Preparedness Checklists for Military Families: Hurricane

BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.
Hurricane

All Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastal areas are at risk for hurricanes and tropical storms, along with parts of the Southwest United States and the Pacific Coast. Military personnel and their families should identify whether they are at risk for hurricanes, create a family emergency plan, and know what actions to take to protect their home before a storm. If you are faced with handling these activities on your own, coordinate with your neighbors and/or friends to do these preparations together.

Prepare Your Family

- Know if you live or are relocating to a hurricane evacuation zone. Check with your local emergency management office or go to the [2017 Evacuation Zone Identification Survey](#) to learn more.
- Create a family emergency plan. Your family may not be together when a storm approaches, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together, and what you will do in case of an emergency. You should include:
  - Evacuation route information
  - A shelter-in-place plan
  - Pre-identify a meeting place in case your family is separated
  - Important phone numbers such as neighbors, unit commander, direct chain of command, unit Ombudsman or Family Readiness Group Leader, base family center, military command social media sites, insurance agent, doctor, veterinarian, and other family contacts
  - Insurance policies
  - Deed to your home or rental agreement
  - A home inventory
  - Military identification cards
  - Health insurance identification cards
  - Power of attorney information
- Collaborate on preparations with friends and neighbors if your spouse or partner is deployed, and create a friend/neighbor emergency plan as well.
- If you live off base, plan for the possibility that you cannot regain access to the base for a few days after a hurricane. Plan alternative places to shop or obtain things you normally get on base. Also, be sure to contact your chain of command for further instructions, as well as the military or security police for updates on status of the base.
- Build a storm kit. Kits should include items you will need for at least 72 hours after a storm.

Make Your Yard Hurricane-Resistant

- Make your yard hurricane-resistant by replacing landscaping rocks with mulch and trimming back tree limbs hanging over the roof.
- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, so they can help direct rain away from your home, and help prevent flooding. Make sure gutters are free of rust, holes, or open joints.

Protect Your Home

- If you have attic access, you can increase the uplift strength of your roof by up to three times by applying a 1/4 inch bead of APA AFG-01 certified wood adhesive along the intersection of the roof deck and roof rafter or truss chord on both sides of the beam.
- Purchase tested and approved steel or aluminum shutters or create emergency plywood shutters.