



**Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency**  
**645 New London Avenue**  
**Cranston, Rhode Island 02920**  
[www.riema.ri.gov/](http://www.riema.ri.gov/)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**EVACUATION STEPS FOR A HURRICANE**  
***RIEMA Offers Tips to Help Prepare You and Your Family***

Cranston, RI – “Rhode Islanders should always be aware of where they live in relation to flood zones and evacuation routes,” states Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency Executive Director J. David Smith. “Many municipality maps showing these are on our website at [www.riema.ri.gov](http://www.riema.ri.gov/)”

If evacuation is necessary preparation steps can be found on our website at <http://www.riema.ri.gov/preparenow/> “I would also like to take this time to remind everyone that it is your responsibility to take care of yourself and family for the first 72 hours of any emergency. Details of how to do this can also be found on our site also.” said Smith.

**Stay Alerted**

State or local Public Safety officials may alert you by one or several methods. Learn what methods are utilized in your community. They could include:

- Outdoor sirens or horns
- The Emergency Alert System (EAS) - information provided on the radio and television
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Alert Radio
- ‘Reverse 911’, ‘Connect Ed’ etc. – one of a number of automated telephoning systems for sending recorded messages
- News Media
- Residential Route Alerting, which dispatches Public Safety vehicles through neighborhoods announcing messages with Public Address systems or literally ‘knocking on doors’
- U.S. Coast Guard Marine Broadcast
- A message on Teletypewriters (TTY)

**Develop a Family/Personal Evacuation Plan**

- Learn proposed evacuation routes and locations of potential public shelters.
- If you do not have personal transportation, make arrangements with friends or your local government.
- Identify the trigger points that would make you evacuate.
- Make a plan with family members for a destination if you have to leave your community. (In your planning, consider different scales of evacuation i.e.: neighborhood, community, county, etc.)
- Assemble a Disaster Supply Kit.
- Keep your car fueled if evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed during an emergency, run out of fuel, or be unable to pump gas during power outages.
- Pre-drill plywood to be able to board up windows.
- Know how to safely shut off your home’s electricity, gas and water supplies at main switches and valves.

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**Develop a Family/Personal Communications Plan**

- Pre-identify a family or friend that lives out of the affected area and make sure all your family knows to contact that person during times of disaster to update their status. During times of disaster you will have an easier time reaching someone outside of the affected area.

**What to do if asked/told to evacuate**

- Gather all persons in the house together.
- Elevate valuable items to higher points within your home.
- Move all loose outdoor items indoors. (lawn furniture, hanging plants, trashcans, awnings, toys).
- Household members outside the area may be advised not to return during an evacuation. They may be directed to a reception center or mass care shelter where you can join them.
- Do not call your local fire or police departments for information. Emergency workers will need their lines for emergency use. If you need special help call your local Emergency Management Office.
- Stay tuned to your Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio station.
- Turn off lights and unnecessary appliances.
- Close and lock windows and doors.
- Check with neighbors to see if they need assistance. Offer to share transportation.
- Let others know where you are going.
- If you need a ride try to get one with neighbors or contact your local Emergency Management Office.

**What to take with you**

- Clothing for several days.
- Toilet articles (Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)
- Prescription medicines, medical equipment and important medical records.
- Special dietary foods.
- Baby supplies.
- Blankets, pillows, and towels (particularly if you plan on staying at a public mass care shelter).
- Identification and important papers.
- Checkbook, credit card and cash.

**About your pets**

- Only service animals will be allowed inside most reception centers and mass care shelters.
- Make plans ahead of time to take your pet to stay at relatives, friends or a kennel outside the affected area.
- Know pet-friendly hotels and motels in the area.
- Prepare an emergency kit for your pets. Include collars & leashes, a three-day supply of food, bowls, litter boxes, photographs, and a week's supply of medications that your pet may be taking.
- Make sure your pets wear collars with current license and rabies tags, and identification tags that include information on where you will be staying during the emergency.
- Use a pet carrier for each of your pets to make transportation easier.