



University of Houston Clear Lake

Hurricanes and Tropical Storms

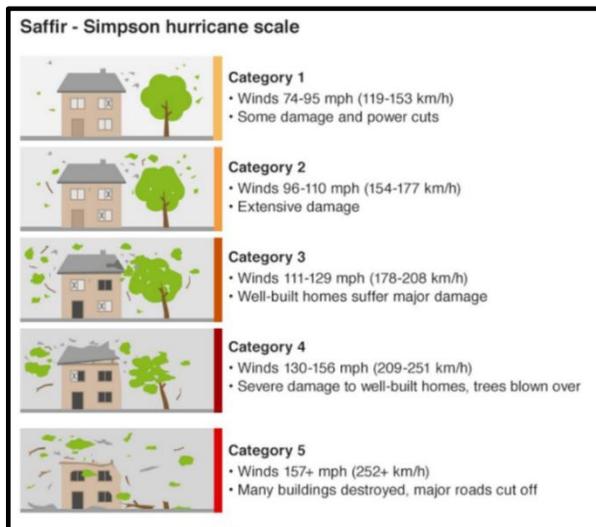
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Introduction:

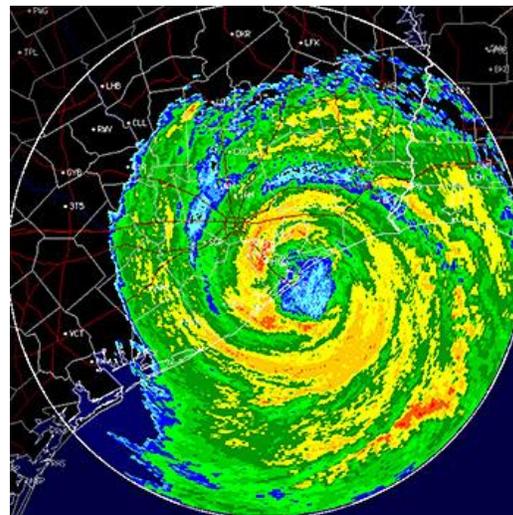
The Hurricane season extends from June 1st to November 30th. While a major hurricane is not a common occurrence, it is imperative that you and your family develop a personal evacuation plan and be ready to implement that plan, if necessary. Hurricanes may form at other times however, the Texas gulf coast is most at threat by Hurricanes and Tropical Storms during hurricane season. A tropical storm or hurricane can develop within hours with little time to prepare. During these months, please take the time to plan and prepare for weather emergencies and stay tuned to local weather updates.

About Hurricanes:

A hurricane is a type of storm called a tropical cyclone, which forms over tropical or subtropical waters. A tropical cyclone is a rotating low-pressure weather system that has organized thunderstorms but no fronts (a boundary separating two air masses of different densities). Tropical cyclones rotate in a counterclockwise direction around an "eye". Tropical cyclones with maximum sustained surface winds of less than 39 miles per hour (mph) are called tropical depressions. Those with maximum sustained winds of 39 mph or higher are called tropical storms. When a storm's maximum sustained winds reach 74 mph, it is called a hurricane. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is used to describe a hurricane's strength. A 1 to 5 rating, or category, is based on a hurricane's maximum sustained winds. The higher the category, the greater the hurricane's potential for property damage.¹ (Attachment A)



Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale



Hurricane Ike 2008

Size is not necessarily an indication of hurricane intensity. Hurricane Andrew (1992) was a category 5 hurricane and the second most devastating hurricane to hit the United States, however, the Houston area also experienced Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. Allison was a relatively small storm with a devastating local impact. A hurricane's destructive winds and rains may cover a wide swath. Hurricane-force winds can extend outward more than 150 miles (242 km). The area over which tropical storm-force winds occur is even greater, ranging as far out as almost 300 miles (483 km) from the eye of a large hurricane.² (Attachment A)

¹ <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/hurricane.html>

² https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/tc_structure

Hurricane Preparation:

A number of hurricanes reach land each year, causing death and massive destruction of property. The Texas gulf coast is most at threat by hurricanes and tropical storms during hurricane season which is May 15th to November 30th. A tropical storm or hurricane can develop within hours with little time to prepare. During these months, please take the time to plan and prepare for weather emergencies and stay tuned to local weather updates. Several weather services offer email and text notifications for severe weather may be found at: <https://www.weather.gov/enterprise/sw-alerts-text-1b>

When a tropical storm or hurricane threatens our area, UH-Clear Lake will notify students about cancelations, closures, and the possibility of evacuations by means of the UH-Clear Lake website, emails, and by Everbridge (an Emergency Messaging Network). The UH-Clear Lake Emergency Hotline will also be available to provide up-to-date information. 281-283-2221

UH-Clear Lake students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to develop a disaster preparedness plan before emergency strikes. As part of your plan have an emergency supply kit ready. Your kit should include a flashlight, alternate cell phone charger, battery-operated radio, and water and food supplies for several days. Suggested supplies for an emergency kit may be found at the end of this document. (Attachment D)

Hurricane Watches and Warnings:

A **Hurricane Watch** is a government agency announcement issued for an area when there is a threat of hurricane conditions, generally to strike within 36 hours. In the event of a hurricane watch, UH-Clear Lake President will confer with members of UH-Clear Lake administrative staff to prepare the university for a hurricane. University staff will begin to prepare the campus for the possible effects of hurricane winds. Students, faculty, and staff should review their personal emergency plans and pay attention to local news and emergency alerts.

A **Hurricane Warning** is an announcement issued for an area when hurricane conditions are expected to strike within 24 hours. In the event of a hurricane watch, UH-Clear Lake President may take extra steps to ensure the safety of the UH-Clear Lake family. Classes and work schedules may be disrupted. University staff will finalize securing the campus for the possible effects of the hurricane. Buildings may be locked. Evacuations may occur. Students, faculty, and staff should be ready to enact their personal emergency plans and pay attention to local news and emergency alerts. Follow official instructions.

University Closings:

When threatened by a tropical storm or hurricane, the University president will decide on a plan of action. If the president orders the closing of the university, the appropriate directives will be relayed by the vice presidents to their areas of responsibility. UH-Clear Lake Office of Marketing and Communications (MARCOMM) will contact major news organizations for immediate broadcast notification. UH-Clear Lake also provides a 24-hour "EMERGENCY HOTLINE" which will advise of the university's status during such events. The HOTLINE number is 281-283-2221.

Listen to local radio and television stations for current information. KTRH 740 AM is the designated Emergency Alert Broadcast Station for the Houston area by the Texas Emergency Alert System.³ For evacuation routes go to <https://www.h-gac.com/hurricane-evacuation-planning>.

Zip Zones:

To prevent unnecessary evacuation traffic, do not evacuate unless told to do so. Government officials may ask only one or more Houston area ZIP-ZONES to evacuate. UH-Clear Lake's main campus is located in [ZIP ZONE B](#). (see attached ZIP-ZONE MAP Attachment C) Students, Faculty, and Staff should have a transportation plan and a place to stay before an evacuation is required. Let family members know:

- When you plan to leave
- How you will evacuate (Car, bus, airplane, with a friend)
- Where you intend to go (Home, Shelter, what city)
- The route to be taken if an evacuation is ordered

The State of Texas has designated hurricane escape routes. These routes will be the focus area for additional gasoline, food, and other emergency services. In some cases, the entire highway may be changed to a one-way street allowing for both sides to be used during a large-scale evacuation. It is recommended that you use these designated routes to exit the area. Students who cannot evacuate on their own will be expected to self-identify to University officials. (See Attachment B)

Safety Procedures During the Hurricane:

Follow the instructions of public safety, UHCL police officers, and emergency personnel.

- Stay indoors until advised to exit
- Stay in interior hallways and keep doors closed.
- Do not open windows or doors to look outside.
- Beware of the "eye" of the storm. The "eye" is the center of the hurricane which may bring a temporary period of calm air and no rain. Do not leave the safety of your shelter until advised by public safety or the local officials. Residents of University Forest Apartments will be notified by Residential Assistants.
- When the "all-clear" is given, exit your location with extreme care. Beware of electric wires, broken glass, and falling or fallen objects
- Do not enter structures, vehicles, or areas that are damaged; many persons are killed after a storm by electrocution.

University Reopening:

University employees and students should tune into radio and television stations for information about when the university will reopen. Keep a portable radio and plenty of spare batteries.

Radio Stations:

- KIKK 650 AM
- KIKK 95.7 FM
- KTRH 740 AM
- KPRC 950 AM
- KUHF 88.7 FM
- NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio 162.400

Television Stations:

- KPRC Channel 2

- KHOU Channel 11
- KTRK Channel 13
- KRIV Channel 26

Reliable Websites

- University of Houston-Clear Lake UHCL.EDU
- Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC) <https://www.h-gac.com/hurricane-evacuation-planning>
- Harris County READYHARRIS.ORG
- Galveston County <https://gcoem.org/x-hurricanes/>
- Houston Office of Emergency Management <https://www.houstonoem.org/>
- Pasadena Office of Emergency Management <https://www.pasadenatx.gov/185/Emergency-Management>
- Texas Department of Emergency Management <https://tdem.texas.gov/>
- The National Weather Service <https://tdem.texas.gov/>
- The National Hurricane Center NHC.NOAA.GOV

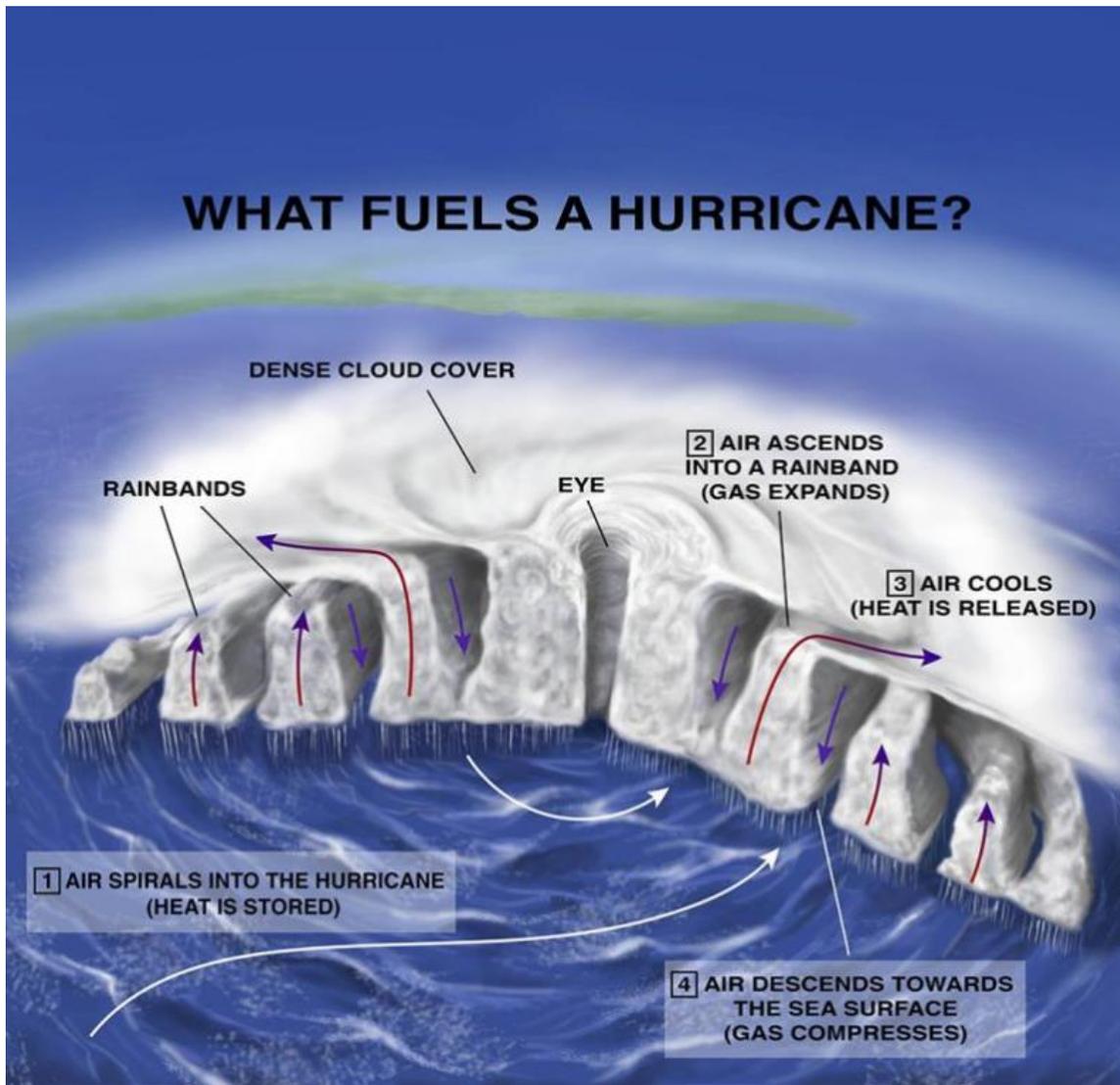
Additional Information:

For current information please visit the UHCL website at www.uhcl.edu or call the UHCL Emergency Hotline at 281-283-2221.

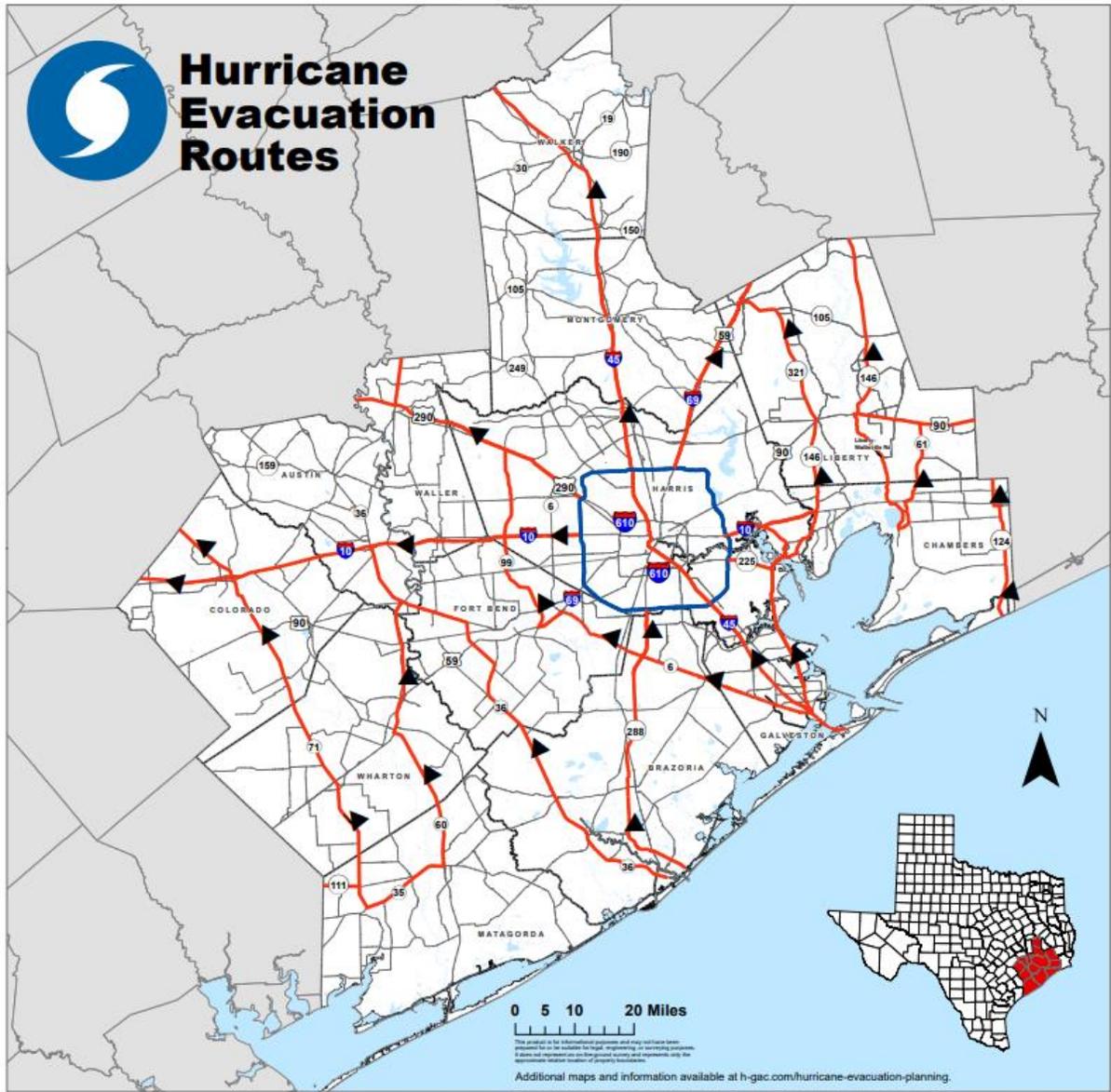
Attachment A
Basic Hurricane information:



Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale



Hurricane Plan Attachment B: 2022 Hurricane Evacuation Routes



H-GAC Region
 Austin, Brazoria,
 Chambers, Colorado,
 Fort Bend, Galveston,
 Harris, Liberty,
 Matagorda,
 Montgomery,
 Walker, Waller,
 Wharton

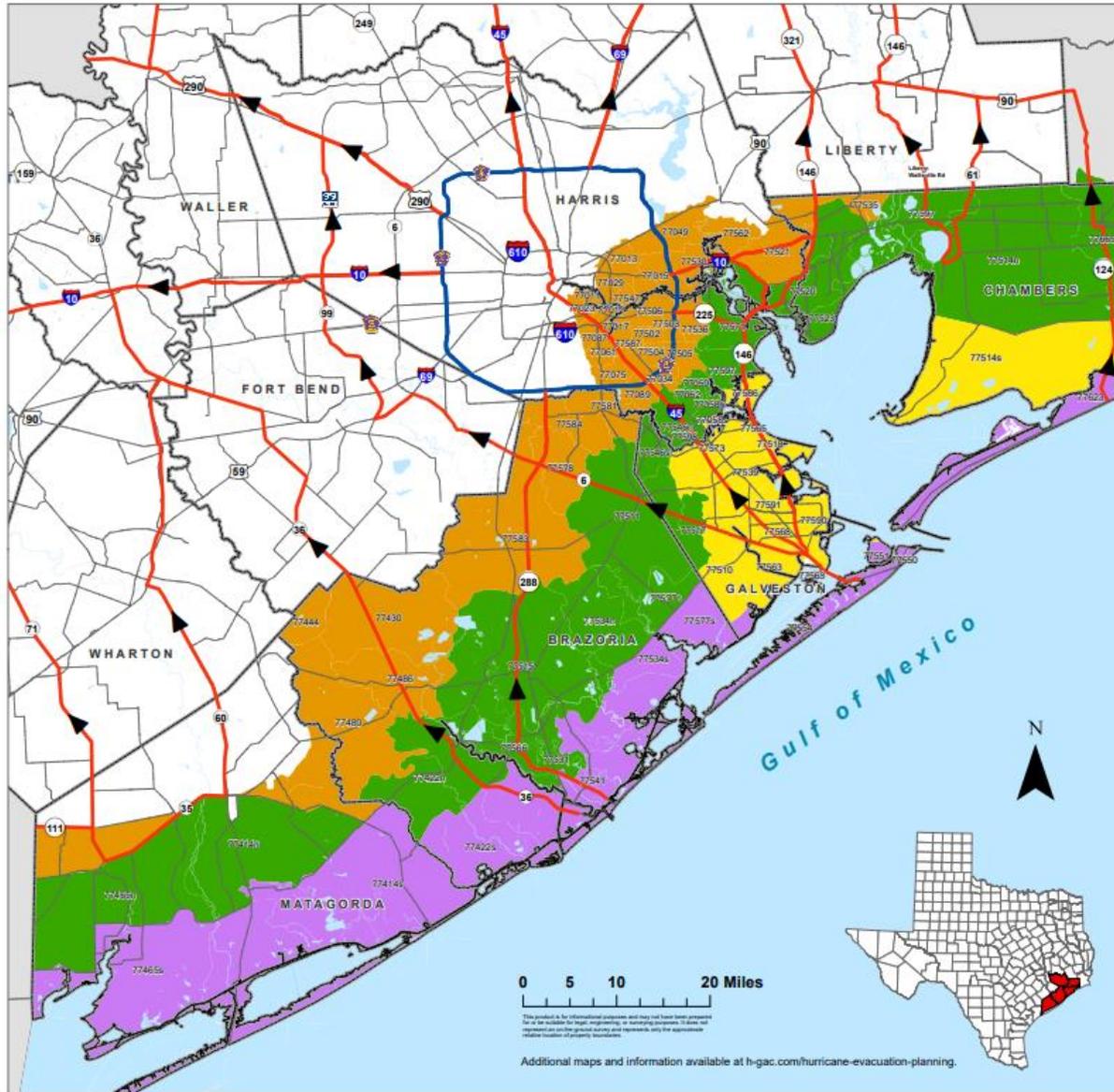


Route Designation

- Evacuation Corridors
- Evacuation Connections
- Other Roads
- County Boundary

 Revision Date: March 31, 2022
 Expiration Date: December 31, 2022
 Map Created by:
 Houston-Galveston Area Council

Hurricane Attachment C: 2022 HGAC ZIP-ZONES:



Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, and Matagorda Hurricane Evacuation Zip-Zones Coastal, A, B, C

ZIP ZONE COASTAL				
77414s	77422s	77465s	77534s	77541
77550	77551	77554	77563	77577s
77623				
ZIP ZONE A				
77058s	77510	77514s	77518	77539
77563	77565	77568	77573	77586
77590	77591			
ZIP ZONE B				
77058n	77059	77062	77414n	77422n
77465n	77507	77511	77514n	77515
77517	77520	77523	77531	77534n
77546n	77546s	77560	77566	77571
77577n	77597	77598	77665	
ZIP ZONE C				
77011	77012	77013	77015	77017
77023	77029	77034	77049	77061
77075	77087	77089	77430	77444
77480	77486	77502	77503	77504
77505	77506	77521	77530	77535
77536	77547	77562	77578	77581
77583	77584	77587		

Some zip codes are split into north (n) and south (s) for evacuation purposes.

Route Designation

- Evacuation Corridors
- Evacuation Connections
- Other Roads
- County Boundary



0 5 10 20 Miles

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or suitable for legal proceedings or warranty purposes. It does not represent an official government position and represents only the approximate relative location of geographic boundaries.

Additional maps and information available at h-gac.com/hurricane-evacuation-planning.

Revision Date: March 31, 2022
 Expiration Date: December 31, 2022
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Hurricane Plan Attachment D: Hurricane Emergency Supplies

A hurricane kit should contain these basic supplies:

- Water: one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- If you may spend time in a hurricane shelter bring any special foods you may require (low sodium, diabetic, low carb, low fat, and other special needs)
- A non-electric can opener
- Mess kits, or paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils
- Insulated mug or tumbler
- Flashlight or electric lantern
- Battery powered or hand crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool, like a Swiss Army knife
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Extra Clothes and shower supplies, including seasonal clothing and rain gear.
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with wall charger and a phone charging battery
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash (ATMs might be inoperable)
- Extra fuel for generator and car
- Pencil, pens, paper
- Pet Supplies
- Face masks and hand sanitizer
- Garbage bags
- Extra toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues
- Local Maps (Internet for mobile navigation may be saturated)
- Books, games, or puzzles for extended stays at a shelter