



Top Considerations for Military Families Before Disaster Strikes: Hurricane

1. Know Your Zone

Find out if you live in a storm surge evacuation zone. Storm surge evacuation zones are defined by the threat of storm surge and flooding rather than wind speed or hurricane category as storm surge is often the greatest threat to life and property. Check with your local emergency management office or visit the [2017 Evacuation Zone Identification Survey to learn more.](#)

2. Go Tapeless!

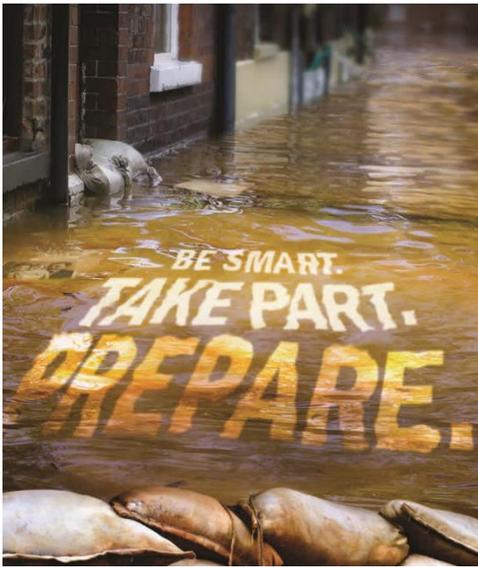
Taping windows does not stop windows from breaking in a hurricane, and it can be dangerous as the tape may create larger shards of glass that can cause serious injuries. Go Tapeless! Protect glass doors and windows with tested and approved hurricane shutters or [properly installed emergency plywood shutters.](#)

3. Preparedness is Affordable

Hurricanes put homes to the test, but there are a number of affordable products that can minimize damage and the need for costly repairs. With an investment of \$1,100, homeowners can brace garage doors, install plywood shutters, and seal the roof deck to reduce wind uplift. Take steps to protect your home today using tested and approved methods and products.

4. Don't Wait Until It's Too Late

Don't wait until the last minute to prepare for a hurricane. Preparing before a storm approaches gives you peace of mind, reduces stress, and ensures that you have needed supplies before the store shelves are empty.



Top Considerations for Military Families Before Disaster Strikes: Flood

1. Know Your Zone

Call your local building department for information about your risk of flooding and to determine the Base Flood Elevation of your home.

2. Turn Around, Don't Drown!

Avoid flooded areas or those with rapid water flow. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream. It takes only six inches of fast flowing water to sweep you off your feet. [Flooded roads](#) could have significant damage hidden by floodwaters. Never drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads.

3. Don't Wait Until It's Too Late

[Elevate appliances](#) on masonry or pressure-treated lumber at least 12" above the projected Base Flood Elevation. Identify and move electronics and other expensive items to a higher level on lower levels of the home, and elevate, if possible, to keep them dry. Take time to clear the yard of any debris, plant material, or items that block water flow and storm drains.

4. Purchase Flood Insurance

Most homeowners insurance policies do not cover damage from flood, so it is important to [purchase flood insurance](#) if you are in a flood zone. Remember, it takes 30 days for a policy to take effect, so take action now to protect your family, home, and finances.



Top Considerations for Military Families Before Disaster Strikes: Wildfire

1. Know Your Risk

Wildfires can occur anywhere in the country. They can start in remote wilderness areas, in national parks, or even in your backyard. Wildfires can start from natural causes, such as lightning, or by humans.

2. Evacuate

Always heed evacuation orders issued by your local officials. [Plan ahead with your family](#), and decide where you will go and how you will get there. Include two escape routes out of your home and out of your neighborhood in your evacuation plan, and be prepared to leave on very short notice.

3. Make Your Home Wildfire-Resilient

Identify an emergency water supply within 1,000 feet of your home through one of the following: community water/hydrant system, drafting site on a lake, cooperative emergency storage tank with neighbors, or a swimming pool. [Remove leaves](#), dead grass, leaves, dead twigs, branches, etc., within 30 feet of the home and from the inside of your gutters. Cut back tree branches hanging within 6-10 feet from the ground. Remove fire-prone trees and shrubs close to your home. Keep firewood at least 50 feet away from the home. [Use fire-resistant lava rocks](#) and pebbles, and choose plant species that retain moisture and resist ignition. Check with your local forestry agency for a list of native, fire-resistant vegetation.

4. “Spreading like Wildfire”

Even if you can't see the flames, you may still be at risk. Wildfires move fast and embers can be blown more than a mile from the flames. [Install metal screening](#) that blocks embers from entering your buildings, including noncombustible 1/8 inch on attic/crawl space vents and around low decks. Also install noncombustible skirting around mobile homes.



Top Considerations for Military Families Before Disaster Strikes: Earthquake

1. Know Your Risk

[Find out](#) if your family and home are vulnerable to earthquakes.

2. Drop, Cover, and Hold On

Plan and hold earthquake drills with your family and neighbors. Learn to [drop, cover, and hold on](#) when the shaking begins.

3. Look Up, Around, and Down

Secure ceiling fans and light fixtures to allow for sideways movement; move furniture away from beds, sofas, and desks; [secure heavy furniture](#); [properly secure hanging artwork](#); and learn how to [shut off electricity and gas](#) to prevent post-earthquake fires.

4. Separate Facts from Myths: There is No Earthquake Season

Unlike other natural disasters there is no earthquake season and they can happen almost anywhere. In fact, there are 42-states at risk for earthquake, with 16 of those states with the highest risk. Earthquake preparedness means taking action now to ensure your family is safe and everything inside your home is properly secured at all times.