

#1: Personal Safety – Know Your Evacuation Zone

Determine if you live in a storm surge evacuation zone. If you do, decide today where you would go and how you would get there. If not and you live in a safe home outside of flood-prone areas, identify a friend or family member in an evacuation zone and be their evacuation destination. Residents of mobile homes, that are not safe even in winds of tropical-storm-force, should also plan for evacuation. If a hurricane threatens your area, having a plan in place can reduce fear, reduce anxiety, and allow for safely sheltering in place or efficient and safe evacuation. Remember to always listen to instructions given by your local authorities.

Prior to evacuation, remember to:

- » Maintain a full tank of gas;
- » Bring identification, insurance papers, and other important documents for every family member;
- » Bring adequate water, snacks, cash, and medications;
- » Obey all special traffic signs and law enforcement orders;
- » Move disabled vehicles from travel lanes; and
- » Only dial 9-1-1 if there is a life-threatening emergency.

Visit https://flash.org/pdf/2020_Hurricane_Evacuation_Zones.pdf to view the annual hurricane evacuation zone survey. This survey contains available resources on local evacuation zones and storm surge mapping for your city, county, parish, or region from Texas to Maine.

The amount of time needed to evacuate an area depends upon a variety of factors that include the size of the vulnerable population, high hazard areas, and transportation routes. Anyone who lives in a designated evacuation zone is encouraged to develop a personal evacuation plan and identify local, alternative family and community resources for safe shelter.

Evacuees should be prepared for the following:

- » Extremely heavy traffic with slow highway speeds; residents in highly vulnerable areas should leave the area sooner rather than later; and
- » Limited access to gas stations, restaurants, and restroom facilities.

Example of a Hurricane Evacuation Zone Map.

