


Safety against Natural Hazards

ready

Clouds and trees



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Introduction

Natural disasters have been sweeping news channels for decades now. They are devastating sources of tragedy and deaths, which have been hitting all parts of the planet at a shockingly increasing rate of recent. The good thing is the constant advancements in disaster tracking technologies and accurate data collections and information's on satellites, TV and the internet have made it possible for us to keep ourselves safe from these natural disasters. However, to ensure our safety it is highly imperative that we proactively act in preventive ways.

1. Hurricanes – Preparing For the Worse

On hearing about a hurricane forecast, the first thing that comes to our minds is what measures you need to take to prepare for it. Here are a few tips to help you:

- Plan how to secure your belongings and property. It will be a good idea to get storm shutters to protect windows. Another good option is to get ready to install hard board-up marine plywood windows with dimensions of 5/8". People sometimes tape up their windows to prevent them from breaking; however, that is not an effective solution.
- Installing additional clips and/or straps to fasten and secure roofs to the frame structures is very helpful. Doing this protects roof from damages.
- Make sure your pets are safe. Send them off to a safer place if you can. If you decide on keeping them with you, be sure to get pet safety kits and take all the necessary measures to protect them.
- Make sure the shrubs and trees are short and trimmed all around your house.
- Get the downpipes and rain gutters cleaned and clog-free beforehand.
- If you own a boat, think of a good place to secure it.



- Consider getting a panic room or safe room constructed. These are fortified rooms, which anyone can install in residences or other buildings to provide a safe haven against any disasters or threats.



Planning Evacuations

Most people are unaware of the fact that evacuations are actually quite common these days. Every year, numerous industrial and transportation accidents cause the release of harmful gases and substances, which force people to relocate.

Natural disasters lead to evacuations even more often, especially in the Atlantic coast and gulf areas where hurricanes hit more frequently. Local authorities are the best place to find out about evacuations routes from. They also provide maps with emergency evacuation routes marked out on them. When evacuations become unavoidable, local officials send out warnings and use different methods of notifying residents, by spreading out flyers and using telephone calls and sirens. Officials also let people know the estimated time within which the evacuation should take place. Generally, the amount of time needed for you to evacuate will depend on the hazard and extremity of the expected storm. If monitoring the status of the hurricane is going well, you can estimate the exact number of days for the





evacuation. In some cases, people have about a day or two to gather up some necessities and evacuate, but in many other disasters there is hardly enough time to round up things.

Guidelines for Evacuations

Things to Do During a Hurricane Storm

2. Thunderstorms

Indoor Safety Tips for Homes

**Things to Do On Hearing of a Thunderstorm
Likely Hitting Your Region**

Things to Do After Thunderstorms

3. Earthquakes

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Six Things to Take Note Of To Avoid Hazards At Home:

Pet and Animal Safety

Important Conditions for Evacuating

Post-disaster Safety

Examining Injuries

- Checking Safety