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# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Hurricane Irene: Actions Before, During and After the Storm

*"Operational primacy is our top priority, however, not only do we want our ships to be ready, but family readiness is critical. When our Sailors are given the order to get underway, they need to know that their families are prepared and will have the resources and support available for whatever challenges the storm may bring. When our families are ready, our Sailors will have their head on a swivel and be laser focused on mission execution!"*

– Vice Adm. Daniel Holloway, commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet

Sailors, civilians and families are closely watching the development of Hurricane Irene as the storm's current track has it making landfall near Wilmington, N.C., Aug. 27 as a CAT III hurricane. As Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet sorties ships, Navy families must also take measures to prepare. Helpful tips provided by the [Naval Safety Center](#) include:

### Before the Storm

- Communicate with your command and family members and take advantage of online resources.
- Move or secure any objects that could become airborne during high winds.
- Bring inside any outdoor furniture, decorations, trash cans, hanging plants, etc.
- In anticipation of flooding, move furniture, electronics and other valuables to the highest level of your home.
- Fill vehicles with fuel in case it is necessary to evacuate.
- In anticipation of loss of power, turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings and open only when necessary.
- Review evacuation plans. Plan an evacuation route that will take you 20-50 miles inland.

### During the Storm – If Evacuation is Necessary

- Travel light – take valuables, cash, credit cards and important papers, such as bank accounts and insurance.
- Stay away from flood waters.
- Bring pets with you or ensure that they are well-cared for in a safe place.

### After the Storm – Risk Management

- Do not attempt to return until you receive authorization. Proof of residency may be required.
- Allow emergency personnel and clean-up crews to begin restoration operations before returning.
- Attempt to keep your vehicle gas tank full - gas will likely be more difficult to procure.
- Walking, swimming or driving through floodwaters is dangerous. If you are driving and come upon floodwaters, stop, turn around and go another way.
- Use a generator outdoors only in a well-ventilated, dry area. Never use a generator indoors or in attached garages.
- Although your home may appear to be structurally sound, water and wind damage could be extensive. Check the gas, electrical and water lines for damage. Do not use utilities until declared safe by authorities.
- Contact command leaders and monitor local news for information regarding return to work.
- Communicate with your chain of command regarding urgent requirements (i.e. berthing, medical, legal, transportation, etc.) through [Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System](#) (NFAAS).

### Social Media Resources

- U.S. Navy – [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)
- U.S. Fleet Forces Command – [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)
- U.S. 2nd Fleet - [Facebook](#)
- Navy Installations Command – [Facebook](#)
- Navy Region Mid-Atlantic – [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)
- Fleet and Family Support Center – [Twitter](#)
- Navy Life Mobile Application – <http://navylifeffr.com/>

### Online Resources

- [NFAAS](#) - account, manage and monitor the recovery process for personnel and their families
- [Red Cross Hurricane Preparedness](#) - helpful tips
- [State of Virginia Emergency Management](#) - emergency kits
- [Virginia Department of Transportation Hurricane Evacuation Guide](#) - evacuation and public shelters
- [Naval Research Laboratory](#) and [National Weather Service](#) – storm tracking