

# Ready for Tomorrow By Preparing Today



“Zion (the pure in heart) shall escape if she observe to do all things whatsoever I have commanded her.”

**- Doctrine & Covenants 97: 25**

# **Metro-NY area is particularly vulnerable to Hurricanes**

- The most populated hurricane-prone coast in the US
  - Emergency resources will be strained under the load
- Longer intervals between hurricanes creates a lowered understanding of the danger and a lax readiness level
- Local factors amplify destruction
  - Rocky shores, tall buildings, dense development
- Power, communications, and transport systems are highly vulnerable to salt water flooding
- Northern storms have larger wind field and faster velocity than southern storms

# Church Handbook

**Handbook 2: 6.1.1** “...Church members are responsible for their own spiritual and temporal well-being. Blessed with the gift of agency, they have the privilege and duty to set their own course, solve their own problems, and strive to become self-reliant. Members do this under the inspiration of the Lord and with the labor of their own hands...”

**Handbook 2: 6.2.2** “ ...[Ward] council members ... develop and maintain a simple written plan for the ward to respond to emergencies...They coordinate this plan with similar plans in the stake and community.”

**Handbook 2: 6.3.2** “In stake council meetings, leaders...develop and maintain a simple written plan for the stake to respond to emergencies...This plan should be coordinated with similar plans of other stakes in the coordinating council and with plans in the community.”

# **What to do TODAY — Before the Storm**

There are three critical steps that every preparedness authority recommends

**Make a Plan**

**Build a Kit**

**Be Informed**

# What to do TODAY — #1 Make a Plan

**Evacuation Plan: where to go and how to get there**

- » Identify a “safe house” outside of the evacuation area; where you will be expected
- » A private residence with a relative, friend, or designated church member is best.
  - Otherwise a pet-friendly motel if available
  - As a last resort – a public shelter
- » A power outage may disable elevators, so don't pick a place many stories high

# What to do TODAY — #1 Make a Plan

## Communication Plan:

- BEFORE the storm be sure to call...
  - The host family you are evacuating to
  - One relative to spread the word to others
  - A church leader
    - Send email to <YourWard>Evacuation@yahoo.com
- AFTER the storm report your status and needs to
  - One relative to spread the word to others
  - church leaders
  - See the Red Cross “Safe and Well” website to report your status: <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>

**Note:** even when phone/internet service are unavailable or busy, text messaging might still work

- A Ham Radio network is being developed for our area.

# What to do TODAY — #1 Make a Plan

Your evacuation plan must meet your needs. Every family is different.

- number of people & ages (children and/or elderly)
- disability/health issues
- Pets
- Size of car (or lack thereof)
- Available cash
- Survival experience

Pray for inspiration and seek help through your home teachers or visiting teachers if needed.

- **Update your plan every spring**
- **Test your plan with full scale drill**

# What to do TODAY — #2 Build a Kit

Ideally you want one ready-to-go kit per person and pet

- Easily portable (consider wheels or a backpack)
- In a known/accessible place for quick grab and go
- Refresh it over time to reflect the changing needs of the family
  - e.g. growth of children

You can purchase ready-made go-kits and customize them or build them from scratch.

# What to do TODAY — #2 Build a Kit

## Here's a list of basic recommended items:

- » **Contact information**; and important documents—see:  
<http://www.ready.gov/america/downloads/familyemergencyplan.pdf>
- » **Water**--at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days.
- » **Food**--at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Can-opener.
- » **Cash**--ATMs and credit card readers might be out. Have small bills to make change.
- » **Prescription** medications and glasses.
- » Battery-powered or hand crank **radio and flashlight**. Extra batteries.
- » **First aid kit**; and whistle to signal for help .
- » Moist towelettes, garbage/ziploc bags for **personal sanitation**.
- » **Local maps**.
- » Charged **cell phone** with chargers, inverter or solar charger.

# What to do TODAY — #2 Build a Kit

## • Longer term needs for Home and “safe house”

- » **Water**—Too little can be fatal.
  - At least 14 gallons per person and pets (a 2 weeks supply).
  - Fill water containers and the bath tub before power is lost
  - Local stores will be cleaned out quickly.
  - It generally takes the government 1-2 weeks to supply fresh water after a hurricane.
- » **Food**-- Have two-weeks of non-perishable, ready-to-eat cans of food.
  - Bottles and jars may break if stored on high shelves.
- » **Medicines**
  - 2 weeks' worth of your prescriptions and OTC medicines on hand at all times
- » **Flashlights** with extra batteries.
- » Additional **Cash**
- » **Shoes** under each occupied bed to protect your feet in case there is broken glass in middle of night due to high winds
- » **Large bags** for garbage and ziploc bags for human waste
- » See [Ready4Tomorrow](#) website for alternative cooking methods and water sanitation

# What to do TODAY— #3 Be Informed

**How do most people learn of a pending hurricane?**

- Local TV (75%)
- Weather Channel (55%)
- Radio (30%)
- CNN (20%)
- Word of Mouth (10%)
- Internet (5%)

**Other ideas:**

- E-mail, smart-app alerts
- NOAA Weather radio

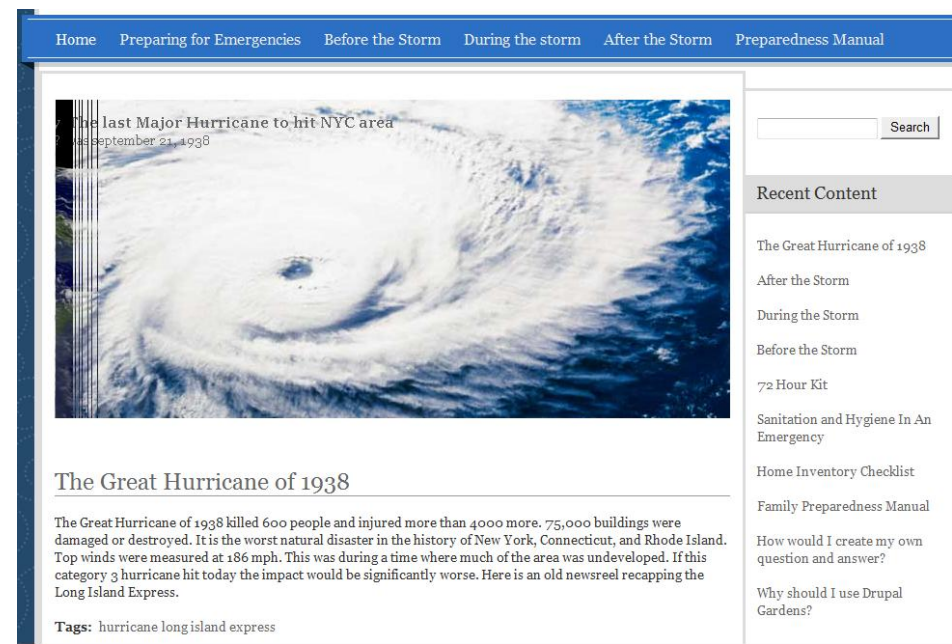
**In Yorktown Stake we will send a Call-Em-All phone message**

# What to do TODAY—Be Informed

A hurricane preparedness website for members in the New York metro area has been established at <http://ready4tomorrow.org/>.

It contains:

- » General information on preparing for emergencies
- » Features on historical hurricane activity in our area
- » Insight and details for what to do Before/During/After the Storm
- » A comprehensive Preparedness Manual
- » Links to external sources, and stake preparedness communications
- » Warnings/Alert messages to track hurricanes



# Before the Storm: #3 Be Informed

- The overall hurricane season in our area is **June-November**, with the greatest activity during August/September.
- A hurricane **watch** means a hurricane is possible in our area within the next 36-48 hours. A hurricane **warning** means a hurricane is expected within 24--36 hours. You may want to purchase an NOAA weather radio.
- There are 5 categories of hurricanes, based on the Saffir-Simpson Wind Scale—<http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/hurricanes.html>.
- No matter what category, all are dangerous. And remember it's more than just wind. **Storm surge** (coastal) is the major cause of death and damage.
  - Anyone less than 30' above sea level will most likely have to evacuate.
- Cape Hatteras, North Carolina is a critical spot to watch to determine whether the hurricane will be coming up the coast.

# Activating Your Plan

## Step One – Pray

- Pray for guidance at every step and follow the guidance that comes to you

## Step Two – Communicate

- As the hurricane approaches, contact your Bishop Herget
  - Leave a message of where you are going and how to contact you.
    - Home: 1-203-662-6636
    - Cell: 1-917-331-4451
    - Evacuation email: [todd.herget@columbiamanagement.com](mailto:todd.herget@columbiamanagement.com)

## Step Three – Secure your Property

- If time permits, tie down loose objects and cover windows with plywood
- Secure the house and remove your portable valuables (there may be looters)

# Activating Your Plan (cont'd)

## Step Four – Evacuate

- Grab your go-kits and water
- Leave in plenty of time before traffic gridlocks. Walking can be faster than driving.
- Always keep at least ½ a tank of gas and maps in your evacuation car/van
- Evacuation information for NY at <http://gis.nyc.gov/oem/he/index.htm> and CT at [http://www.ct.gov/demhs/cwp/view.asp?a=1933&q=463124&demhsNav\\_GID=1996](http://www.ct.gov/demhs/cwp/view.asp?a=1933&q=463124&demhsNav_GID=1996)
- Avoid flooded areas and downed power lines
- Avoid bridges if you can. They can trap you in bad traffic.

## Step Five – Report Status

- As soon as the hurricane passes, report to your leaders whether you are okay, and what help you need.
- If possible, connect with your Home/Visiting Teaching families to secure the same information.

## Step Six – Help Others

- Make known your availability to help others

# Reminder... Things to do NOW

## **Make an Evacuation Plan today**

- Submit your evacuation plan to your local church leader

## **Build Go-Kits and Home Storage**

## **Stay Informed**

**Find out more at**

**[Ready4Tommorow.org](http://Ready4Tommorow.org)**

# For More Information

- Ready 4 Tomorrow: <http://ready4tomorrow.org>
- Yorktown EPS Blog:  
<http://www.yorktownstakeups.blogspot.com/>
- FEMA- Basic Preparedness:  
[http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/basic\\_preparedness.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/basic_preparedness.shtm)
- National Hurricane Center:  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pastall.shtml>
- Red Cross – Safe & Well:  
<https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>
- Ready.gov: <http://www.ready.gov/>