



ARE YOU PREPARED?



HURRICANE SEASON STARTS NOW

The Atlantic hurricane season begins on **June 1** and ends on **November 30**. Hurricane activity typically increases during August and September. Significant hurricanes of Categories 4 or 5 may require the evacuation of residents, but even a Category 1 storm can produce devastating damage. Hurricane can bring high winds and flooding, so you need to protect yourself from both the wind and the water.

PREPARING TO EVACUATE

Planning ahead is essential to ensure that you can evacuate quickly and safely if needed. A long-haul road trip from local offices or where you are may require you to evacuate. Remember to be prepared with your family and pets.

EVACUATION ROUTES

- From Hidalgo County, you can travel west on U.S. Highway 83 / Interstate 2 toward Laredo.
- U.S. Highway 281 / Interstate 69C and toward San Antonio.
- Another alternative will be to evacuate into the state of Mexico if you are able to enter the roads before they close.
- For more information go to dhs.texas.gov

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES DURING EMERGENCIES. Local radio stations such as KRQ 94.5 FM, QGBT 88.5 FM, KURV 710 AM and KGFB 1330 AM will broadcast emergency alerts.

HAVE A PLAN

EVACUATION PLANS

- Where will you go?
- How will you get there?
- Dedicate a meeting place in case a disaster occurs where household members are not at home.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

- Medical Records and medical history
- Any necessary medications
- Any medical conditions or equipment required
- Special needs



Visit the Hidalgo County website for more information. For questions about Hidalgo County Emergency Alert Program (956) 318-2615



@HIDALGO COUNTY OEM

STAY INFORMED

www.hidalgocounty.us/3077/Emergency-Preparedness-Guide

FOLLOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@Hidalgo County



E-DALGO EMERGENCY ALERT PROGRAM

Keep yourself and your loved ones informed by signing up for E-DALGO Emergency Notifications. The emergency alert system is a computerized service available to all Hidalgo County residents to receive emergency alerts such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, rising persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.



GET TECH READY

- Register for E-DALGO Notifications.
- Download the FEMA App.
- Be sure to "Like" or "Follow" the social media sites for Hidalgo County, Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, and local media outlets.
- Save important documents in password-protected electronic files or in the Cloud.
- Keep your cell phone charged and purchase backup charging devices to power electronics.

HURRICANE CATEGORIES: WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

CATEGORY	WINDS (MPH)	DAMAGE
1	74-95	SOME
2	96-110	EXTENSIVE
3	111-129	DEVASTATING
4	130-156	CATASTROPHIC
5	157+	CATASTROPHIC

SECURE PROPERTY BEFORE THE STORM

Close all of your home windows. Remove or storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8 inch plywood, cut to fit and ready to install.

Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well-trimmed so they are more wind resistant.

Close loose and clogged gutters.

Relax your garage doors. If wind enters garage it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.

Place or bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans, and anything else that is not tied down.

BASIC FAMILY AND PET DISASTER KIT

Assemble supplies you may need for an evacuation that best suit your family's and pet's unique needs. Store your kit in an easily accessible location that allows you to quickly grab and go.

BASIC SUPPLY KIT FOR PETS & SERVICE ANIMALS

- Two-week supply of food & water
- Medical records and medical history
- Any necessary medications
- Collar with ID, rabies tags & leash
- Carriers/crates, bowls & litter boxes
- Recent photos of you, pet or anyone of you with you, pet



Over the past few years, our community has experienced widespread disruption – from the COVID-19 pandemic to the winter freeze in February 2021, to Hurricane Hanna in July 2020. Throughout this, we showed our resilience as a people and our commitment to one another. That is the essence of community.

As we enter the 2022 hurricane season, particularly the historically bad months of August and September, in my capacity as Director of Emergency Management, I ask for everyone to be prepared. Take advantage of the tips on these pages and don't forget to look for a more complete online guide to all emergencies by going to www.hidalgocounty.us.

Richard F. Cortez

Richard F. Cortez
Director of Emergency Management

SECURE PROPERTY DURING THE STORM

POWER OUTAGE

Hazardous conditions, such as storms, can cause power outages. Report a power outage to your electric company.

FOOD SAFETY DURING A POWER OUTAGE

Food in your refrigerator may be safe to eat if the power is off for 4 hours or more.

Keep the refrigerator and freezer closed to help keep food safe longer.

A freezer full of food will be safe for no more than 48 hours (24 hours if full).

AFTER A POWER OUTAGE

Check out your refrigerator and freezer BEFORE you put new food in it.

Wash the inside of the refrigerator and freezer first with soap and warm water, then with a mild bleach solution or diluted disinfectant.

Let the freezer and refrigerator get cold before you fill it with food.

GENERATOR SAFETY CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION

DO NOT use portable generators inside your home, garage, carport, basement, or other enclosed space. Use a carbon monoxide detector.

Position portable generators outside at least 20 feet away from your home. Keep your generator away from doors, windows, or air intake vents.

DO NOT use charcoal grills, gas grills, or campfire stoves inside your home.

DO NOT use propane or kerosene heaters inside your home.

DO NOT use your gas oven or stove top to heat your home.

Install carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of your home and outside all sleep areas.

Change the batteries every six months and replace your carbon monoxide detectors every five years.

Opening windows and doors, and using fans, is not a route to stop a deadly buildup of carbon monoxide in your home.