



City of New Bedford
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City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

P R E S S R E L E A S E

2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season is June through November

New Bedford, Massachusetts- June marks the beginning of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, which runs through November 2018.

New Bedford Emergency Management has issued the following message regarding hurricane awareness and preparedness so that those who live and work in the City have important information in the event of a hurricane.

Residents are encouraged to visit New Bedford Emergency Management's website and its hurricane resources section, at www.newbedford-ma.gov/emergency-management/hurricanes/ for more important information.

Important Reminders from New Bedford Emergency Management:

Know Your Evacuation Zone

For New Bedford residents, please refer to the city's Hurricane Maps on the Emergency Management page of New Bedford's City website, www.newbedford-ma.gov, to find out if you live or work in a hurricane evacuation zone, or you may contact New Bedford Emergency Management at 508-961-3060 for additional information. Residents and businesses are urged to heed evacuation orders from city officials when issued.

Be Prepared for a Hurricane

There are important steps everyone should take to prepare themselves and their family for the next hurricane or tropical storm. Being prepared reduces the risk of property damage, injury or death.

- Be prepared to evacuate or shelter in place;
- Ensure your family is prepared by building an Emergency Kit and developing a Communication Plan;
- Prepare your home and property for a hurricane

Evacuate or Shelter in Place

In New Bedford, it may be necessary to evacuate parts of the city to protect residents from storm surge flooding. In all but the most severe storms, the area of evacuation will be those low-lying areas outside the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier. Residents living in mobile homes should also consider evacuating as well. Evacuation is also an option for residents living outside potential flood areas who feel more comfortable “riding out” the storm in the safety and security of a mass care hurricane shelter.

Otherwise, residents should **shelter-in-place**. Shelter-in-place simply means stay home, or wherever you happen to be, and off the roads when recommended by local officials.

Evacuation

Know if you live or work in a Hurricane Evacuation Zone. See the Hurricane Maps page on the [New Bedford Emergency Management website hurricane section](#) for additional information

If you live or work in an evacuation zone, you should plan for and be prepared to evacuate during a hurricane as part of your emergency plan.

Listen to weather forecasts and to local officials before and during a hurricane for evacuation and other emergency information. If evacuations are necessary, local officials may use the evacuation zones (Zone A or Zone B) or other geographic description to identify areas to be evacuated. If local officials call for an evacuation of an area that you live in or work in, you should follow their directions and evacuate to a safe area.

Make a Family Emergency Plan of what you would do if asked to evacuate. Consider where you would go, how you would get there, what you would bring. See the Hurricane Evacuation page on the [New Bedford Emergency Management website hurricane section](#) for additional information.

Shelter-In-Place

During hurricanes, if you do not evacuate, you will likely shelter-in-place. As part of your emergency plan, consider what you would need to do in advance of sheltering in place. This includes building an Emergency Kit and preparing your home for emergencies. See the Shelter-in-Place page on the [hurricane preparedness section](#) for additional information.

Build an Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a stocked basic Emergency Kit that could be used for any emergency, regardless of the time of year. Everyone should keep certain items around the house and workplace in the event you are isolated for three to five days without power or unable to go to a store.

While some items, such as bottled water, food, flashlight, radio and extra batteries, a first aid kit, sanitation items and clothing should be in everyone’s kit, it is important to customize the kit for the needs of you and your family. Consider adding medications, extra eyeglasses, contact lenses, dentures, extra batteries for hearing aids, wheelchairs, or other medical equipment, oxygen tanks, children’s items, food & supplies for pets and service animals and any other items your family might need. A list of allergies, medications and dosages, medical insurance information, medical records and serial numbers of medical devices will provide additional information during an emergency.

Visit the Emergency Kit page on the [New Bedford Emergency Management website hurricane section](#) for additional information.

Make a Plan for a Hurricane: Create a Family Emergency Communications Plan

Develop a Family Emergency Communications Plan in case family members are separated from one another during a hurricane or tropical storm, or during any other emergency. The plan should include information on how to get in touch with each other if you are not all together as well as reunification after the storm has passed.

A Family Emergency Communications Plan can help reassure everyone's safety and minimize the stress associated with emergencies.

Visit the Make a Plan page on the [New Bedford Emergency Management website hurricane section](#) for additional information.

Prepare your home and property for a hurricane.

Visit the Protect Your Property page on the [New Bedford Emergency Management website hurricane section](#) for additional information.

From the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA):

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) seasonal outlook predicts a near, or above-normal number of hurricanes this season. Regardless of how many storms develop this year, it only takes one storm to severely impact an area. In 2011, Tropical Storm Irene produced devastating flooding in Central and Western Massachusetts. Irene was a reminder that hurricanes and tropical storms can impact the entire Commonwealth, not just coastal regions, and that all Massachusetts residents need to prepare for the possibility of hurricane impacts this season. To learn more about the hazards associated with hurricanes and tropical storms, visit MEMA's hurricane webpage: www.mass.gov/mema/hurricanes.

About MEMA

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA's staff of professional planners, communications specialists and operations and support personnel is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - individuals, families, non-profits and businesses - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, ensuring effective response, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover. For additional information about MEMA and Emergency Preparedness, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

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