

6TH RANGER TRAINING BATTALION
HURRICANE HELPER



Preparation Key to Hurricane Safety

Hurricane Helper

2009

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Be sure to have an evacuation plan in the event that the 6th RTB is mandated to evacuate. For in-processing, you will need to have:

- Emergency contact info
- Location evacuating to
- Dependants information evacuating with you

You will be registered in the battalion system during in-processing.

Preparation Key To Hurricane Safety

Hurricane season spans the months of June through November, and we all need to be prepared. The more you prepare, the better your chances of reducing suffering and risk for yourself and your family.

This newsletter includes a series of checklists to complete now, while no imminent threat exists. While the checklists might look daunting at first glance, they are really quite easy to complete.

Knowing you have done everything, you can to protect your family in the event of a hurricane or other disaster gives you a tremendous peace of mind.

Hurricane Awareness Class

The Airmen and Family Readiness Center offers hurricane classes for parents and kids. These classes are designed to take the mystery out of emergency preparation and to reduce anxiety about hurricanes.

How To Reduce Stress

Hurricane season usually produces a certain level of stress and when a hurricane appears in the Gulf of Mexico, this stress level is sure to rise. This is because fear of the unknown usually produces stress.

There is a certain comfort in knowing that local weather service personnel will keep us updated with storm information. When it looks as if a hurricane is headed our way, our stress level may accelerate into "distress."

Unless this distress is lowered, we may begin to feel our life is out of control and this can affect our ability to make good decisions.

One of the best methods for reducing stress is to develop the ability to take control. Some effective ways to take control, when threatened by such stressors as hurricanes, is to implement sound problem solving skills.

For example, have a written plan that can be implemented as soon as the hurricane is identified. Items to include in your plan are identified in the preparedness checklists in this newsletter.

Run From the Water, Hide From the Wind

We evacuate to get away from the water associated with hurricanes, not the high winds, which can follow you far into Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and elsewhere.

Hurricanes produce a storm surge, a dome of water that can be 20 feet high at its peak and 50 to 100 miles wide, destroying everything in its path.

This water surge, along with torrential rains produced by the decaying hurricane, can cause extensive flooding. In addition, hurricanes can spawn tornadoes, which add to the overall destructiveness of the storm.

When to Evacuate

Consider evacuating before an evacuation advisory is declared to avoid gridlock traffic. Everyone must evacuate when ordered to by public officials. Different rules apply to 6th RTB soldiers. You will be briefed on these specific details when you sign in. If you live in a low-lying area or a mobile home you must always evacuate.

Try to stay with friends in an inland area of the county. This avoids long drives and provides a place for your pets. If you leave the county, leave early!

Hotels in Alabama and Georgia fill up quickly. You do not want to be on the road when the hurricane hits land. It is definitely better to evacuate unnecessarily than to be caught on the road at landfall.

Nature Offers No Guarantees

Many times, people wait to leave, because the storm is "only" a Category 1 storm, when the evacuation is ordered.

They ignore the warnings because evacuation is "a real pain" and the storm is a "minimal" hurricane. Hurricanes are unreliable. A "weak" hurricane can triple in strength with little or no warning.

Base Evacuation

When the Eglin AFB Commander or designated representative orders a mandatory evacuation, shelter reception centers are set up at Fort Benning, GA, for Eglin personnel, their families and their pets.

When developing your hurricane plan, keep in mind that the driving time to Fort Benning is five to six hours under normal conditions. During a hurricane evacuation, that time will increase considerably.

If you intend to shelter at Fort Benning, leave Eglin early. You do not want to be on the road at landfall; the hurricane winds can follow you into Georgia.

Directions to Fort Benning, GA

Distance: 238.27 miles

Total Estimated Time: 5 hours 2 min

1. Travel north on FL-85 N
2. Take I-10 E towards Tallahassee
3. Take exit US-231 N; exit 130 Cottondale
4. Stay on US-231 N for 32 miles
5. Turn right onto US-431 N for 94 miles
6. Turn on US-280 E for 1 mile
7. US-280 E becomes 4th St
8. 4th St becomes Victory Dr
9. Turn right onto Fort Benning Rd
10. Fort Benning Rd becomes Lupkin Rd. in three miles
11. Signs immediately lead you to Fort Benning

DIRECTIONS TO MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE

Distance: 193.38 miles

Total Estimated Time: 3 hours 51 min

1. Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto FL-85 N
2. Turn LEFT onto E JAMES LEE BLVD / US-90 / FL-10 / OLD SPANISH TRL, continue to follow US-90 W / FL-10 W / OLD SPANISH TRL
3. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto FL-4
4. Turn LEFT onto FL-4 / GEORGIA AVE continue to follow FL-4
5. Turn RIGHT onto N CENTURY BLVD / US-29 / FL-95. Continue to follow US-29
6. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto US-29 / US-31 / AL-113 / AL-3
7. Turn LEFT onto AL-113 / SARDINE RD. Continue to follow AL-113

8. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto US-29 / US-31 / AL-113 / AL-3
9. Turn LEFT onto AL-113 / SARDINE RD. Continue to follow AL-113
10. Merge onto I-65 N
11. Take the HERRON ST exit- EXIT 172
12. Keep RIGHT at the fork in the ramp
13. Turn LEFT onto N HOLT ST
14. Turn LEFT onto BELL ST
15. Turn RIGHT onto WASHINGTON FERRY RD
16. Stay STRAIGHT to go onto MAXWELL BLVD

Directions to Warner Robbins AFB, GA

Distance: 345.13 miles

Total Estimated Time: 6 hours, 24 minutes

1. Turn left onto FL-397/John Sims Pkwy Continue to follow FL-397 N. (3.0 miles)
2. FL-397 N becomes FL-85 N/W John Sims Pkwy. (0.6 miles)
3. Turn left onto FL-85 N (15.7 miles)
4. Merge onto I-10 E toward Tallahassee for (146 miles)
5. Take the SR-61 N exit- exit number 203- toward US-319/Thomasville.
6. Turn left onto FL-61 N/Thomasville Rd
(14 miles)
7. FL-61 N/Thomasville Rd becomes
US-319 N/GA-35 N. (13.6 miles)
8. Turn left onto US-319/GA-35.
(3.7 miles)
10. Turn right onto US-319 E/US-84 E/GA-35 E. Continue to follow US-319 E.
(30.7 miles)
11. Turn right onto US-319/GA-35.
(23.7 miles)
12. Turn left onto US-82 W/GA-520 w/corridor Z.
13. Merge onto I-75 N/GA-401 N via the ramp- on the left (79.9 miles)
14. Take the GA-96 exit- exit number 142- toward Housers Mill road (0.2 miles)
15. Turn right onto GA-96 (8.8 miles)
16. Turn left onto US-129 N/GA-247 N
(3.8 miles)
17. Turn Right onto 9TH ST. End at 725 9th St, Warner Robins, GA

Pets Need Protection Too

It is important to adequately plan for your pets in the event of a disaster. Your pets need extra care during a hurricane, whether you evacuate or stay at home.

All pets need to wear a collar for identification purposes. If your pets become lost, proper ID will help ensure their safe and timely return to you.

If you must evacuate, conditions are not only unsafe for you but, also for your pets. **Take your pet with you.** Determine now if your evacuation location (friends, motel, or shelter) accepts pets and what special provisions must be made for your pets.

If they are unable to house both you and your pets, arrange shelter for your pets at a veterinarian or kennel close to your evacuation location.

Public shelters do not accept pets. You may shelter your pets on Eglin, only if you are also sheltering on Eglin. Exotic animals (i.e., reptiles) will not be allowed in the animal shelter.

All animals must be kept in an approved carrier and proof of vaccination is required for cats and dogs. You must supply food, water, and special care instructions for each pet.

If you will not be evacuating, make sure to secure your pets in a carrier in a safe area of your home. If you do not secure your pets during the storm and your house is damaged, your pets can escape and become disoriented, since normal landmarks and scent trails could be obliterated.

After the storm, walk your pets on a leash, until they become reoriented to their home and you ascertain the area is safe. Make certain that your home is free from wild animals, especially reptiles, which may take refuge in your home during the storm.

Insure Your Property

It is highly recommended that individuals living in Florida obtain homeowner's/renter's insurance. Make sure you get enough coverage to take care of your needs.

Renters/homeowners' insurance policies are the best way to protect your personal assets, even if you live in base housing. Standard renters and homeowners' policies do not cover flood damage, and they may not cover windstorm and hail damage. You may need to buy additional coverage.

Find out if your policy will pay replacement cost or actual cash value in the event of a loss. Replacement cost is the dollar amount needed to replace or repair your damaged property.

This does not involve any deduction for depreciation. Actual cash value is the dollar amount needed to replace or repair your damaged property after depreciation.

Most insurance on the contents of your home and personal belongings is written on an actual cash value basis.

Update your list of personal belongings. Putting together an inventory after you lose your home is very difficult. Make an inventory now of your belongings including costs, purchase dates and serial numbers.

Attach receipts to the inventory sheet. Your insurance company requires proof of the cost of any item for which you make a claim. Dated photographs or videotapes of your possessions are also a good idea.

Insurance companies **will not** accept new applications or requests to increase your existing coverage, once a storm is named by the National Hurricane Center.

Filing Claims With The Air Force

Base housing residents may be able to file claims for damaged property with the Base Legal Office; however, the Air Force does not guarantee that you will be reimbursed or under which conditions. Your best assurance is to buy private insurance coverage. You will have the ability to file claims after a storm through the 6th RTB S-4.

Base Housing Residents

The Eglin housing office does not allow you to board up the windows in your quarters. Base authorities decided that the damage caused by residents anchoring boards over their windows could exceed the actual cost of hurricane damage.

Nevertheless, the Air Armament Center Pamphlet 32-3 (AACPAM 32-3) states in section 5.3.2 “Most homes destroyed during recent hurricanes had no window protection.

When wind enters a home through broken windows, the pressure builds against the walls and can lift roofs, followed by collapsing walls.

Tape does not prevent windows from breaking, so taping windows is not recommended. This means if you live in base housing, you are in extreme danger if you choose to remain in your home, even if an evacuation advisory has not been given. In addition, your possessions will most likely be damaged.

Special Needs

Hearts Apart members who have special needs and require assistance preparing for hurricane season should contact the Family/Personnel Readiness Program at the Airman and Readiness Center.

Travel Vouchers

Military members and their families can file a travel voucher with the military finance office when the Eglin AFB Commander orders an evacuation.

Your unit’s commander’ support staff (CSS) will give you a hard copy of the evacuation orders. You may need to wait until you return to request them.

To file a travel voucher you will need a copy of the evacuation orders and a copy of all receipts for incurred expenses from the mandatory evacuation.

You may also request a cash advance from military finance at Fort Benning. It is best to have a copy of the military member's PCS orders and the evacuation orders, but finance personnel can still help you if do not have orders.

Money Matters

When preparing your family budget it is important to set aside some money for emergencies. A hurricane may disrupt banking schedules and ATMs may not work due to power outages or they may run out of money.

It is a good idea to put some cash or traveler's checks in your disaster supplies kit. Have enough cash to last at least one week. Do not charge your credit cards to the limit; you may need them to get more cash after the storm.

Emergency Family Assistance Control Center

The Emergency Family Assistance Control Center (EFACC) is a one-stop shop for help and information during a trauma or disaster. The EFACC is located at the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Building 205. The EFACC Hotline is 1-866-FSC-HELP.

Representatives from various base agencies will be available to assist military members and their families. These agencies include the Air Force Aid Society, the American Red Cross, the base chapel, the military personnel flight, military finance and public affairs.

Surge and Evacuation Zones

www.floridadisaster.org is a great web site for all types of disaster and emergency information. This site features a mapping program for surge and evacuation zones. Simply enter your address to determine if you reside in a flood or surge zone area.

HURCON CONDITIONS/TIPS

Hurcon 4: Alert

72 hours prior to the forecast arrival of 50-knot sustained winds or greater

- ◆ Stock up emergency supplies

Hurcon 3: Preparation

48 hours prior to the forecast arrival of 50-knot sustained winds or greater

- ◆ Monitor storm reports on local radio and television stations
- ◆ Bring in lawn furniture, trashcans, potted plants and other loose objects
- ◆ If you plan to evacuate, consider leaving before an evacuation order is issued

Hurcon 2: Final preparation

24 hours prior to the forecast arrival of 50-knots sustained winds or greater

- ◆ Listen constantly to storm reports

- ◆Board windows and glass doors
- ◆Fill sinks and tubs with water for bathing and sanitary purposes
- ◆Residents on high ground away from beaches should consider riding out the storm

Hurcon 1: Secure

- ◆12 hours prior to the forecast arrival of 50-knots sustained winds or greater
- ◆Remain indoors

Shelter Living

Shelters are not hotels or motels. Shelters are typically large community facilities capable of withstanding the winds of a hurricane and high enough to be out of danger of flooding. They have none of luxuries of a hotel.

Bring your family’s disaster kit to ensure proper provisions. Shelters typically do not have medical professionals and are manned by volunteers, so be prepared to take care of yourself.

Shelters have a community environment that consists of a large number of people. It is important to be considerate and cooperative and to follow the instructions of the shelter management staff. Volunteer your services whenever possible.

Emergency Information

Your sponsor’s First Sergeant and CSS are your best sources of information and support. Request their numbers from your sponsor or the base operator.

Disaster Information

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/>

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

American Red Cross	1-800-GETINFO
Base Operator	882-1110
Evacuation Hotline	1-800-435-9941
Airman and Family Readiness	882-9060
Family Readiness Manager	585-3209
(After hours)	
Eglin Red Cross	882-5848
AAC Public Affairs	882-3931
Rumor Control Line	882-4891
Eglin Weather Information	882-5453
Eglin Disaster Prep Office	882-3173
Commanders Access Channel	882-9394
East/West Gate Reader Boards	
Base Radio Station (AM530)	
Okaloosa County	651-7560
Emergency Management	

Eglin Emergency Shelters

On-base shelter reception centers include the Youth Center, Building 2582, near the West Gate, and the Eglin Fitness Center, Building 810, near the East Gate. Families sheltering pets on base need to register at the fitness center. Registration of pets begins during Hurcon 2.

Okaloosa County

Baker High School	689-7272
1369 14 th Street	
Baker, FL	
Davidson Middle School	683-7500
6261 Old Bethel Road	
Crestview, FL	

Preparedness Check List

- Make a Family Hurricane Plan
- Create and store a Disaster Supplies Kit
- Assemble Personal and Family Records
- Review your insurance coverage
- Ensure pet vaccinations are current

Family Hurricane Plan

- Determine when the family will evacuate
 - Determine where you will go and map several routes avoiding low-lying areas
- Know the nearest shelter locations
- Make a list of items to bring
- Gather supplies to secure your home
 - Determine where you will store your boat and other recreational vehicles
- Create a personal and family record file
- Designate a friend or relative outside the hurricane area as a contact so your deployed family member knows your situation if a hurricane strikes

Disaster Supply Kit

Keep these items in an easy-to-carry container in case you need to evacuate.

- Map of evacuation routes
- List of phone numbers
- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlights for each family member
- Extra batteries
- Water (one gallon per person for three days)
- Food (non-perishable ready-to-eat)
- Kitchen supplies (manual can opener, disposable plates, cups, utensils)
- Baby supplies (disposable diapers, wipes, and bottles; formula, baby food, spoon)
- First Aid Kit
- Prescription and non-prescription drugs
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, feminine supplies)
- Cash, including small bills and change
- Change of clothing and sturdy shoes for each family member
- Blanket or sleeping bag for each family member
- Tools (duct tape, utility knife, lighter, etc.)
- Paper, pencil, and pen
- Entertainment item (small games, toys, books)
- Sanitation supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, household chlorine bleach)
- Pet supplies (food, water, litter etc.)

Personal and Family Record File

••Keep these records in a waterproof, portable container. Take with you if you evacuate. ••

- Certified birth certificate(s)
 - Adoption papers
 - Citizenship/Naturalization papers
 - Marriage certificate
 - Divorce Decrees (if applicable)
 - Will(s)
 - Power of attorney
 - Current TDY, deployment, or remote orders
 - Insurance policies with expiration date
 - Social Security numbers
 - Banking information
 - Credit card numbers with expiration dates
 - List of deeds and titles to all property
 - Income tax returns
 - Inventory of household property (description, photos, receipts, and serial numbers)
 - Personal address book
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Pet Care

- Pets must wear a collar with I.D.
 - Pet health records
 - Photograph of pet
 - Care instructions
 - Food, water, and bowls
 - Medicine
 - Leash and muzzle (place in disaster kit)
 - Carrier cage large enough for pet to stand and turn around (familiarize pet to cage before crisis)
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First Aid Kit

Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car. The below items are the bare minimum needed in each first aid kit.

- Basic First Aid Manual
- Adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- Gauze pads and tape
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Safety pins in assorted sizes
- Sunscreen
- Non-prescription pain reliever
- Syrup of Ipecac and activated charcoal

(Use only if advised by Poison Control Center)

After the storm

- ◆ Return home only after authorities advise that it is safe.
- ◆ Avoid loose or dangling power lines.
- ◆ Enter your home with caution.
 - ❑ Beware of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by floodwater.
 - ❑ Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
 - ❑ Check refrigerated foods for spoilage.
 - ❑ Take pictures of the damage for insurance claims.
 - ❑ Do not throw any damaged items away until you have talked to your insurance agent

BEFORE RETURNING BACK TO EGLIN

What is our Mission? The mission of the Personnel Readiness Center (PRC) during National Crisis and Disaster Operations is to facilitate the Commander's ability to assess the state of the Total Force by acquiring 100% accountability of AF Personnel within 48 hours of a crisis or disaster. This includes Active Duty, AF Reserve/Air National Guard and their dependents and AF civilians (both DAF and NAF) wherever the Disaster/Crisis occurred.

What is our Role? The PRC during a national crisis or disaster stands up to provide 24/7 support for AF Personnel. Our first role is Personnel Accountability, which we attain by the following three-tiered approach;

- 1) All personnel must check into their Home Station Unit Control Center (UCC) after a crisis or disaster.
- 2) If unable to provide Safe Haven information to the UCC, AF Personnel and their families can use the National Disaster Registry to report or change their accountability information at <https://w11.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndwnet>. This site will be activated only in times of crisis or disaster.
- 3) Personnel unable to do either of the previous may call the PRC Toll Free number at **1 (800) 435-9941** to provide their information.

The links and information provided on this site are set up to assist AF Members and their families through times of national crisis or disaster.

National Disaster Registry <https://w11.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndwnet>