



City of El Campo, Texas

Office of Emergency Management
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Incorporated 1905

Hurricane Preparedness

Preparing for a Hurricane is like preparing for all hazards, below is a short list of important preparedness information and also websites that will have more information on hurricane preparedness.

Communication is important in all hazards, not only hurricanes. The City of El Campo has a mass alert system called RAVE. You can get alerts by email, text, and/or voice at no cost to you. There are 2 options for registering:

1. Go to the City of El Campo website at <https://www.cityofelcampo.org/> and click on "Sign Up for Alerts" under the Quick Links menu to complete the registration process
2. Fill out the registration form at City Hall or the Public Safety Building. Give the completed form to a City employee and the information will be entered for you.

State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) - Dial 211

If you will need help evacuating from a hurricane or any other hazard, dial 2-1-1 to register with STEAR. You will be asked a series of questions which will allow emergency managers to identify those who need extra assistance evacuating. It is necessary to do this each calendar year. There is also an option to register online at <https://tdem.texas.gov/stear/>

Before a Hurricane

Know your zone:

- Do you live near the Gulf or Atlantic Coasts? Find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation area by contacting your local government/emergency management office.
 - Go to this website for evacuation Zones: <https://www.h-gac.com/hurricane-evacuation-planning>
 - Wharton County is not in the Hurricane evacuation zone.

Have a Family Emergency Plan:

- Before an emergency happens, sit down with your family or close friends and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supplies kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Put Together an Emergency Supplies Kit:

- Put together a basic disaster supplies kit and consider storage locations for different situations. Check emergency equipment, such as flashlights, generators, and storm shutters. For a list of key items for your kit, see www.ready.gov/kit
 - water (one gallon, per person, per day)
 - canned and boxed foods that won't spoil
 - at least a 7-day supply of medications
 - a first-aid kit

- flashlights
- NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards
- special items for infants
- the elderly, and family members with any physical limitations.

Review Your Homeowners Insurance:

- Review your insurance policy to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your home.

Understand NWS forecast products:

- Especially the meaning of NWS watches and warnings www.hurricanes.gov
 - Watches:
 - **Tropical Storm Watch:** Tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible within the specified area within 48 hours.
 - **Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or greater) are possible within your area. Because it may not be safe to prepare for a hurricane once winds reach tropical storm force, the NHC issues hurricane watches 48 hours before it anticipates tropical-storm-force winds.
 - Warnings:
 - **Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected within your area within 36 hours.
 - **Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or greater) are expected somewhere within the specified area. NHC issues a hurricane warning 36 hours in advance of tropical-storm-force winds to give you time to complete your preparations.

During a Hurricane

Secure your home:

- Cover all of your home's windows.
- Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows.
- A second option is to board up windows with 5/8-inch exterior grade or marine plywood, built to fit and ready to install.
- Buy supplies before the hurricane season rather than waiting for the pre-storm rush.

Stayed tuned in:

- Check the websites of your local National Weather Service office and local government/emergency management office.
- Find out what type of emergencies could occur and how you should respond.
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or other radio or TV stations for the latest storm news.

Follow instructions issued by local officials.

- Leave immediately if ordered!
- If not ordered to evacuate
 - Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level during the storm. Put as many walls between you and the outside as you can.
 - Stay away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.

- If the eye of the storm passes over your area, there will be a short period of calm, but at the other side of the eye, the wind speed rapidly increases to hurricane-force winds coming from the opposite direction.
- Stay Safe
 - Stay out of any building
 - if you smell gas
 - if floodwaters remain around the building
 - if the building or home was damaged by fire and the authorities have not declared it safe.
 - Carbon monoxide poisoning
 - is one of the leading causes of death after storms in areas dealing with power outages.
 - Never use a portable generator inside your home or garage.
 - Use battery-powered flashlights. Do NOT use candles.
 - Turn on your flashlight before entering a vacated building.
 - The battery could produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas if present.

After a Hurricane

Stay Informed:

- Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.
- If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.

Stay Alert:

- Drive only if necessary
- avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- If you must go out, watch for fallen objects in the road, downed electrical wires, and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks that might collapse.

Assess the Damage:

- Walk carefully around the outside of your home to check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage.

More information go to <https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane>

Forecast map: <https://forecast.weather.gov/gridpoint.php?site=hgx&TypeDefault=graphical>

For El Campo and Wharton County weather go to www.weather.gov/houston

Hurricane guide: https://www.weather.gov/media/hgx/hurricanes/2022_HPG_HGX.pdf

Hurricane Flyers: <https://www.weather.gov/media/safety/hurricane-brochure17.pdf>

https://www.weather.gov/media/safety/hurricane-safety_flyer_ESPANOL.pdf

Hurricane video: <https://oceanoday.noaa.gov/hurricanesurvival/>