



**U.S. ARMY**

# FORT BUCHANAN HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS Army Family Housing



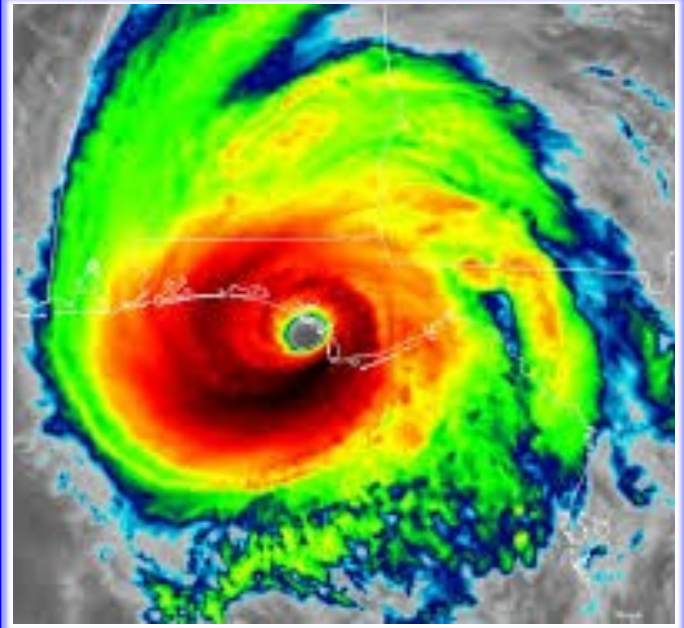
**Public Works Emergency (Maintenance):**  
**Emergency Services (Police and Fire):**  
**Non-Emergency Police:**  
**Non-Emergency Fire:**

**(787) 378-6550 or (787) 707-3971**  
**(787) 707-4911 or (787) 707-5911**  
**(787) 707-3337**  
**(787) 707-3410 or (787) 707-3520**

Know the difference between a hurricane **WATCH** and a hurricane **WARNING**.

**WATCH:** Hurricane conditions are possible in specified area within **36 hours**.

**WARNING:** Hurricane conditions are expected in specified areas; usually within **24 hours**.



## INFORMATIONAL SITES

- <https://home.army.mil/buchanan/>
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

## Hurricanes: How they form

Hurricanes are tropical cyclones. When a tropical cyclone's sustained winds reach 39 to 73 mph (63 to 118 km/h), it is considered a tropical storm and it gets a name from a list put out by the World Meteorological Organization. Once those sustained winds reach 74 to 95 mph (119 to 153 km/h), that storm becomes a Category 1 hurricane. According to the Saffir-Simpson scale, here are the sustained winds linked to categories 2 through 5 hurricanes:

- Category 2: 96 to 110 mph (154 to 177 km/h)
- Category 3: 111 to 129 mph (178 to 208 km/h)
- Category 4: 130 to 156 mph (209 to 251 km/h)
- Category 5: 157 mph or higher (252 km/h or higher)

At heart, hurricanes are fueled by just two ingredients: heat and water. Hurricanes are seeded over the warm waters above the equator, where the air above the ocean's surface takes in heat and moisture. As the hot air rises, it leaves a lower pressure region below it. This process repeats as air from higher pressure areas moves into the lower pressure area, heats up, and rises, in turn, producing swirls in the air.



## Before a Hurricane

- Open and close shutters. Ensure they are operable.
- Pick up/dispose of debris that may become a flying projectile.
- Create a Disaster kit: This should consist of water (1 gallon per person per day for ten days), food (ten days per person), batteries, flashlights, a first aid kit, a cell phone with back up charger, a help whistle, garbage bags, pliers, a manual can opener, and a 14 day supply of medications. Your valuable documents should be tucked away in a waterproof /fireproof container.
- FUEL! FUEL! FUEL!. Ensure you have enough.
- Don't forget maintenance items (e.g. oil, filters, etc.) and extension cords.

## Children

- Ensure you have a Child Preparedness kit that includes wipes, toys, games, favorite stuffed animal, a week's worth of clothing, snacks, baby foods, diaper bag, a 14 day supply of medications, and blankets.

## Pets

- Have readily available a pet carrier. Be sure to label the carrier with your pet's name, breed, sex, date of birth, your current address and contact numbers, and any important medical information. Have at least two slip leashes.
- Ensure you have 14 days of prescription medications, as well as heartworm and flea preventives. Pack them in a bag with your pet's essentials. Carry a week's worth of food and water. Divide your pet's meals into individual storage bags.

## Power Generators

- Change the lubricant oil/filters following the manufacturer's instructions. Clean the spark plugs.
- Run generator for about 30 minutes. Watch out for any signs of trouble—strange noises, leaks, parts which are not functioning properly and so on.
- Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- Never try to power the house by plugging the generator into a wall outlet or connect to the main panel; a practice known as "back feeding". This is extremely dangerous.

## During a Hurricane

- Stay inside and away from windows, skylights, and glass doors. Find a safe area in your home (an interior room like a closet or bathroom on the lower level).
- If flooding threatens your home, turn off electricity at the main breaker.
- If you lose power, turn off major appliances such as the air conditioner and water heater to reduce damage.
- Do not use electrical appliances, including your computer.
- Do not go outside. If the eye of the storm passes over your area, there will be a short period of calm, but at the other side of the eye, the wind speed rapidly increases to hurricane force and will come from the opposite direction. Also, do not go outside to see "what the wind feels like." It is too easy to be hit by flying debris.

## After a Hurricane

- Remain indoors until an official "all clear" is given.
- Do not touch fallen or low-hanging wires of any kind under any circumstances. Stay away from puddles with wires in or near them. Do not touch trees or other objects in contact with power lines.
- Use phones for emergencies only and call (787) 707-4911 only for life-threatening situations.
- Do not walk in, play or drive through flooded areas. These may contain hazards.
- Call DPW immediately to report hazards such as downed power lines, broken gas or water mains, overturned gas tanks, or any other dangerous situation you come across.