

HURRICANE PREPARATION

With some simple preparations you can help protect yourself, your family, home, pets, investments and property. Paramount Media Ltd. has developed this website to provide you with important information and tips in the event of an approaching storm. The team at Paramount Media is committed to serving the Cayman Islands during severe weather by providing frequent updates from our many sources, including the National Hurricane Center. Before, during and after a storm, we work tirelessly to inform you of the changing conditions of roads, services, utilities, as well as other relevant updates. In the event of a major hurricane, our two stations come together and broadcast on Vibe FM 98.9 and Spin FM 94.9. Our focus is to provide critical information about the storm and its after-effects. Working as a team, we are better equipped to ensure that you are kept up to date with accurate information.

If you need to reach Paramount Media, please call us at 345-949-8423.

Hurricane Shelters:

The approved 2009 hurricane shelter list is now available on www.CaymanPrepared.ky to assist residents on where to go in the event of a hurricane. Shelters, and recommended capacities, are listed below. Those that also function as designated emergency medical centres (EMCs) are also noted.

LOCATIONS

CAPACITY

George Town

* John Gray High School Assembly Hall	265
* George Hicks High School Multipurpose Hall	375
* George Town Primary School Assembly Hall	160
* University College of the Cayman Islands Hall	500
* Red Cross Building	95
* Prospect Primary School (EMC)	

West Bay

* John A. Cumber Primary School (Assembly Hall (EMC) and some classrooms)	335
* John Gray Memorial Church Hall	325

East End

* East End Primary School (some classrooms)	265
* East End Civic Centre (EMC)	240
* Gun Bay Community Hall	65

North Side

* North Side Civic Centre (EMC)	185
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Breakers

* Breakers Community Hall	40
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Bodden Town

* Bodden Town Primary School Multipurpose Hall (EMC)	80
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Savannah

* Savannah Primary School Assembly Hall (EMC)	135
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Cayman Brac

* Aston Rutty Centre (EMC)	420
* West End Primary School	250
* New Day Care Centre	155

Little Cayman

* Public Works Department Building (EMC)	140
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What to bring:

Each person is asked to bring the following to a shelter:

- * 3-4 days supply of food and drink that does not need cooking.
- * Can opener.
- * 3-4 days supply of water (one gallon per day per person).
- * First aid kit that includes prescription medications.
- * Special needs items for infants (formula, bottles, and diapers, etc).
- * Special needs items for elderly or disabled family members.
- * If you have small children, do not forget to bring at least one of their favourite foods (e.g., breakfast cereal) and something to keep them occupied.
- * Bedding (sleeping bags, pillows).
- * Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- * A change of clothes.
- * Extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash.
- * Passports and important family papers.
- * Reading materials and quiet games to help pass time and keep children occupied.
- * Car charger for your cell phone.

Persons are also asked NOT to bring pets, alcohol, illegal drugs, cooking equipment, furniture and weapons. Cots and air mattresses may not be allowed because of limited space.

A management team of trained civil servants and volunteers are in charge of the shelters.

Hurricane Tips: Thanks to www.caymanprepared.ky for much of this information*

Your Family

Involving the entire family when it comes to disaster planning and preparedness is important - giving children something to do while preparing for a storm will distract them from concentrating on the potential danger. Discuss your hurricane plans ahead of time and formulate strategies for your safety and readiness together. Also, discuss with family members how they plan to cope with a storm - i.e., do they want to evacuate off island, go to a shelter, or stay at home. And remember, taking into account the psychological aspects of hurricane preparedness is vital to a good family plan.

Family Communication

Preparing your family for the physical aspects of an emergency starts with the creation of a family disaster plan. You can begin this process by gathering family members and reviewing what you know about your house, environment and community as well as the potential hazards you face in the event of a disaster. Decide what you will do in case of an emergency and include in your plan possible escape routes, utility shut offs and safety, taking care of special family needs (e.g. prescription medicines), pets, important documents and vital records.

Family communication should be a focal point in any family plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes and it is critical to plan how you will contact each other. Think about how you will communicate in different situations. Complete a contact card for each family member. Ensure that everyone keeps the cards on hand at all times. Pick a friend or relative who lives off island that household members can contact to let them know they are safe.

Teach Safety Skills

It is also important to teach your family safety skills such as first aid and CPR. Sign up for a course at the Red Cross and go together as a family. All household members, children included, should know how to use a fire extinguisher. Every house should have, at minimum, an ABC-type extinguisher installed in an easy-to-reach, visible place.

Be Concerned for Senior Citizens

The elderly are especially vulnerable to disaster and emergency events. Those who live alone, or are without the support of family or friends, must take special precautions in the event of an emergency situation. People who are frail or disabled (either mentally or physically) may need special assistance from family members, friends or social service agencies. Excessive stress and anxiety can contribute to increased episodes of illness, particularly for persons with heart disease. If a senior person lives in a nursing home, the administrator should be contacted to learn about the disaster plan for that facility.

Care for Homebound Persons

Notify your caregiver where you will be during a hurricane and when care can be re-established. If you are homebound and under the care of a physician but do not have a home caregiver, contact your physician. If you require respirators or other electrical medical equipment, you should make prior arrangements with your physician. If you require oxygen, check with your supplier **a b o u t e m e r g e n c y p l a n s .** If you evacuate, remember to take medications, written instructions regarding your care, your walker, wheelchair, cane or special equipment along with your bedding and other disaster supplies. If you will need assistance evacuating, please contact your district social services office.

Have a Safe Place to take your Pets

Without proper planning, pets are likely to get injured, lost or worse. Shelters cannot accept pets. It might be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster - so plan ahead. Keep a list of "pet-friendly" places, including phone numbers, with other disaster information and supplies. If you receive notice of an impending disaster and need lodging for your pets, call ahead for reservations. Ask friends, relatives, or others whether they could shelter your animals. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.

If you decide to leave the island before the storm, the best thing to do is to evacuate your pets with you. Contact the Department of Agriculture in advance to make sure your pet complies with all re-import requirements. Assemble a portable pet disaster supply kit, like you, your pet will need essential supplies during and after the storm. Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers that can be transported easily (duffle bags, covered trash containers, etc.).

Your pet disaster supply kit should include:

- *A first aid kit, including medications and medical records
- *Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers for transportation
- *Current photos of your pets in case they get lost
- *Food, portable water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and can opener
- *Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your Pets
- *Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable
- *What to do as the storm approaches
- *At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pet.
- *Call to confirm boarding reservations or other arrangements for you and your pets.
- *Check that your pet disaster supply kit is ready to take at a moment's notice.
- *Bring pets into the house to avoid searching for them if you have to leave.

If you must leave your pet at home, prepare an area that is easily cleaned, such as a bathroom or utility room. Do not leave the animal near a window. Leave several days' supply of dry food and water in non-spillable containers. Dogs and cats must wear securely-fastened collars with up-to-date identification. Write down your contact details on a temporary tag or put adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag, adding information with a pen with indelible ink. If you are off island when a storm approaches, ask a trusted neighbour or friend to take care of your pets. This person should be comfortable with your pets, know where your animals are likely to be, know where your pet disaster supply kit is kept, and have a key to your home.

Other considerations

Animals react differently under stress. Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed. Transport cats in carriers. Don't leave animals unattended anywhere they can run off. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or even bite or scratch. And, when you return home, give your pets time to settle back into their routines. Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist. Birds should be transported in a secure travel cage or carrier. Provide a few slices of fresh fruit and vegetables with high water content. Have a photo for identification and leg bands. If the carrier does not have a perch, line it with paper towels and change them frequently. Do not let the birds out of the cage or carrier.

Small mammals (hamsters, gerbils, etc.) should be transported in secure carriers suitable for maintaining the animals while sheltered. Take bedding materials, food bowls and water bottles.

Horses and other livestock have a better chance of survival when turned out in clean pastures with native vegetation, but not in flood-prone areas.

Your Home

Securing your home for a storm should start well before hurricane season. Decide on the kind of shutters you will be using. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows, but you could also board up with 5/8-inch plywood. If you are going to use this option, to avoid unnecessary stress when a storm warning is announced, buy and cut the plywood to fit well before the season starts. Number the plywood sheets so you can fit them to the right window and store them in the order you will install. Also remember, tape does NOT prevent windows from breaking.

To reduce roof damage, install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. Also, keep all trees and shrubs around your home trimmed and clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts. If you are a boat owner, determine how and where to secure it.

With these pre-hurricane season preparations complete, once a storm warning is given, all you need to do is secure your home by boarding up or closing storm shutters. Secure loose outdoor objects by tying them down or taking them indoors. If instructed to do so, turn off utilities; otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed. Turn off propane tanks and avoid using the phone, except for emergencies. Moor your boat if time permits, and by filling bathtubs and other large containers with water, ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets.

Hurricane Supplies Checklist:

Buy supplies early to prepare for the storm. When the storm threatens, lines will be long and supplies short.

Food Supplies

Get enough nonperishable foods now for two weeks. Store them in a box and leave them alone. Don't buy foods that are salty, dry or high in fat or protein; they will make you thirsty.

- * Water: 2 quarts to 1 gallon per person (get a week's supply)
- * Ice
- * Shelf-packaged juice and milk boxes
- * Canned and powdered milk
- * Beverages (powdered or canned, fruit juices, instant coffee, tea)
- * Prepared foods (canned soups, beef, spaghetti, tuna, chicken, ham, corned beef hash, packaged pudding)
- * Canned vegetables and fruits
- * Dried fruits
- * Snacks (crackers, cookies, hard candy, nuts)
- * Snack spreads (peanut butter, cheese spreads, jelly)
- * Cereals
- * Raw vegetables
- * Sugar, salt, pepper
- * Bread
- * Dry and canned pet food
- * Extra formula, baby food

Hardware

- * Hand tools - hammer, screwdrivers to use now; shovel and pickax for after the storm
- * Power screwdriver
- * 4 by 8-foot sheets of plywood 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch thick to put over your windows. Make sure you ask for exterior plywood.
- * 1/4-inch machine screw sockets and screws
- * Plastic sheeting to cover furniture
- * Rope
- * Sturdy working gloves
- * Duct tape to waterproof items - masking tape isn't strong enough
- * Canvas tarps
- * Nails. There are many kinds, so look over your home now and determine what you will need. A nail too small, the wrong shape or hammered in wrong will fail, and that will give the storm the breach it needs to get into your home.

Baby Needs

- * Disposable diapers
- * Wipes
- * Diaper-rash ointment, petroleum jelly
- * Baby medicines (pain, cold, cough)
- * Medicine dropper
- * Extra formula, baby food

Emergency Toilet

- * Small can or garbage can with tight lid
- * Plastic bags for liners
- * Disinfectant or bleach
- * Deodorizer

Useful Contacts

Emergency Contacts

Grand Cayman

- *Police: 911
- *Fire: 911
- *Hospital: 911
- *Divers Recompression Chamber: 911
- *National Hurricane Committee Emergency Operations Centre (NHC): 949-6555
- *Emergency Information Hotline: 946-3333 (Activated during 'Alert' phase)
- *Red Cross: 949-6785 | 916-3345 ; Email: rxadmin@candw.ky; Website: www.redcross.org.ky

Cayman Brac

- *Police: 911 or 948-0223
- *Fire: 911 or 948-1245 or 948-1293
- *Hospital: 911 or 948-2225
- *District Commissioner's Office: 948-2651

Little Cayman

- *Police: 911 or 948-0083
- *Fire: 911 or 948-0011
- *District Officer: 948-1051

Utility Companies

Grand Cayman

- *Electricity: 945-1CUC (1282) or 949-5200 or 949-5300 or 911
- *Water Authority: 916-1000 or 949-6352
- *Cayman Water Company: 945-4347

Cayman Brac

- *Electricity: 948-4224

Telecommunication Providers

LIME

- *Tel: 611
- *Web Address: www.cw.ky

TeleCayman

- *Tel: 769-HELP(4357) or 769-1000
- *Web address: www.telecayman.com

Digicel

- *Tel: 100 from your Digicel mobile or 623-DIGI (3444)
- *Web address: www.digicelcayman.com

WestTel

- *Tel: 945 2739 ext. 1
- *Web address: www.westtel.ky

Passport Offices

Grand Cayman

located beside
Immigration on Elgin Avenue
Tel: 949-8344

Cayman Brac

located at
District Commissioner's Office
Tel: 948-2222

Consular Representatives

Canadian High Commission:

Top floor of Barnett Music by the Red Cross
Tel: 949-9400

Barbados Consul:

Juliette Gooding,
Honorary Consul to Barbados in the Cayman Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 203SAV
Tel: 916 7711
email: Barbcon2@hotmail.com

Jamaica Consular Office:

British Dot Com Centre, on Dorcy Drive in Industrial Park
Tel: 949-9526
email: Jamaica@candw.ky

USA Consulate:

Dorothy (Dee) Duggan, Honorary Consul
2nd Floor, Mirco Centre, North Sound Road
Mailing address: P.O. Box 2392
Tel: 945 8173
email: consagency@candw.ky