

Hurricane and Power Outage Checklist

7 DAYS OUT

Water

- Inventory potable and non-potable water storage (rain barrels, hot tub, outdoor pool etc).
 - Water requirements: potable (drinking) water requirements are a minimum of 1 gallon / person / day for 3 days. Children, elderly and the ill may need more. Don't forget pets!
 - Clear non-potable water can be boiled for at least 10 minutes before drinking.
 - Check with your water provider to confirm that your tap water is safe to drink.
- Clear non-potable water can be treated with chlorine bleach.

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. Don't use scented bleaches, high efficiency bleach, splash-less bleach, or other bleach products other than regular bleach.
 - Use bleach that was purchased in the last 4 months.
 - Mix well and let rest for 1 hour before consuming.
 - If the water you want to treat is cloudy and you can't decant or filter it, add twice the amount of bleach recommended above.
- 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.
Read more at <https://www.clorox.com/how-to/disinfecting-sanitizing/disaster-preparation-and-cleanup/disaster-preparedness-purifying-water/>
- If you are on a well and lose power, you will lose power to the well pump!

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 (and rechargeable batteries).
 - Inventory battery stockpile. Maintain sufficient amounts for minimum two weeks use.
 - Charge any rechargeable batteries.
- Check and fill grill propane tanks.
- Refill house main propane tank if below 50%.
- Get extra cash from ATM as the machines may not work or be empty after a disaster.
- Purchase supplies as needed from below list.



Grocery Store	Hardware Store	Gas Station
Perishable food for no more than the next 7 days	Tarps	Gas in all vehicles
Non-perishable food	Visqueen plastic	Gas in all authorized containers
Non-perishable comfort food	Plywood (for windows)	Top off cans with Sta-Bil
Batteries	Nails and screws	Bank or ATM
Bottled water	Sta-Bil	Cash in small denominations (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20) for emergencies if credit card readers are out
Household cleaners, soap	Kerosene	
Personal hygiene items, baby wipes, hand sanitizer	Lamp Oil	
Toilet paper & tissues	Bar oil (for chainsaw)	
Paper towels	2-cycle oil (for chainsaw)	
Pet food	30w oil (for generators)	
Over-the-counter medicines	Duct Tape	
Trash bags	Fire extinguishers	
	Work Gloves	

Lighting

- Test and replace where necessary batteries in flashlights; check lanterns, and repair and fuel as needed.
- Headlamp flashlights are most 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 or other alternate cooking devices.
- Start making ice and have bags ready for when the ice maker gets full.
- Stock up on pet food if needed.

Safety

- Test smoke and CO alarms, replace batteries if needed.
- Update your health documentation lists: health care directives, medication lists (brand names, doses, how often and for what condition, 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).

Personal Wellness Planning

- Check and restock your first aid kit.
- Medication management:
 - Keep an extra supply 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, O2 tanks)
- Update medical documentation
 - Update any personal health care directives
 - Make a list of medication needed (brand names, doses, how often, for what condition)
 - Make a list of names and addresses of preferred pharmacy, physician

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 at <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/600C00D297C7> to receive Chatham emergency notifications on your phone.

Radio and TV

- 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.
- Test portable AM/FM radios
 - WCHL-AM 1360AM Chapel Hill <http://chapelboro.com/>
 - WPTF-AM 680 AM wptf.com <http://player.listenlive.co/47781/>
 - WTKK 106.1 FM Raleigh <http://www.iheart.com/live/1061-FM-1649/>
 - WUNC-FM 91.5 FM <http://tunein.com/radio/WUNC-915-s23398/>
- TV (monitor local stations for detailed information)
- WRAL-TV Channel 5
- WNCN-TV Channel 17
- Ham radios
 - Primary **Skywarn** 146.88(-)(no tone). This is probably the best source for immediate local 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.
- **Hurricane Watch Net** (for information; 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 Chatham county. It may be in emergency use for Chatham AuxComm.
- 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.
- The **Chatham County Emergency Operations Center** information line can be reached at 919-545-8181.

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- Monitor the Chatham County Emergency Operations Center website at <https://www.chathamnc.org/government/departments-programs/emergency-operations/emergency-management/emergency-operations-center>
 - Have a paper road map of the County and State.

Residence

- Remove any outside loose items from around the house and barn; tie down or move inside anything that can blow around and become a missile.
- Check and repair any worn door or window latches and hardware and weather stripping.
- Clean out and make any necessary repairs to roof drains, gutters, and flashing.
- Check and replace fire extinguishers if needed.
- Check curtains (closing them helps keep house cool).
- Locate tent, sleeping bags, cots, tarps, etc.

Power

- Do you have the manual and a starting / shutdown checklist?
- Check if oil change is needed to maintain generators.
- Check for extra generator oil – SAE 30 during most of the year.
- Check for extra generator fuses.
- Fill and check-run portable generators, then refill gas storage containers.

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- Check vehicles for tire pressure, fluid levels, belt tensions, and any pending maintenance.

Insurance

- Take pictures of the inside and outside of the house to document belongings for insurance purposes. Post to an online service like Dropbox, OneDrive, iCloud.
- Print out copy of insurance paperwork and store in a safe place. Keep a separate copy in your online drive.

3-TO-4 DAYS OUT

- Purchase last minute 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 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.
- Start consuming primarily refrigerated perishable food.

- Start and re-fuel chain saw. Check and replenish chain oil and 2-cycle motor oil.
- Complete a trash / recycling run.
- Trim any trees or branches that could fall down 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, and music if needed for entertainment during the storm.
- Check out books from the library for entertainment during the storm.

48 HOURS OUT

- Re-check and re-secure any loose objects outside of 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.
- Charge phone backup devices.
- Back up computers to external drives, and store in a safe (preferably watertight) space.
- 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 completed.

10 TO 24 HOURS OUT

- 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 temps down - get them as cold 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 (before power failure).
- Finish any remaining laundry (before power failure).
- Fill sinks, bath tub and containers with water and treat with a few drops of Clorox. Place bucket next to toilet for use in flushing.
- Re-treat any non-potable water sources with chlorine.

- Move some frozen water bottles to the refrigerator.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- Call relatives and friends and set up communication times.
- Hams: monitor SKYWARN primary and alternate frequencies.
- If the situation warrants, move to the most secure part of the house.

POWER OUT (Include items from 10-24 hours out check-list)

- Report outages to power company.
 - Duke: 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, computers (except one lamp). This prevents problems from flickering power.
- Run **generators** 2-3 hours in morning and 2-3 in evening to cool refrigerators, charge devices, cool house, cook, and take showers. Don't overload the generator capacity.
 - **Ensure NO POWER flows back into the utility lines. DO NOT attempt to power the house by back-feeding into any outlet.**
 - NEVER run a generator indoors or near a window. They produce dangerous fumes!
 - Keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. Run it on a dry, flat surface under a dry canopy-like covering such as a tarp on poles. Do not touch a generator with wet hands.
 - Turn the generator off and let it cool before refilling with fuel.
 - For whole-house generators, review the operating instructions for power-on power-off operations and for periodic maintenance requirements.
- Activate alternate light sources as needed.
- Monitor the battery-operated television or radio.
- Make sure solar operated devices are charged by the sun.
- Ham radio operators: Monitor and report to SKYWARN - this may be your best source of news and information.

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 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, etc. may have lost their homes and 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, work gloves.
- Use insect repellent, long sleeves, socks, and shoes.

Evacuation to a County Shelter

- Chatham County does not have pre-designated shelters. They are set up as needed in locations most suitable for the emergency event.
- Shelters provide only a minimum of personal items (cot, blanket, some personal hygiene items) and meals.
 - Plan to bring 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 the event dietary restrictions cannot be met.
- Shelters will only be open for the minimum time necessary. You will meet with Social Services to develop a plan for permanent accommodations as soon as possible.



CERT Members

Remember, 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 at www.chathamcert.org.
- Possible roles for CERT members:
 - Assist family members and neighbors
 - Set up shelters
 - Assist with emergency supply distribution (PODS)
 - Emergency Operations Center support (staffing the rumor control line, updating maps, coordinating volunteers)
 - Windshield Surveys (drive through areas to note 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>CERT & Identifying Gear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CERT Vest ○ Personal identification ○ CERT ID Badge (if issued) <p>Pocket or Belted Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Multitool or pocketknife ○ Water ○ Cellphone with spare battery/charger <p>Backpack / fanny pack / belt pouch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flashlight or headlamp with spare batteries ○ Notepad (write-in-rain type if possible), pen/pencil ○ Sharpie-type black marker ○ Work gloves ○ Protective gloves (latex-like) ○ Dust mask ○ Goggles ○ Whistle ○ Parachute cord ○ Emergency mylar blanket ○ Hat (CERT hat if available) 	<p>Individual first aid kit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Band-aids (various sizes) ○ Tweezers & magnifying glass ○ Anti-bacterial ointment ○ Tourniquet(s) ○ Antiseptic wipes ○ Aspirin ○ Advil or Tylenol or Ibuprofen ○ Benadryl ○ Stop bleed dressing ○ Triangle bandages <p>Weather-specific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rain gear or poncho ○ Cold weather gear (hat, coat, gloves, extra socks) ○ Hiking boots (steel-toed, ankle-high) ○ CERT helmet <p>Refreshments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individually packaged snacks (water, heat, & dust proof) ○ Extra water ○ Map (street and topo) and compass <p>Miscellany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personal hygiene items, lip balm, sunscreen, insect repellent ○ Large trash bags ○ Extra glasses, sunglasses ○ Personal contact list (on paper) ○ Duct tape ○ Zip-seal plastic bags, various sizes (to keep supplies dry)