

# What Should You Do If A Coastal Storm Threatens Your Community?



## 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](http://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 warning 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: WSDS (92.9 FM); WDOV (1410 AM)  
 Sussex County: WZBH (93.5 FM); WSSR (900 AM)  
 Statewide Traffic Information: WTMC (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](http://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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# Everyone should develop a family preparedness plan well in advance of a storm threat.

Tear off here and place on your refrigerator



**Which path should you take?**  
**Do you live in a vulnerable area?**  
 (Mobile home, an area that floods frequently, on a barrier island or near the coast)

**YES**  
**EVACUATE**

**NO**  
**STAY AT HOME**

**Assemble your disaster supply kit**  
 (see other side)

**Have a place to go**  
 Home of a family member or friend, motel or shelter

**Notify family or friends of your plans**  
 When you are leaving and where you are going

**Assemble your disaster supply kit**  
 (see other side)

**Did you know...?**  
 When possible, evacuating within your county reduces your chance of being stranded in traffic and shortens your time to return home.  
 Before a storm threatens, contact emergency management offices for evacuation and shelter information.

**Evacuation Route**

**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.  
 More information: [www.redcrossdelmarva.org](http://www.redcrossdelmarva.org)

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

**Did you know...?**  
 Making your home more disaster resistant can prevent the need to evacuate and can reduce damages.  
 For More Information: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

**Did you know...?**  
 Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance. Do not make assumptions. Check your policy.  
 For information: [www.fema.gov/nflp](http://www.fema.gov/nflp) 1-888-CALL-FLOOD ext.445

**Fill your car with gas**

**Bring extra cash**  
 Banks may be closed, ATMs may not work

**Enact your pet plan**

**Bring important family documents**  
 in a waterproof container

**Secure your home**

**Bring toys, books and games**  
 for entertainment

**Bring pillows and blankets**  
 Also bring rain gear and sturdy shoes

**Map out your route**  
 Be familiar with your area's evacuation routes  
 Don't know where to go? **GO BACK 8 SPACES**

**Fill your car with gas**

**Get extra cash**  
 Power outages may cause banks and ATMs to be closed

**Check on your neighbors**  
 Particularly the elderly or disabled

**Use your NOAA weather radio**  
 Stay alert to weather advisories

**After the Storm**  
 Listen to local officials for the all-clear  
 Delaware Emergency Management Agency  
 1-302-659-3362  
 in-state toll free: 1-877-729-3362

**Arrive safely at your destination**

**Secure your home**  
 Board up windows and secure loose yard objects

**Stock extra supplies**  
 Batteries, water and canned food

**Enact your pet plan**

**Assemble your disaster supply kit**  
 (see other side)

## FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TIPS FOR STAYING AT HOME DURING A COASTAL STORM

- 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!