

# ***Be Prepared: Hurricane***

## **What is a hurricane?**

Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over the water and move toward land. Threats from hurricanes include high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, tornadoes, and coastal and inland flooding. These large storms are called typhoons and cyclones in other parts of the world. Hurricanes are classified into five categories, with a Category 5 as the most severe, though all classes cause damage. In NJ, hurricane season peaks between mid-August and late October.

## **High-Risk Areas**

If you live on a barrier island, a coastal community, a flood-prone area or a mobile home park, you are at much greater risk during hurricane or tropical storm events. You will likely be the first to receive an evacuation order when these storms are approaching New Jersey.

## **How to Prepare**

- ⇒ **Stay Informed** — Stay up-to-date on storm, emergency and evacuation warnings using internet, TV or radio. (See web links below)
- ⇒ **Store Supplies** — Make sure you are ready for power outages or limited access to transportation by stocking up on items such as flashlights, batteries, blankets, prescriptions, First Aid, water and food.
- ⇒ **Protect Property** — Take steps to secure your home against wind or water damage. Locate important documents or personal items and store them in a protected, accessible area.
- ⇒ **Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place** — If an evacuation order is given, leave early and follow posted evacuation routes. Make a plan in advance in case you are required to leave your home. If a shelter-in-place order is given, remain inside your home until the warning is lifted.

## ***Contact***

Catholic Charities Disaster Hotline:

**856-342-4145**

Volunteer/Donations Hotline:

**856-342-8785**

**Disaster@CamdenDiocese.org**

## ***Web Links***

If you or a loved one is experiencing trauma surrounding a disaster, see our listing of mental health resources here:

[CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/  
Resources/Mental Health](https://www.CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Resources/MentalHealth)

NJ Office of Emergency Management (OEM):

[www.Ready.NJ.gov](http://www.Ready.NJ.gov)

Listing of OEM Contacts by County:

[www.Ready.NJ.gov/about/association.html](http://www.Ready.NJ.gov/about/association.html)

For Real-Time Updates on Disaster Response Efforts: [CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Disaster](https://www.CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Disaster) •

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