



## **FACT SHEET**

### ***Emergency Preparedness Resource Guide***

Kasundra Cyrus, EdD  
Family and Human Development Specialist  
225-771-2242 ♦ kasundra\_cyrus@suagcenter.com

# **HURRICANES**

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone with sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or more. Hurricane winds blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center known as the “eye.” The “eye” is generally 20 to 30 miles wide, and the storm may spread outward as far as 400 miles. As a hurricane approaches, the skies will begin to darken and winds increase. Hurricanes bring torrential rains, high winds and storm surges as they near land (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2006).

### **What to do to prepare for a hurricane**

Some businesses, schools and organizations will usually close during the notification of the watch. However, these are suggestions for preparing for the weather conditions.

- Keep a week’s supply of food and water at home or at the workplace/organization facility.
- Follow flood preparedness precautions if the business or home is in an area prone to flooding.
- Have an alternative location for children if time does not permit parents to pick-up their children.

### **What to do during a hurricane watch**

- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for hurricane reports.
- Check your Disaster Supply List and get any missing items in case of a lengthy stay away from home.
- Review your evacuation plan.

### **What to do during a hurricane warning**

- Listen constantly to a battery-operated radio or television for official instructions.
- Have a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy. Use flashlights instead of candles or kerosene lamps.
- Evacuate if told to do so.
- Take your disaster supply kit with you.

### **What to do after a hurricane**

- Continue listening to local radio station for information.
- If you evacuated, return to the center or building after local officials announce that the area is safe.
- Make sure everyone in your care is accounted for and safe.