



# Hurricane Season and Power Outage Checklist

## Before Hurricane Season

### Water

- Inventory potable (drinkable) and non-potable water storage (rain barrels, hot tub, outdoor pool etc.).
- Water requirements: potable water requirements are a minimum of 1 gallon per person per day for at least 3 days. Children, elderly, and the ill may need more. Don't forget pets!
- Write down your water provider's contact information so you can check to confirm that your tap water is safe to drink after a water interruption or other event.
- Clear non-potable water can be boiled for at least 10 minutes before drinking.
- Clear non-potable water can be treated with chlorine bleach<sup>1</sup>:

Amount of Clear Water	Amount of regular bleach	Amount of Concentrated regular bleach
1 quart	2 drops	2 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	6 drops
2 gallons	16 drops	12 drops, or 1/8 teaspoon
5 gallons	40 drops	30 drops

- Use ONLY regular bleach or concentrated regular bleach. Do not use scented bleaches, high efficiency bleach, splash-less bleach, or any bleach other than regular bleach.
- Use fresh bleach that was purchased in the last 4 months.
- Allow the bleach-treated water to stand for 30 minutes to 1 hour. Properly treated water should have a slight chlorine odor.
- If there is no chlorine odor, repeat the treatment. Add the same amount of bleach and wait 15 minutes. Check again for the chlorine odor before drinking the water.
- If the bleach taste is too strong, pour cleaned water between clean containers several times and let it stand for a few hours before use.
- If you stocked up on bottled water, save the empty bottles! You can use some of them to collect untreated water, and others to store the water you treat.
- If you are on a well and lose power, you will lose power to the well pump, so plan accordingly! Install a hand pump or configure your well pump power line to work off generator power.

### Supplies

- Inventory any stored fuel supplies (gasoline, propane, kerosene, lamp oil). Fill any empty authorized containers. Fill up vehicles. Put Sta-Bil or similar product in stored gasoline if it is not already treated.
- Batteries (single-use and rechargeable batteries):

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.clorox.com/how-to/disinfecting-sanitizing/disaster-preparation-and-cleanup/directions-for-disinfection-of-water/>



- Inventory battery stockpile. Maintain enough for two or more weeks use.
- Charge any rechargeable batteries.
- Charge any battery 'storage banks' (such as a re-usable cell phone charger.)
- Check and fill grill propane tanks, and store safely away from occupied buildings.
- Refill house main propane tank if it is below 50% capacity.
- Get extra cash from ATMs as the machines many not work or be empty after a disaster.
- Purchase supplies as needed from the list below:

Grocery Store	Hardware Store	Gas Station
Perishable food for no more than the next 7 days Non-perishable food Non-perishable comfort food Batteries Bottled water Household cleaners, soap Personal hygiene items, baby wipes, hand sanitizer Toilet paper & tissues Paper towels Pet food Over-the-counter medicines Trash bags	Tarps Visqueen plastic Plywood (for windows) Nails and screws Sta-Bil Kerosene Lamp Oil Bar oil (for chainsaw) 2-cycle oil (for chainsaw) 30w oil (for generators) Duct Tape Fire extinguishers Work Gloves	Gas in all vehicles Gas in all authorized containers Top off cans with Sta-Bil
		<b>Bank or ATM</b>  Cash

## Lighting

- Test and replace where necessary the batteries in flashlights; check lanterns, and repair and fuel as needed.
- Headlamp flashlights are very useful (they usually run on AAA batteries).
- Put a flashlight in each room.
- Check and replace where necessary pocket flashlight batteries.
- Test and recharge any solar lights.
- Solar landscaping lights are inexpensive and can be used as indoor lighting sources.

## Food

- Test propane grill and other alternate cooking devices.
- Start making ice and have bags ready for when the ice maker gets full.
- Stock up on pet food, supplements, and medications if needed.

## Safety

- Test smoke and CO alarms; replace batteries if needed.
- Check and replace fire extinguishers if needed.

## Personal Wellness Planning

- Check and restock your first aid kit.



- Medication management:
  - Keep an extra supply of your medication if possible and necessary.
  - If your medicine must remain cold, develop a contingency plan to keep it safe.
  - Have extra batteries, cleaning supplies and equipment for durable equipment (such as insulin pumps, sleep apnea machines, cleaning supplies, O2 tanks, etc.).
- Update your medical documentation.
  - Health documentation lists: health care directives, medication lists (brand names, doses, how often and for what condition, etc.).
  - List of names and addresses of preferred pharmacy and health care providers.
  - Store in a safe location and in plastic bags (in case the safe location gets wet).

## Business Contingency planning

- Review and update **facilities** emergency plans. Review especially flood mitigation actions, provisions for backup power (check that it works!) and for after-disaster repairs.
- Review and update on-site **emergency** plans (water, food, first aid, communications, business specific supplies, business continuity supplies, notification plans, important information for first responders).
- Review **personnel** policies such as employee notifications, telework policies, insurance policies, employee / family reunification procedures.
- Review **continuity of operations** plans: alternate locations, access to important corporate data, supplier, and contact lists.

## Communications

**In an emergency call 9-1-1.**

### CodeRED Alert Chatham System

- If not already registered, sign up<sup>2</sup> to receive Chatham emergency notifications on your cell phone.

### Radio

- Check your NOAA weather radio and change its batteries for fresh ones.
  - The NOAA SAME code for Chatham County is 037037 on frequency 162.550.
- Check your portable AM/FM radios:
  - WPTF-AM 680 WPTF.com or <http://player.listenlive.co/47781/>
  - WCHL-AM 1360AM Chapel Hill or <http://chapelboro.com/>
  - WUNC-FM 91.5 FM or <http://tunein.com/radio/WUNC-915-s23398/>
  - WTKK 106.1 FM Raleigh or <http://www.iheart.com/live/1061-FM-1649/>

### Television

- WRAL-TV Channel 5
- WNCN-TV Channel 17

### Amateur (ham) Radio

- Primary Skywarn 146.88(-) (no tone). This is probably the best source for immediate regional weather conditions.
- Backup Skywarn is 147.105(+) (82.5Hz). Tertiary Backup Skywarn is the Carolina 440 UHF Link System. These frequencies can be found at [www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net).

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<sup>2</sup> <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/600C00D297C7>



- Hurricane Watch Net (when activated this is an emergency directed net): 14.325.00 MHz OR 7.268 MHz.
- W4UNC repeater: 442.15+ Tone: 131.88. This is probably the best way to stay in radio contact across the region. It may be in emergency use for Orange County AuxComm.
- Chatham County AuxComm repeater: 443.475 + offset PL 131.8. This repeater may be in emergency use for Chatham AuxComm.
- The Tarheel Emergency Net operates nightly at 7:30 pm on 3923 KHz.

## Other communications

- Visit or call neighbors and friends and share preparedness plans.
- Check your list of emergency telephone numbers and contacts: local police and fire departments, physicians and medical facilities, pharmacies, utilities, contractors, veterinarians, etc. Update the list that you carry in your billfold.
- **Chatham County Emergency Operations Center** information line: (919) 545-8181.
- Monitor the Chatham County Emergency Operations Center website<sup>3</sup>.
- Have a current / recent paper road map of Chatham County and North Carolina.

## Residence

- Remove any outside loose items from around the house and all other buildings; tie down or move inside anything that can blow around and become a missile.
- Check and repair any worn door or window latches as well as hardware and weather stripping.
- Clean out and make any necessary repairs to roof drains, gutters, and flashing.
- Check curtains (helps keep house cool).
- Locate and check tent, sleeping bags, cots, tarps, and other alternate-sleeping equipment you may have.

## Power

- Develop a generator starting / shutdown checklist and keep it with your generator.
- Check if an oil change is needed to maintain generators.
- Check for extra generator oil – most generators use SAE 30 during most of the year.
- Check for extra generator fuses.
- Fill and check-run portable generators, then refill gas storage containers.
- Check power cables that go with or are used with generators, replace any that are worn, broken, have cracked insulation, etc.

## Medical

- Refill any prescriptions that are needed in the next 30 days.
- Check for pet medications and refill if needed.
- Check first aid bag.
- Check and purchase any additional supplies.

## Vehicles

- Keep vehicle fuel tanks above 3/4 full.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.chathamnc.org/government/departments-programs/emergency-operations/emergency-management>



- Check vehicles for tire pressure, fluid levels, belt tensions, and any pending maintenance.
- Check vehicles for pending registration or inspection and consider doing those early in case they cannot be performed after a pending weather event.

## **Insurance**

- Take pictures of the inside and outside of the house to document belongings for insurance purposes. Post to shared folder (like Dropbox, OneDrive, iCloud etc.).
- Print out copy of insurance paperwork and store in a waterproof safe. Keep a separate copy in your online shared drive.

## **3-to-4 Days Out from Storm**

- Purchase last minutes items and perishable items such as fruits and vegetables that do not need refrigeration. Allow for one to two weeks of fresh food.
- Pay / pre-pay any bills coming due in the next 30 days.
- Start freezing water in plastic bottles. This will help freezers and refrigerators stay cool longer if the power goes out.
- Review preparedness plans to include responsibilities for final preparations, and responsibilities immediately after the event, and your personal contingency plans for when things go wrong. They will go wrong.
- Start consuming primary refrigerated fresh food.
- Start and re-fuel or re-charge chain saw. Check and replenish chain oil and 2-cycle motor oil. Double-check you have adequate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to use with chain saws and similar equipment.
- For whole-house generators, review your operating manual for power-on and power-off operations and for periodic maintenance requirements.
- Complete a trash / recycling run.
- Trim any trees or branches that could fall and be blown into your residence.
- Check and refill your 'walk-out' bags (items needed if evacuating your home for a shelter or other location).
- Refill any large-animal prescriptions if needed.
- Download any movies, books, or music if needed for entertainment during the storm.
- Check out books from the library for entertainment during the storm.

## **48 Hours Out from Storm**

- Re-check and re-secure any loose objects outside the home.
- Check rain gutters and downspouts, and clean if needed. Check that outside drains are open, and clean if needed.
- Charge rechargeable batteries and radios.
- Back up computers to external drives, and store in a safe, watertight place.
- Secure paper records in a watertight and safe place.
- Charge any solar lights.
- Mow lawn.
- Bring in houseplants.
- Tie down garden plants.



- Harvest garden produce if ready.
- Re-inventory water supplies. Fill water containers if not already full.

## 10-to-24 Hours Out from Storm

- Secure any items still outside the home.
- Move all vehicles inside if possible. If not, park away from each other.
- Check alternate light sources to make sure they work.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Make ready food stores and water for the next 24-72 hours. Some perishable food for immediate use can be moved to coolers.
- Turn freezer and refrigerator temperatures down – get them as cool as possible without freezing the coils.
- Turn air conditioning down and get the house cool before the power goes out.
- Locate entertainment such as board games and books, and stage them inside the house.
- Charge devices:
  - Laptops, tablets, and cell phones.
  - Portable ham radios.
- Wash all dishes.
- Finish any remaining laundry.
- Fill sinks, bathtub, and containers with water and treat with a couple drops of chlorine bleach. Place a filled bucket of water next to the toilet for use in flushing.
- Re-treat any non-potable sources of water with a couple drops of chlorine bleach.
- Move some frozen water bottles from the freezer to the refrigerator.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- Call relatives and friends and set up communication times.
- Ham radio operators: monitor SKYWARN and alternate frequencies.
- If the situation warrants, move to the most secure part of the house.

## POWER OUT?

- Report outages to your power company:
  - Duke Piedmont: (800) 419-6356
  - Central EMC: 877-766-6769
  - Piedmont EMC: (800) 449-2667 or (800) 222-3107
- Unplug all AC powered lights and appliances, televisions, and computers. This helps prevent power flickers and surge damage to sensitive electronics. Leave one lamp plugged in and on to tell when the power comes back.
- Run generators 2-3 hours in the morning and 2-3 hours in the evening to cool refrigerators, charge devices, cool house, cook, and take showers. Don't overload your generator capacity. Preserve generator fuel for a long-term event.
  - Ensure NO POWER flows back into the utility lines. DO NOT attempt to power your house by back-feeding into any outlet. You could electrocute utility workers.
  - NEVER run a generator indoors, in a garage or other attached structure, or near a window. They produce dangerous fumes!



- Keep the generator dry and do not use it in the rain or in wet areas. Run it on a flat, dry surface under a dry canopy-like covering such as a tarp on poles. Do not touch a generator with wet hand.
- Turn the generator off and let it cool before refilling it with fuel or checking oil levels.
- For whole-house generators, review your operating manual for power-on and power-off operations and for periodic maintenance requirements.
- Active alternate light sources as needed.
- Monitor your battery-powered television or radio.
- Make sure your solar operated devices are recharged regularly by the sun.
- Ham radio operators: monitor and report to SKYWARN.

## After the Storm

- Continue to monitor news sources for emergency information (flooding, boil water notices, etc.).
- Check on neighbors and their property for damages or injuries.
- Follow your communication plan and notify relatives and friends of your situation.
- Check and clear your driveway and lane of downed trees if safe to do so.
- Take photographs of any damage, save in a safe place in the event your camera or phone are damaged, lost, or stolen.
- Cover any broken windows and damaged roofs, take measures to protect property that is still salvageable.
- Avoid travel on the road unless you have a life-threatening or urgent situation.
- Never drive through flooded areas: **turn around, don't drown!**
- Clean drains and remove debris from yards.
- Check refrigerated and frozen food for spoilage if there has been a power failure.
- Beware of insects and other animals: bees, wasps, snakes, and so on may have lost their homes and will be dangerous.
  - 50% of post-hurricane injuries are caused by insects and animals.
  - Standing waters are breeding grounds for mosquitos. Drain off what you can.
- Beware of loose or dangling power lines. Report any to the power company.
- Wear appropriate clothing and gear: sun hats, long pants and long sleeves, work boots, and gloves.
- Use insect repellent, and spray it on yourself, your clothes, and your hat.

## Evacuation to a County Shelter

- Chatham County does not have pre-designated shelters. Shelters are set up as needed in locations most suitable for the emergency and are open only for the minimum time necessary.
- Shelters provide only a minimum of personal items: cot, blanket, some hygiene items, and meals.
  - Plan to bring with you any individual toiletries, clothing, personal hygiene items, and any prescription medicines.
  - Bring required children's or senior's items.
  - Consider bringing books or board games for entertainment.
  - Be prepared in case your dietary restrictions cannot be met by the shelter.



## CERT Members

- **CERT MEMBERS DO NOT SELF-DEPLOY.** If needed, CERT members will receive a message from AlertChatham / CodeRED giving instructions. Most early information will be posted on the CERT website<sup>4</sup> or sent out by group email messages.
- Possible roles for CERT members:
  - Assist family members and neighbors
  - Set up shelters
  - Assist with emergency supply distribution (PODS)
  - Emergency Operations Center support
  - Windshield Surveys (drive through areas to report damage)
  - Volunteer Management (coordinating volunteers, particularly spontaneous volunteers)
  - Urban Search and Rescue (in extreme circumstances, and under the direction of trained searchers).

Required CERT Deployment List	Recommended CERT Deployment List
<p><b>CERT &amp; Identifying Gear</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CERT Vest</li> <li>• CERT ID badge (if issued)</li> <li>• Personal Identification</li> </ul> <p><b>Pocket Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multitool or pocketknife</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Cellphone with spare battery or charger</li> </ul> <p><b>Backpack / fanny pack / belt pouch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flashlight or headlamp with spare batteries</li> <li>• Notepad (write-in-rain type if possible), pen / pencil</li> <li>• Sharpie-type black marker</li> <li>• Work gloves</li> <li>• Protective (latex-like) gloves</li> <li>• Dust mask</li> <li>• Goggles</li> <li>• Whistles</li> <li>• Length of parachute cord</li> <li>• Emergency mylar blanket</li> <li>• Hat (CERT hat if possible)</li> <li>• Map (street and topo) and compass</li> <li>• Duct tape</li> </ul>	<p><b>Individual first aid kit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band-Aids (various sizes)</li> <li>• Tweezers and magnifying glass</li> <li>• Anti-bacterial ointment</li> <li>• Tourniquet(s)</li> <li>• Antiseptic wipes</li> <li>• Aspirin</li> <li>• Advil or Tylenol or Ibuprofen</li> <li>• Benadryl</li> <li>• Stop-bleed dressing</li> <li>• Triangle Bandages</li> </ul> <p><b>Weather-specific</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rain gear or poncho</li> <li>• Cold weather gear (hat, coat, gloves, extra socks)</li> <li>• Hiking boots (steel toed, ankle-high)</li> <li>• CERT helmet</li> </ul> <p><b>Refreshments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individually packaged snacks (water, heat, and dust proof)</li> <li>• Extra water</li> </ul> <p><b>Miscellany</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal hygiene items (lip balm, sunscreen, insect repellent)</li> <li>• Large trash bags</li> <li>• Extra glasses and sunglasses</li> <li>• Personal contact list (on paper)</li> <li>• Zip-seal plastic bags, various sizes</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> www.chathamcert.org