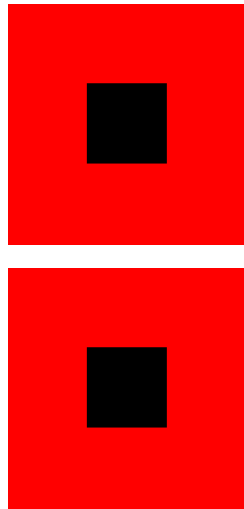


Westport Fire Department – Emergency Operations Center  
515 Post Road East, Westport CT 06880  
203-341-5000



THE NEXT HURRICANE... ARE YOU PREPARED?



## HURRICANE & NOR'EASTER HOME PREPARATION GUIDE:

*Before the Season...*

*When a Hurricane Watch is posted...*

*When a Hurricane Warning is posted...*

*Hurricane Effects & Terminology...*

*Shelter & Preparation Information...*

*Westport is a coastal community. It is critical that you and your family prepare for hurricane season well before a storm threatens. Take these early steps now and the threat of a storm will be less stressful because you will be prepared.*

### **Assemble your disaster supplies kit. Include:**

A 7-day supply of water (1 gallon per person per day)  
Non-perishable food, utensils, a manual can opener  
One change of clothing and shoes per person  
Sanitary and hygiene supplies  
Prescription and non-prescription drugs, a 1st aid kit  
One blanket or sleeping bag per person  
A battery-powered radio (NOAA weather radio)  
Flashlight with extra batteries  
Extra set of car/house keys, credit cards, and cash  
Any items for family members with special needs

### **Prepare your home:**

Trim back trees, remove yard debris, clean all gutters  
Completely secure gas grills, propane tanks, outside oil tanks, and patio furniture. Determine where to store boats, RV's  
Inspect roof, skylights, exterior doors, garage doors, and windows —  
Make any necessary repairs NOW.  
If you live on the water, get storm shutters or pre-cut plywood to cover windows and doors on your home.  
Prepare sandbags and plastic sheeting if you home is in a flood-prone area.

### **Prepare your family and pets:**

>Review your disaster plan with everybody.  
>Pre-plan a primary and secondary escape route  
>Establish an inland meeting point.  
>Leave a record of your plan & contact phone numbers on your refrigerator.  
> Review the Westport Shelter information at the FD's town web page.

## When a **HURRICANE WATCH** is issued...

*A Hurricane WATCH means that storm conditions: sustained winds of 74 mph or higher with dangerously high water, heavy flooding rains, are possible within the next 36 hours.*

- > Check your disaster supply kit, including food and water
- > Watch and listen to TV/radio broadcasts for official news.
- > If you own a pet and may have to evacuate, find a place that will take your pet NOW. If you are going to a hotel/motel make sure they will allow pets.
- > Gas up all vehicles. If you store extra fuel do so only in approved containers.
- > Refill any prescriptions. Check the first aid kit.
- > Clear your yard of any potential flying objects: toys, furniture, barbeques, potted plants, garden tools, etc.
- > Prepare to cover windows and glass doors
- > Take extra cash out of the bank. ATMs will not work without power
- > Talk to friends and neighbors about their plans for the storm
- > Make sure elderly or disabled family/neighbors are okay
- > Store any valuables and personal papers in a watertight container on the highest level of your home
- > If you own a boat, triple up mooring lines or move the boat to a safe location. Pulling the boat out of the water is a good idea if possible.
- > Remove or secure roof antennas or satellite dishes
- > Review your evacuation plans—follow the advice of the local authorities. Listen to WWPT-FM 90.3 for EOC updates.
- > Keep in close communication with family members. Make sure everybody knows what the action plan is if the storm hits.
- > Small children will need extra care and attention during this stressful event.
- > Be ready to act quickly and decisively should the Hurricane watch become a Hurricane Warning.
- > Stay ahead of the storm.

>Prepare early and anticipate: pro-act, don't re-act!

When a **HURRICANE WARNING** is issued...

*A HURRICANE WARNING MEANS THAT STORM CONDITIONS ARE FORECAST TO IMPACT THE AREA WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS. IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THE EYE OF THE STORM WILL HIT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD — HOWEVER DANGEROUS WEATHER EXTENDS WELL AWAY FROM THE EYE.*

Closely follow official information from TV, radio, town web site.

Secure all windows and doors. Now is the time to cover windows with plywood.

Store additional drinking water in clean plastic bottles. Fill bathtubs with water but use extra caution if small children are in the home.

Set refrigerators/freezers to coldest settings.

Test generators, ensure fuel tanks are full on all vehicles.

## **IF an evacuation is advised...**

Follow the directions on the FD web page.

Inform a friend or family member *outside the storm area* of your plans and destination.

Take your disaster supplies, along with adequate clothing, blankets, etc. with you

Turn OFF water at the main valve.

Turn OFF electricity at the main breaker panel.

Turn OFF propane tanks at the tank valve.

If you have street gas service DO NOT turn off gas unless SPECIFICALLY advised to do so.

## **Hurricane Shelter Information**

Staples High School, 70 North Ave, serves as Westport's Hurricane/Storm Shelter.

**Listen to the Radio** : Tune in to WWPT-FM at 90.3 or check the department's Facebook (Town of Westport Fire Department) page to learn when the shelter will be open.

**Prepare your Shelter Kit**: The Shelter has a limited number of cots available. Plan on bringing with you: bedding and pillows, a change of clothing, a towel & toiletries, a flashlight, any medications you may need, your cell phone and charger (the Shelter does have generator power), and items to pass the time (cards, books, games, etc.), and snacks or any special dietary food items you need.

**Food & Beverage**: The shelter will provide minimal food and beverage services such as a pasta dinner, sandwiches, coffee and water. If you have special dietary requirements you must be prepared to bring your own food. If you have nut

allergies, every effort will be made to accommodate that. However, please understand that it may not always be possible during an emergency situation.

**Evacuate When Instructed:** Proceed to the shelter when advised to by town authorities. Please **do not attempt an early arrival** as shelter staff will be busy preparing to open and will not have time to assist you.

**Call if you Need Help:** If you cannot drive or need special assistance to get to the shelter, please **contact the Town 24 hours before the storm hits** so arrangements can be made. If we pick you up, we will also take you home *as our resources permit*.

**Pets are Welcome:** Westport's shelter accepts pets. You must bring your own pet food, leash, cat box & litter, and a pet carrier. A favorite pet toy or blanket is a good idea also. Pets will be housed in an area separate from human habitation to protect those with allergies. You will be able to freely visit your pet in that area. Pets will not be permitted in the general shelter. Service animals will be permitted with acceptable documentation.

*Remember that the Shelter is a bare-bones place to get you through the storm. You may find staying at an inland hotel or with friends/family more comfortable. Storm Shelters are not substitute housing, and typically close 24 to 48 hours after the storm has passed*

## **IF you are not advised to evacuate and will be at home...**

Stay in an inside room away from windows, skylights and doors.

Keep checking information on your battery-powered radio.

Have a flashlight and spare batteries ready. **DO NOT USE** open flames or candles

Turn off all major appliances

If you lose power, turn off power at the main breaker panel.

Keep children occupied with games and toys

Keep calm. Decisions made under emotional stress are often wrong.

## **When the storm had passed...**

Remain inside until advised by officials that the storm has passed.

Be prepared to be self-reliant for several days— this is what your disaster kit is for.

Check for damaged utilities and downed wires. Report these to the authorities (telephone numbers below)

**BE SURE TO STAY AWAY FROM ALL DOWNED WIRES.**

Be patient. Try to help your neighbors if they are unprepared.

If you are using an emergency generator, be sure the main power disconnect is open so as not to back feed power to street lines. Ensure adequate ventilation from exhaust fumes.

# A word on Emergency Services...

In the event of a MAJOR disaster emergency plans are in place to supply you with basic necessities such as food, water and ice. These plans will take a minimum of 24 to 48 hours to set up. Listen to the radio (90.3 FM) for information.

In the event of a major hurricane hit, restoration of utilities will take days or weeks, so plan accordingly.

The Westport FD is dedicated to your safety. If we advise a mandatory evacuation it is to protect your life. Do not expect firefighters to risk their lives at the height of the storm because you failed to comply with a mandatory evacuation.

It is the town's safety policy that public protection personnel must take shelter once sustained winds exceed 50 mph.

## Understanding Hurricane Effects...

### WIND

74 mph or higher with gusts to 200 mph possible

Category 1 storm has winds up to 95 mph

Highest winds located near the eye wall

Can hurl loose objects, branches and debris through the air with devastating effects.

### STORM SURGE

Created by wind-driven water and low atmospheric pressure.

Can be as high as 25' above mean high water.

Flooding can begin 12 hours before storm hits.

Storm surges kill more people than any other effect.

### FLOODING RAINS

Heavy rain bands extend hundreds of miles outside the eye of the storm.

The slower-moving the storm, the more rain and flooding occurs.

Upwards of 10 to 12" of rain over a 24 hour period is not uncommon.

### TORNADOS



Hurricanes may spawn tornados to the right and in front of the eye.

Unlike mid-western tornados, they are difficult to see due to rain and clouds; they are embedded in the storm.

### Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Damage Potential Scale

<i>Category</i>	<i>Wind Speed</i>	<i>Storm Surge</i>	<i>Damage</i>
1	74 - 95 mph	4 - 5 feet	Minimal
2	96 - 110 mph	6 - 8 feet	Moderate
3	111—129 mph	9- 12 feet	Extensive
4	130—156 mph	13 - 18 feet	Extreme
5	Above 157 mph	Above 18 feet	Catastrophic

#### **Storm Definitions:**

**Storm WATCH:** Storm conditions are possible within the next 36 hours within the watch area defined.

**Storm WARNING:** Storm conditions are expected within the next 24 hours within the warning area defined.

**Tropical Cyclone:** A warm-core storm not associated with a cold front that has deep convection and thunderstorm activity, and wind circulation around a defined center.

**Tropical Depression:** A storm with winds of up to 38 mph

**Tropical Storm:** A storm with winds of 39 - 73 mph

**Hurricane:** A powerful cyclone with winds above 74 mph

**Eye Wall:** An organized band of thunderstorms that surround the eye or a relatively calm center.

**Storm Surge:** An abnormal rise in sea level caused by the effects of storm winds and low barometric pressure. It is not a sweeping “wave” like a tidal wave.

**Voluntary Evacuation:** Residents are strongly recommended to relocate away from the warning area.

**Mandatory Evacuation:** Residents are required to relocate away from warning area and are subject to legal authority.

## Emergency Warning Information

### Radio Stations

WWPT 90.3 FM

WEBE 107.9 FM

WICC 600 AM

### TV Stations

WTNH Channel 8

Cablevision News 12

### Agencies

School Emergency Information 341-1766

CL&P Emergency Line 800-286-2000

Cablevison Service 203-847-6666

Westport Fire/Police/EMS 911

### On-Line

[www.westportct.gov](http://www.westportct.gov)

Town Website

Town of Westport Fire Dept.

Facebook

## **PERSONAL EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

*FILL THIS OUT AND LEAVE A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION IN YOUR HOME ON THE REFRIGERATOR DOOR WHEN YOU EVACUATE*

Primary Evacuation Location:

Primary Evacuation Telephone Number:

Secondary Evacuation Location:

Secondary Evacuation Telephone Number: