



# Hurricane Evacuation Guidelines

Prepare to evacuate if told to do so by elected officials. This may come through radio, television and social media. Plan to evacuate as early as possible – before gale force winds and storm surge forces road closings. Leaving early may also help you to avoid massive traffic jams encountered late in an evacuation effort. Listen to radio/television for evacuation and sheltering information.

**Remember, there are no shelters in St. Bernard Parish.**

Storm advisories are issued as followed:

## Tropical Storm Watch

An announcement that sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph are *possible* within the specified area within 48 hours in association with a [tropical](#), [subtropical](#), or [post-tropical](#) cyclone.

## Tropical Storm Warning

An announcement that sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph are *expected* somewhere within the specified area within 36 hours in association with a [tropical](#), [subtropical](#), or [post-tropical](#) cyclone

## Hurricane Watch

A Hurricane Watch is issued when a tropical cyclone containing winds of 64 kt (74 mph) or higher poses a possible threat, generally within 48 hours. These winds may be accompanied by storm surge, coastal flooding, and/or river flooding.

The watch does not mean that hurricane conditions will occur. It only means that these conditions are *possible*.

## Hurricane Warning

A Hurricane Warning is issued when sustained winds of 64 kt (74 mph) or higher associated with a tropical cyclone are expected in 36 hours or less. These winds may be accompanied by storm surge, coastal flooding, and/or river flooding. A hurricane warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force.

# Evacuation Phases

## 1. Voluntary

This phase will concentrate on people who are most vulnerable to the effects of hurricane winds and water. It is directed at offshore workers, persons on coastal islands and persons living in low-lying coastal areas.

## 2. Recommended

This phase will concentrate on all people who are at risk.

### YOU ARE AT RISK IF YOU LIVE:

- ✓ Outside of levee protection
- ✓ In a manufactured home (i.e., mobile home, recreational vehicle, etc.)
- ✓ In a low-lying or flood prone area

## 3. Mandatory

This is the final and most serious phase of evacuation. Authorities will put maximum emphasis on encouraging evacuation and limiting entry into the affected area. Designated State Evacuation Routes will be enhanced with the use of Contra Flow (See map on page 3). In an emergency evacuation, contraflow lane reversal roughly doubles the number of lanes available for evacuation traffic. Crossover sections are used to move outgoing traffic to these lanes. All incoming traffic is blocked until the end of the evacuation.

# Emergency Alert System (EAS)

All residents should monitor their local EAS station for authoritative evacuation and shelter information. Evacuation Route Signs (shown below) are located on the main parish roads as well as State roads which have been designated as major evacuation routes (See map on page 3). The bottom sign indicates the EAS radio station to monitor for the particular area of the State



through which you are traveling. For St. Bernard Parish, tune in to 870 AM or 101.9 FM. The EAS radio station will broadcast the latest weather, road conditions and shelter locations. In addition, information on what to bring, pre-evacuation measures and re-entry information will

also be broadcast. As the storm gets closer to the risk area, the information will be issued every 2 hours.



## Sheltering

Shelters have been designated through-out the State for use during emergencies. Because of the fluid nature of shelter occupancy, citizens are encouraged to obtain information about shelter openings and locations at shelter information points along the evacuation route. Information about shelter evacuation points will be posted on the [Department of Children and Family Services](#), the [Louisiana State Police website](#), or by calling the American Red Cross at toll-free number, (866) GET-INFO or (866) 438-4636.

# General Evacuation Procedures

When told to evacuate:

- ✓ Stay calm
- ✓ Fill your vehicle's fuel tank
- ✓ Take your disaster supply kit: 3-day supply of water and non-perishable food, change of clothes and footwear, blanket or sleeping bag, first aid kit, prescription medication per person.
- ✓ A battery powered Weather radio
- ✓ Portable radio and flashlight with extra batteries
- ✓ Extra set of car keys
- ✓ Credit card and/or cash, and
- ✓ Special items for infants, elderly and family members with limitations

Remember to do the following:

- ✓ Turn off all lights, household appliances, gas, heating, cooling and ventilation systems
- ✓ Leave the refrigerator and freezer on
- ✓ Lock the house
- ✓ Let others know when you leave and where you are going, and
- ✓ Make arrangement for pets

**REMEMBER, THE FIRST PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR  
SAFETY AND WELL-BEING IS YOU. SO EVACUATE EARLY  
AND BE PREPARED**