coast indicates that moderate or severe coastal flooding is occurring, is imminent, or is expected within the next 12 hours.

A HURRICANE WARNING is issued when sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once this warn- ing has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

Listen to Your Emergency Alert System (EAS)

Radio Stations:
New Castle County: WSTW (93.7 FM); WDEL (1150 AM)
Kent County: WDSD (92.9 FM); WDDO (1410 AM)
Sussex County: WZBH (93.5 FM); WSSR (900 AM)
Statewide Traffic Information: WTMQ (1380 AM)

For More Information:
Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA)
302-659-3362; in-state toll free: 877-729-3362
www.state.de.us/dema

Local Emergency Management Offices
New Castle County: 302-573-2855
Kent County: 302-736-2222
Sussex County: 302-855-7801
Wilmington: 302-571-4430

Local Contact Information:
(If this area is blank, check the Government Pages of your phone book for your county’s emergency management office phone number)

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Develop a family disaster plan
Stay alert to storm advisories
WATCH and WARNING—Know the difference.
Purchase a NOAA weather radio
Keep a Disaster Supply Kit ready
Have enough food and water for at least three days
Protect valuable documents
Make your home more disaster resistant
Prepare to board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside.
Get cash
Following a coastal storm, banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed.
Fill your car with gasoline
Have a pet plan
Before a storm threatens, contact your veterinarian or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency.

Do not use candles or open flames as a light source
Work with your neighbors
Check on elderly or those with special needs.
As the storm hits, gather your family in a safe room (an interior room with no windows and one that will not flood)
Following the storm, watch out for downed power lines
Listen to your local officials!

Everyone should develop a family preparedness plan well in advance of a storm threat.

Did you know...
You need to store at least a three-day supply of water for each person in your household. Stored water should be changed every six months.

Did you know...
Many public shelters do not allow pets. If you evacuate to a shelter make arrangements for your pets.

Did you know...
Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance. Do not make assumptions. Check your policy.

Many more tips are available online at www.state.de.us/dema.