

Preparing for a Hurricane

Hurricane or tropical storm warnings are usually issued by the National Hurricane Center days in advance.

If you plan to weather a large hurricane at home, inventory your house as far in advance as possible with adequate supplies for at least one week of at-home confinement. Allow for one gallon of water per person per day (about eight 1/2 liter Poland Spring bottles per person per day). Canned and dry foods should be stored above any possible water infiltration. Extra batteries (including cell phone batteries) should be fresh and important prescriptions filled. Pet supplies should be on hand as well as travel cases should an evacuation be ordered (pets are generally not allowed in general population shelters so make plans for their care). Keep all your vehicles filled with gas and check the operation of your generator if you have one. Secure all outdoor furniture (throw them in your pool if you can't otherwise secure them) and any other items (planters, etc.). Tape or plywood large windows if possible and cross-brace garage doors from the inside as the storm path is finalized. Remember that power will probably go out and may stay off for some time so be sure you have filled necessary prescriptions, gotten any cash you might need, etc.

If you plan on leaving, it is best to do so as far in advance of the projected landfall as possible. Any mandatory evacuations will be ordered by that time making it difficult to get anywhere. Long Island's south shore will likely be under some sort of evacuation order if a hurricane is expected to come ashore as a Cat 3 hurricane and that population will move north and many will try to leave the island clogging roads. Even if you do leave, prepare your home (as noted above) to be sure your outdoor furniture does not become a hazard to your home and your neighbor's. A "Go-Kit" will streamline your departure schedule.

Just before the hurricane makes landfall, fill your bathtubs with water for use in toilets and cleansing should water supplies be interrupted. Lower the temperature of your refrigerators and freezers to maximize their interior storage times when the power goes out. Stay away from doors and windows. Listen to your radio for storm updates (only call Police in the event of emergency). Don't try to drive anywhere until you are advised that roads are passable.

If you have not done so already, register your contact information with North Shore Alert to receive localized information via email, text or phone (northshorealert.org).

For more information on Long Island Hurricane Preparedness, visit <http://www.nassaucountyny.gov> and follow the link to the OEM page
and

<http://www.nyredcross.org> and follow the "Prepare" link to hurricane readiness