

EP 1: Hurricane Town Hall - Prepare

Run time: 6:38

"Hello, I'm Cynthia Zapatos with the Keesler Office of Emergency Management. Family preparedness is the keystone to ensuring that you and your family have the tools, knowledge and plans in order to effectively respond to not just hurricanes, but to almost any emergency situation.

Preparing your family for hurricane season can be accomplished through three simple steps - get a kit, make a plan and be prepared.

Let's first talk about getting a kit together and ensuring that it meets the unique needs of your family. Many items that are needed during and after disaster strikes are common household goods such as food, water, batteries, chargers and clothing. The key is to assemble these items in an identifiable kit along with other essentials that are tailored to meet your family's needs. It is recommended to maintain enough supplies for 5-10 days post disaster. On this screen you can see a list of suggested items to include in your kit (screen shows items like food & water, full gas tanks, cash, medicine & prescriptions, radios, batteries and phone chargers). But by no means is all inclusive - regarding food and water keep in mind the following: non perishable food items are preferred for their longer shelf life and durability but if you rely on canned food, make sure you include a can opener in your kit. In terms of water, plan for a gallon of water a day per person in your family. Water purification tablets or filtration devices may be included to extend these resources. If your family includes pets, young children, seniors or individuals with special needs, make sure that you have specialty items available for their care. Due to ongoing precautions associated with COVID-19 include cloth face coverings, hand sanitizers, and disinfecting wipes or sprays in your kit to keep your family healthy.

Now that we have our kit prepared, let's talk about creating a plan for your family. Do you see the chaos and the aftermath of a hurricane? Developing a family emergency plan is crucial to get everyone together and back on the same page.

Things to consider when developing your plan include:

- hurricane evacuation routes in primary and alternate meeting locations in case your family becomes separated
- and emergency contact located outside of the area who can assist in reuniting and reestablishing communication between family members.
- A list of items to take when evacuating and where they are located.
- Family member information to include phone numbers, special needs, photographs and medical information.
- Information on how to shut off utilities in case of an evacuation. Please remember that pets, dependents and retired personnel are not authorized to shelter on the installation, so plan accordingly ahead of time.

Now that we've gotten our plan together, let's look at the final step at family preparedness. To be prepared means to be aware of what is going on around you and to take steps to either remove or lessen the effects encountered during a disaster. To do this, stay updated on current events through local news and weather broadcasts, social media or mobile applications. If you are a homeowner, prepare your home with the following prevention measures.

- Trim trees and shrubs around your house to make them more resistant to the effects of high winds.
- Install storm shutters or board up windows with five eight inch exterior grade or marine plywood. Measuring cutting and labeling window coverings in advance will ensure quick and easy installation.
- Bring in or secure all loose items outside such as grills, furniture, garbage cans and toys.
- Clean out and perform maintenance on rain gutters and downspouts.
- Review and update your insurance plans. Many insurance companies will not offer certain types of coverage once hurricane season starts.
- Finally make sure that your vehicle is in good working order and don't put off any recommended maintenance. Nothing is worse than getting stranded on the side of the road when trying to evacuate.

There are many resources out there that can assist you and your family to prepare, for respond, to and recover from almost any kind of disaster. Some useful mobile applications to download include the Air Force Connect app, the AFPAAS app, local news and weather apps and the Air Force BeReady mobile app. For more information on how to further prepare you and your family visit be.ready.af.mil, ready.gov, the Mississippi Department of Transportation website and weather.gov.

I'm Freddie Jordan James, the community director here at Keesler Family Housing. Today we're going to go over some tips for hurricane preparedness.

We like to remind you of things to do in order to prepare for a potential storm. Please do not park in front of storm drains as this can be a potential to make the street flood. We always send you out an email whenever there's a potential storm coming to give you helpful tips, guidance and links to emergency websites to help you better prepare.

Hi, I'm Senior Airman Brandy Mashad from Keesler medical emergency management. When a hurricane is eminent, there are certain medical considerations you must take into account to help you prepare.

When a state of emergency is issued, TRICARE may authorize early prescription refills, blanket waivers for referrals or other emergency benefits. When authorized, any emergency benefits are announced and the disaster alert page of the tricare.mil webpage. If evacuation orders are given, be sure to take any health insurance cards, important medical or military information and documents, prescription containers and/or a list of medications with names, dosages and frequencies. If you have special needs, make sure you bring your doctor's contact information, a list of your specific illnesses, allergies and medications, including dosages, a list of your medical

devices and at least one week supply of medication. For additional information, please visit tricare.mil or contact your medical provider.”

EP 2: Hurricane Town Hall - Respond

Run time: 7:11

“Hello, I'm Colin Johnson with the Keesler Office of Emergency Management.

Depending on the strength of the storm, you may be able to shelter at home or in a local shelter. If you plan to ride it out in either location, remember the following:

- check your kits for any last minute additions or replacements. Secure storm shutters, or board up windows with pre cut plywood.
- Bring in or secure any loose objects outside. Items like trampolines need to either be disassembled or flipped over and secured to the ground.
- Park your vehicles in a garage or underneath overhead cover if it is available.
- Shut off your utilities at the source. Many of these services will be secured by the provider as the storm approaches to limit damage and accelerate recovery actions.
- Fill household receptacles with water such as bathtubs and clean and empty jugs. Not all of this water may be drinkable, but can assist with hygiene or cleaning.
- Unplug appliances and electronics to protect them from power surges and lightning.
- Finally, monitor local news and weather to be aware of changing conditions and information. If the storm becomes too severe, evacuation orders may be issued by the Wing Commander. But, early evacuation is encouraged when authorized.

If you're planning to evacuate do the following to ensure your vehicle is ready:

- Try to keep your gas tank full, or at a minimum three fourths full.
- Check your brakes, tires, battery, windshield wipers and fluid levels.
- Prepare a vehicle safety kit and keep it in your vehicle with flashlight tools, water, food, emergency markers and whatever else you might need for your children and pets.

Preparing Your house is critical whether you are staying or evacuating, being well prepared will keep your family safe during this hurricane season.

Hello, I'm Colonel Ryan Crowley, your 81st Mission Support Group commander. If a storm is forecast to become more severe, the Wing Commander may issue evacuation recommendations, or an evacuation order for a category three hurricane or lower the 81st TRW Wing Commander might approve the release of non essential personnel using administrative leave. And you might want to consider voluntary evacuation based off of localized conditions. When a hurricane reaches category four or five, the Wing Commander will specify specific evacuation orders based off conditions and zones. These evacuation orders will come through the chain of command, Ad Hoc emergency alerts, the Air Force Connect app and 81st TRW social media postings. Please note that an evacuation order issued by the state or local government does not provide authorization for reimbursement of allowances or permit a military

member to leave a local area. An evacuation order from the 81st TRW commander or a designated representative is required before any allowances will be paid to the member or their dependents.

Thank you for listening to this message, preparing yourself, your family and your co-workers for any storm conditions. Stay safe team Keesler, you got this.

I'm Major Anthony Perez with the 81st Force Support Squadron. Whenever a storm is predicted to be of hurricane level in the trajectory involving Keesler Air Force Base, it's important that all members and employees of Keesler remember to prepare for post-storm accountability and ease reporting. This means making sure you and your dependents are familiar with the Air Force personnel accountability and assessment system, AFPAAS, that you have your supervisor's phone number, the numbers to reach your unit control center or AFPAAS commanders organizational rep, also known as a COR, as well as numbers to reach your first sergeant, commander and Keesler's hurricane accountability team.

Here's some tips. First tip, if you have never gone into AFPAAS on your phone, your tablet or personal computer, do it now at the link below:

<https://afpaas.af.mil/cas/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fafpaas.af.mil%2F>

If you have dependents, take time to show your spouse or eldest dependent on how to access the site in case you get separated during an evacuation or sheltering. During a hurricane or other large-scale disaster, AFPAAS helps total force Airmen and their families report their whereabouts. If your address as you listed in DEERS is within the disaster area, we'll give you a pop up notification at login to make reporting easy. We'll also give you a post disaster survey to let the Air Force know what services and assistance your family needs. If you need food, clothes or non essential emergency medication, AFPAAS will match you with a nearby Airman and Family Readiness center to help you wait for the evacuation and recovery at home.

Second tip, make sure you have important accountability phone numbers written down in case you don't have internet capability to get into AFPAAS. When you realize getting into AFPAAS is not an option, your next step is to call your UCC or COR. Each unit's instructions for post storm accountability may be different. Some units may forward their UCC phone numbers to the CORs and other units may have assigned work cell phones. Realize that when evacuation has occurred, your CORs may also have been evacuated and are helping via telework. Be patient with phone lines. If you have text capability, this may be faster. If you're not sure where to call, where to reach your UCC or COR, check your unit recall roster. If it is not obvious on the recall roster, ask your command team or superintendent to make it clear to everyone.

Final tip, if you've tried AFPAAS, called your UCC, called your COR and still have not reached anywhere we've got you. The 81st Force Support Squadron deploys a hurricane accountability team (HAT) during evacuation to help Airmen and commanders navigate accountability challenges. The HAT numbers are listed on the screen below: 662-434-3477 and 662-434-3482.

It will be publicized along with AFPAAS links on Keesler's Public Affairs releases and Facebook, following a major event. By calling the HAT, our personnel can manually update AFPAAS for you. It's important that you try the AFPAAS links from your UCC and COR first because the HAT is servicing 27 units and over 10,000 Keesler Airmen and dependents. To help us update your information quickly, when calling be ready your sponsor's name, unit assigned, as well as the hotel family or address of where you are staying. If phone lines get backed up, stay patient, stay safe and keep trying in this order: AFPAAS, UCC, COR, HAT.

Locating our airmen and their families after a disaster and helping them recover quickly is important to us. You got this and we got you."

EP 3: Hurricane Town Hall - Recover

Run time: 5:20

"Hello, I'm Major Daniel Griffin with the 81st Civil Engineering Squadron. I'm going to discuss with you a few safety tips you should consider when returning home after a hurricane has passed.

First, do not return home until you are directed to do so by the installation commander. After being given the approval, please be aware that there still may be dangers in a post-hurricane environment. There could be damage to structures or down electrical poles and lines. If you come across any please, take precaution and take an alternate route. It is likely that heavy equipment, emergency services and repair may be occurring, so watch out for heavy equipment operating in and around roadways. Never drive through flooded areas and always take the alternate path to your destination around them. Take extra precautions around bridges and drainage basins. If you cannot see the road please find an alternate route. There is a possibility the road is washed out and you could be putting yourself in unnecessary danger if you proceed.

If you are cleaning up debris, ensure that you are wearing the proper protective gear such as boots, gloves and eye protection. You also need to be on the lookout for wildlife such as snakes, alligators and rats. They may be displaced due to the storm and the wildlife may be hiding in debris piles or other unexpected areas around your property.

Often after a hurricane, there are widespread power outages. If you are using a generator, please follow all manufacturer specific instructions as outlined in the owner's manual. Do not operate generators inside of buildings or garages. If you have any questions, please call the Keesler Office of Emergency Management at 228-377-4647. Thank you.

The Airman and Family Readiness center is responsible for standing up to the Emergency Family Assistance Center. It's also known as the EFAC. The EFAC is activated by the Wing Commander after a major event, such as a hurricane the effect will consist of on base and off base helping agencies. Some of those agencies would include the Air Force Aid Society, finance, legal, mental health, the chapel, and possibly the American Red Cross. We are here to

provide support and services for you after the event. Please know that the airman and Family Readiness Center and the effect is here to be calm for you after the storm.

Hello Keesler, Senior Airman Ronald Dailey, from the 81st Comptroller Squadron. I'm here today to brief you on some of the hurricane evacuation entitlements. Our wing commander will push out a VOCO order that is issued when the entitlements start. This order will state when the official orders are made by the Wing Commander and published as DD1610.

The trajectory of the hurricane can constantly change, therefore our minimum and maximum radius will remain fluid. You can catch a lot of these updates through the Air Force Connect app. While evacuated, the local Air Force finance office in your evacuation area will pay entitlement advances for up to 30 days and every 30 days. Your AFPAAS roster will determine your entitlements. These entitlements include per diem and mileage. Per Diem is lodging, meals and incidental expenses. Mileage is determined from the location you are evacuated from, and the location you're currently occupying.

After the 1610 expires, or when the wing commander orders members back to Keesler, you must file your voucher within five working days. Advances are subtracted from your final payment. If you have any questions about Keesler's evacuation order entitlements, or other financial information, please feel free to reach out to the 81st Comptroller Squadron. We got you.

Hello, I am Tech Sergeant Kayla Betts with the Keesler Mental Health Clinic. A disaster, such as a hurricane, can be sudden and overwhelming. It is important to keep in mind that you have been exposed to a traumatic event and is bound to affect you in some way. It is common for people who have experienced traumatic events to have strong emotional reactions or thoughts. There is no right or wrong way to feel or think. Any reaction you have is valid and there's no standard pattern of reaction. Talking about the event can be very helpful.

Shock and denial are typical responses and your feelings may be intense, increased irritability, mood changes, anxiety or nervousness may occur. There are several ways you can help restore emotional well being and a sense of control. Recognize this is a challenging time but one you can manage. You've had other hardships in your life, so use those skills from past challenges. Be patient with yourself. Also, eat well, exercise, get plenty of rest and practice relaxation techniques. Avoid alcohol and drugs and create routines.

Individuals with prolonged reactions that disrupt daily functioning should consult with a trained mental health professional. If the stress from natural disasters becomes overwhelming, your mental health flight stays ready to assist you."