



Kerr-Tar
Regional Council
Of Governments

Natural Disaster Resource Guide

Your Personal Guide to Stay Safe During Natural Disasters.



WELCOME TO THE NATURAL DISASTER RESOURCE GUIDE

In times of uncertainty, being prepared can make all the difference.

This booklet serves as your guide in navigating the challenges of natural disasters. From hurricanes to ice storms, we walk through major natural disasters, equipping you with information and practical guidance to safeguard yourself, your loved ones, and your community.

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THUNDERSTORMS

Thunderstorms are common and can be dangerous. They bring intense wind, flash flooding, hail, and lightning. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of treatment, so use this short guide to help you weather the storm.

📅 When Thunderstorms Are Most Common

- ✓ Thunderstorms can occur throughout the year but are most common in the evenings of spring and summer months.

⚠️ Warning Signs

- ✓ Thunderstorms are one of the most common natural weather hazards, so meteorologists have become very good at predicting when they will occur.
- ✓ Pay attention to local weather reports.
- ✓ Look for heavy rainclouds, lightning, and high winds.

🏠 Preparing Your Home

- ✓ Cut down or trim trees that may be in danger of falling on your home.
- ✓ Install surge protectors, lightning rods, or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances, and electronic devices.

🐾 Keeping Your Pets Safe

- ✓ If possible, bring them inside. If they can't be brought inside, provide a sturdy, rainproof shelter.
- ✓ Consider microchipping your pets so they can be easily found if lost. Pets have been known to run away during intense storms.
- ✓ Create a pet emergency kit with food, medications, and comfort items.

🏠 Keeping Livestock and Farmland Safe

- ✓ Make sure you have a sturdy shelter with adequate food and water.
- ✓ Build your shelter on high ground to avoid flooding.
- ✓ Livestock shelters should provide enough space for each animal. The general guideline is to provide enough space for roughly four times each animal's body size.
- ✓ Secure equipment and feed above potential flood levels.
- ✓ Have a plan for relocating animals if necessary.

📋 What To Do In Case Of Emergency

- ✓ Follow advice from local, state, and federal authorities.
- ✓ Know your evacuation route.
- ✓ Find safe shelter and stay inside.
- ✓ Watch out for downed power lines that may still be live.

🛠️ Building An Emergency Kit

- ✓ Non-perishable food and water for several days (aim for at least 1 gallon of water per person per day).
- ✓ First aid kit and necessary medications for you, your family, and pets.
- ✓ Propane or gas stove for boiling water and heating up canned food.
- ✓ Emergency power bank or generator in case of power outages.
- ✓ Flashlights, batteries, and a weather radio.

Remember, when thunder roars, go indoors.

Make sure your emergency kit and plans are up-to-date and stay informed so you can follow the guidance of emergency authorities.



FLOODS

It is important to be well-prepared for floods. Stay informed about your local flood risk and follow the guidance of emergency authorities. Remember, preparedness is key. If you wait until flooding is imminent, it's already too late.

When Floods Are Most Common

- ✓ Floods can occur at any time of the year but are often more common during the rainy season or in areas prone to hurricanes, storm surges, or rapid snowmelt.
- ✓ Coastal areas may experience flooding due to high tides and storm surges during hurricane season.

Warning Signs

- ✓ Heavy rainfall for an extended period.
- ✓ Rapid snowmelt.
- ✓ Dam or levee failures.
- ✓ Flash flood warnings from local authorities.

Preparing Your Home

- ✓ Elevate electrical appliances and utilities above potential flood levels.
- ✓ Install check valves to prevent floodwater from backing up into drains.
- ✓ Use waterproof sealants on basement walls and floors.
- ✓ Ensure proper drainage around your property.

Keeping Your Pets Safe

- ✓ Create a pet emergency kit with food, medications, and comfort items.
- ✓ Ensure your pets are microchipped and have proper identification.
- ✓ Plan evacuation routes that include pet-friendly shelters.

Keeping Livestock and Farmland Safe

- ✓ Move livestock to higher ground.
- ✓ Secure equipment and feed above potential flood levels.
- ✓ Have a plan for relocating animals if necessary.

What To Do In Case Of Emergency

- ✓ Listen to weather alerts and follow evacuation orders.
- ✓ Move to higher ground immediately if flooding is imminent.
- ✓ Avoid walking or driving through flooded areas.

Building An Emergency Kit

- ✓ Non-perishable food and water for several days (aim for at least 1 gallon of water per person per day).
- ✓ First aid kit and necessary medications for you, your family, and pets.
- ✓ Important documents (insurance policies, identification, etc.) in a waterproof container.
- ✓ Flashlights, batteries, and a weather radio.

Be sure to stay informed about your local flood risk and follow the guidance of emergency authorities.

Regularly review and update your emergency plan and kit to keep you, your family, and your property safe.



DROUGHTS & HEAT WAVES

We all know it gets hot at times in North Carolina, but heat waves bring extreme temperatures that can be dangerous. And heat exhaustion has a way of “sneaking up” on you when you don’t expect it. Make sure to take proper precautions during a heat wave or drought.

When Droughts & Heat Waves Are Most Common

- ✓ Droughts can occur at any time but are usually associated with extended periods of low rainfall.
- ✓ Heatwaves typically happen during the summer months when temperatures rise significantly.

Warning Signs

- ✓ Prolonged absence of rainfall.
- ✓ Rising temperatures for an extended period.
- ✓ Decreasing water levels in lakes, rivers, and reservoirs.

Preparing Your Home

- ✓ Install energy-efficient cooling systems.
- ✓ Ensure proper insulation to reduce indoor temperatures.
- ✓ Conserve water by fixing leaks and using water-efficient appliances.
- ✓ Clear your property of debris and plants that could easily catch fire.

Staying Cool and Hydrated

- ✓ Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water.
- ✓ Use cooling devices such as fans or air conditioning.
- ✓ Avoid strenuous outdoor activities during peak heat hours.

Keeping Your Pets Safe

- ✓ Make sure they have adequate food and water.
- ✓ Bring them inside, and make sure they have a covered outdoor area to seek shelter from the sun.

Keeping Livestock and Farmland Safe

- ✓ Ensure your animals have sufficient water and food.
- ✓ Provide shaded areas to escape the heat.
- ✓ Regulate the temperature of your livestock shelter either through air conditioning and fans, or by making sure there is free air flow by opening windows and doors.

Protecting Plants and Landscapes

- ✓ Use drought-resistant plants in landscaping.
- ✓ Mulch around plants to retain moisture.
- ✓ Water plants early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation.

What To Do In Case Of Emergency

- ✓ Follow water use restrictions imposed by local authorities.
- ✓ Be aware of heat-related illnesses and seek medical attention if needed.
- ✓ Stay informed about local conditions and heat advisories.
- ✓ Stay inside during the hottest hours of the day.

Building An Emergency Kit

- ✓ Adequate water supply for each person.
- ✓ Sunscreen, hats, and lightweight clothing.
- ✓ Emergency medical supplies.
- ✓ Non-perishable food items.

Stay informed about the weather conditions in your area, follow water conservation guidelines, and take necessary precautions to stay cool and hydrated during periods of drought and heatwaves.



HURRICANES

Anyone who's lived in North Carolina for a while is familiar with the dangers of hurricanes. Hurricanes can bring extremely high winds, heavy rainfall which can result in flooding, downed trees, lightning, and power outages. Thankfully hurricanes take a long time to form, so meteorologists can make good predictions on the location and intensity of their impact.

When Hurricanes Are Most Common

- ✓ Hurricane season typically runs from June 1st to November 30th. Peak hurricane activity often occurs from late August to early October.

Warning Signs

- ✓ Tropical storm or hurricane watches and warnings issued by meteorological agencies.
- ✓ Increasing wind speeds and heavy rainfall.
- ✓ Rising sea levels and storm surges.

Preparing Your Home

- ✓ Install storm shutters or board up windows with plywood.
- ✓ Reinforce garage doors.
- ✓ Secure outdoor furniture and objects that could become projectiles.

Keeping Your Pets Safe

- ✓ Include pet supplies (food, medicine) in your emergency kit.
- ✓ Have a plan for pet evacuation or find pet-friendly shelters.
- ✓ Ensure pets have proper identification. Consider microchipping your pets so they can be easily found if lost.

Keeping Livestock and Farmland Safe

- ✓ Move livestock to safe, elevated areas.
- ✓ Secure equipment, feed, and chemicals.
- ✓ Have a plan for relocating animals if needed.

What To Do In Case Of Emergency

- ✓ Follow evacuation orders issued by local authorities.
- ✓ Stay informed through weather updates and emergency alerts.
- ✓ Seek shelter in a sturdy building away from flood-prone areas.
- ✓ Do not go outside during the storm.
- ✓ Watch out for downed power lines that may still be live.
- ✓ Do not travel unless necessary.

Building An Emergency Kit

- ✓ Non-perishable food and water for several days (aim for at least 1 gallon of water per person per day).
- ✓ First aid kit and necessary medications.
- ✓ Important documents in a waterproof container.
- ✓ Flashlights, batteries, and a weather radio.
- ✓ Extra clothing, blankets, and personal hygiene items.

Hurricanes are some of the most powerful and unpredictable storms on earth. Make sure your emergency plan and kit are in order.

Follow guidance from emergency authorities, especially if an evacuation order is in place.



ICE STORMS, FREEZING RAIN & WINTER STORMS

We are fortunate in North Carolina to not get too many ice storms, but we can usually expect 1 or 2 each year. Because they don't happen too often, people are often not well prepared. Follow the tips in this guide to keep safe and warm during ice storms and freezing rain.

When Ice Storms Are Most Common

- ✓ Ice storms typically occur between November and March.

Warning Signs

- ✓ Weather forecasts predicting freezing rain.
- ✓ Icy buildup on surfaces, trees, and power lines.
- ✓ Reports of accidents due to slippery roads.
- ✓ Rain during the day, followed by sub-freezing temperatures at night which causes rain to freeze on trees and surfaces.

Preparing Your Home

- ✓ Insulate pipes to prevent freezing.
- ✓ Cut down or trim trees that may be in danger of falling on your home.
- ✓ Keep a supply of rock salt or ice melt for walkways and driveways.
- ✓ Ensure heating systems are in good working order.
- ✓ Make sure your emergency kit is well-stocked.

Keeping Your Pets Safe

- ✓ Include pet supplies (food, medicine) in your emergency kit.
- ✓ Bring pets indoors during icy conditions.
- ✓ Wipe off your pet's paws after they've been outside to prevent salt or chemicals from irritating their pads.
- ✓ Consider microchipping your pets in case they get lost.

Keeping Livestock and Farmland Safe

- ✓ Provide shelter for livestock to protect them from icy conditions.
- ✓ Ensure water sources are not frozen.
- ✓ Store feed in a dry and accessible location.

What To Do In Case Of Emergency

- ✓ Avoid unnecessary travel.
- ✓ Stay indoors and keep updated on weather conditions.
- ✓ Use caution when walking outside to prevent slips and falls.
- ✓ If you must travel by car, consider snow tires or snow chains for your vehicle's tires.

Building An Emergency Kit

- ✓ Non-perishable food and water for several days (aim for at least 1 gallon of water per person per day).
- ✓ Blankets, warm clothing, and extra layers.
- ✓ Flashlights, batteries, and a weather radio.
- ✓ Rock salt or ice melt for de-icing walkways.

Ice storms do not happen too often in North Carolina, but they do happen. And when they do, they often cause major damage to property and trees, as well as extended power outages.

A well-prepared emergency plan and kit is your best tool to protect you, your family, and your property.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Knowledge alone is not enough; preparedness is important to keep your family safe. Follow our actionable steps and advice on how to prepare for natural disasters. Build your emergency kit and talk with your family about what to do in case of an emergency.



For More Resources:

Please visit our website at www.KerrTarDisasterGuide.com.

In the case of a natural disaster, please call your local department of emergency management.

Above all, remember that your safety matters most.

Take the proactive steps to keep you family safe during natural disasters.



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