

Disaster Preparedness

Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Each disaster has lasting effects, both to people and property.

If a disaster occurs, the government and disaster-relief organizations will try to help you, but you need to be ready as well. Responders may not be able to reach you immediately, or they may need to focus their efforts elsewhere. You should know how to respond to severe weather or any disaster that could occur - hurricanes, earthquakes, or flooding etc.

Hurricanes

Hurricane Season for the Cayman Islands is 1 June to 30 November. By the start of the season everyone should have the basics needed to survive a severe weather event.

At the end of the season re-evaluate what occurred and what additional supplies you will need in the future.

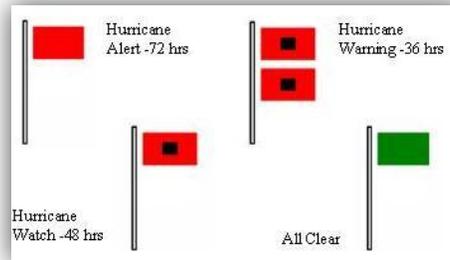
Being over prepared may cost money; being under prepared can cost lives.

- Get informed.
- Make a Family Disaster plan.
- Assemble a kit.
- Maintain your plan and kit.

Assemble a hurricane supplies kit that includes basic items a family would probably need to stay safe during, and after an emergency event.

Be Informed

Listen to the local media for information related to the disaster. Know the locations of shelters in your area.



Earthquakes

Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently and without warning. Identifying potential hazards ahead of time and advance planning can reduce the dangers of serious injury or loss of life from an earthquake. Repairing deep plaster cracks in ceilings and foundations, anchoring overhead lighting fixtures to the ceiling, and following Building Code, will help reduce the impact of earthquakes.

Check for Hazards in the Home

- Fasten shelves securely to walls.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass, and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.
- Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches, and anywhere people sit.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.

- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks.
- Secure a water heater by strapping it to the wall and bolting it to the floor.
- Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects and make repairs as needed.
- Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches and on bottom shelves.

Identify Safe Places Indoors and Outdoors

- Under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table.
- Against an inside wall.
- Away from where glass could shatter around windows, mirrors, pictures, or where heavy bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over.
- In the open, away from buildings, trees, telephone and electrical lines.

Inventory

Make an inventory of your belongings and / or photograph or video tape your possessions.

Disaster Supplies

Stock non-perishable emergency supplies, a disaster supply kit and a first aid kit.



Documents

Keep vital documents in a waterproof container or sealed in a large Ziploc bag. Store them in one secure, readily accessible location. Include passports, driver's license, vehicle registration and title, birth and marriage certificates, insurance policies, medical and immunization records, will, bank account numbers, land and property titles, a list of important phone numbers.

Computer

You may want to copy your computer hard drive to a portable disk or thumb drive and store this in your waterproof container.

Take Responsibility for Your Own Welfare

Take First Aid, CPR and join your Community Emergency Response Team.

Stock up for Medical Needs

Plan ahead for any special medical needs you may have (keep prescriptions full and up to date at the start of the hurricane season.

Pets

Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you are facing the threat of a hurricane and need to leave your home or fly off island. Update pet vaccinations and microchip your pet.



Boats

Plan ahead for where you will store or dock your vessel in the event of an impending strike from a hurricane.

Helpful Tip

If you live in a flood prone area, you can use concrete blocks to elevate furniture and appliances off the floor

Never

Never store gas cylinders inside your home. Never operate a generator indoors. Never refuel a generator while it is running.

HAZARD MANAGEMENT CAYMAN ISLANDS

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Preparing for All Hazards



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