

Hurricane Supplement 2009



Photo by Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.

Airmen conduct search, rescue

A rescue helicopter scans Galveston Island, Texas, in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, Sept. 13, 2008.

Time to prep for hurricane season

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS VERONICA
MCMAHON
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall Air Force Base has a 50 percent chance of a near normal hurricane season (June 1 to Nov. 30) and a 25 percent chance of having either an above- or below-normal season, according to the National Weather Service.

The NWS reports this season may have a 70 percent chance of nine to 14 named storms, of which four to seven could become hurricanes, including one to three major ones (Category 3, 4 or 5).

As these risks become more evident, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management flight officials encourage Team Tyndall to be prepared. Tyndall's emergency managers have scheduled

10 hurricane preparedness briefings from June through September for Tyndall's active-duty military, dependents and retirees. These detailed briefings cover hurricane predictions and conditions, evacuation procedures and preparation, and response and recovery procedures.

Team Tyndall has other resources, including the "Are You Ready?" handbook and "Z Cards," filled with base emergency preparedness information, distributed at base newcomer briefings. Service members can also request these booklets directly from their Unit Emergency Management Representatives or through the 325 CES/REM flight, located in Building 909.

Before the season begins, the REM flight recommends creating a family hurricane plan outlining fam-

ily member roles before, during and after a hurricane. This plan should be implemented upon the initial threat. Personnel should be aware of threat levels and how hurricane risks are publicized.

The NWS is responsible for initiating hurricane watches when hurricane conditions are possible within 36 hours. A hurricane warning will be issued when winds reaching 74 mph are expected within 24 hours.

In the event of a hurricane, there are four evacuation options for Tyndall personnel: Moody AFB, Ga.; Maxwell AFB, Ala.; Robins AFB, Ga.; or a location of choice which has been pre-approved by a unit commander.

For more information, visit www.florida-disaster.com, www.noaa.gov, or call the REM flight at (850) 283-2010.

Storm categories

Hurricane categories are based on sustained wind speeds according to the Saffir-Simpson Scale.

Tropical storm - 39 to 73 mph

Category 1 - 74 to 95 mph

Category 2 - 96 to 110 mph

Category 3 - 111 to 130 mph

Category 4 - 131 to 155 mph

Category 5 - 155+ mph

All bridges close with sustained winds of 58 mph.

Emergency numbers

Return-to-duty information:

Tyndall toll-free (800) 896-8806

Information updates:

Straight Talk (877) 529-5540

Accountability:

(repeat these steps until contact is made)

1. Contact supervisor between 12 and 24 hours after evacuating
2. Contact Hurricane Evacuation Support Staff (877) 325-EVAC (3822)
3. Update status using the AF Personnel Accountability and Assessment System via <https://afpaas.af.mil>
4. Contact Air Force Personnel Center (800) 453-9941 or via web at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndw/default.aspx>

Additional sources:

National Weather Service

www.nws.noaa.gov

National Hurricane center

www.nhc.noaa.gov

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.floridadisaster.org

Bay County Emergency Operations Center (850) 784-4000

Tyndall Readiness and Emergency Management Flight (850) 283-2010

For downed power lines, fires or medical emergencies, call 911



Hurricane Kits

A hurricane kit is a valuable tool during a severe storm. Ensure you have the proper materials on-hand. The following checklist can help.

- Foods: nonperishable and canned foods that do not require cooking. Also, special dietary foods as required.
- Drinking water: at least two quarts per person per day in plastic containers.
- Important personal property: identification, valuable papers, insurance policies and photos, stored in a waterproof container.
- Battery-operated all-weather radio with extra batteries. A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-capable radio is recommended.
- Personal hygiene items: soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, aspirin, antacid, towels and washcloths.
- Utensils: manual can opener, disposable plates, cups, forks, knives, spoons, napkins.
- Personal aids: eyeglasses, hearing aids and batteries, prosthetic devices.
- Leisure items: books, games, cards, toys.
- Infant care items, such as disposable diapers, wipes, formula, baby food.
- Flashlight with extra batteries.
- Fire extinguisher.
- First aid kit: prescription medications (two-week supply), bandages, gauze, adhesive tape, sterile pads, Band-Aids, triangular bandages, safety scissors, nonprescription medicine, sun screen, insect repellent, rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide.
- Bedding: sleeping bags, blankets, sheets, pillows, stored in a watertight bag.
- Clothing: at least one change of clothing, including an extra pair of rugged shoes.
- Tools: screwdrivers (slotted and Phillips), hammer, nails, utility knife, axe, scissors, handsaw, pliers, rope, plastic tarp, drop cloths, tape.
- Camping accessories: lantern, portable stove, matches, portable cooler.
- Wood to secure broken windows.
- Cash or traveler's checks and coin change.

Hurricane preparedness

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management flight will be conducting hurricane preparedness briefings for all active-duty military, family members, and retirees. Attendance is highly encouraged. Location and times are:

53rd Weapons Evaluation Group Auditorium (Bldg. 226)

- June 2, 9:30 a.m.
- June 4, 2:30 p.m.
- June 9, 9:30 a.m.
- June 18, 2:30 p.m.
- July 7, 9:30 a.m.
- July 16, 2:30 p.m.
- Aug. 4, 9:30 a.m.
- Aug. 13, 2:30 p.m.
- Sept. 8, 9:30 a.m.
- Sept. 17, 2:30 p.m.

Can you afford to evacuate?

Courtesy of 325th Comptroller Squadron

With hurricane season kicking off, Floridians are faced with planning how to protect their homes and families in the event of a storm. One thing many don't consider is what to do once the order is given to "get out of Dodge."

The last thing people should have to worry about during an evacuation is whether they can afford to leave or how they're going to pay for it. As a result, Air Force families and civilian employees may be authorized certain monetary entitlements when the evacuation order is issued by the commander.

Travel and transportation allowances including mileage and lodging reimbursement, as well as per diem to cover the cost of meals and possibly the shipment of household goods, are authorized during an evacuation to a safe location.

Once people reach their safe location, the lodging reimbursement is equal to the actual total daily lodging cost incurred, not to exceed the maximum lodging rate for the area. People need to bear in mind however, that lodging is not reimbursed when staying with friends or relatives, or when government-lodging facilities are provided at no cost.

Additionally, per diem for military members and their families is based on the local rate and the availability of government meals at the location.

Installation commanders also have the authority to ship and/or store household goods using local operations and maintenance funds, including quarters-to-quarters moves and non-temporary storage of household goods for quarters that become uninhabitable.

When evacuating, DoD personnel are required to use the government sponsored, contractor-issued travel card for all expenses incurred from official travel, which typically includes gas, food, and lodging for the member and authorized dependents.

Following the evacuation, the member must submit a travel voucher for reimbursement. Additionally, members need to include all lodging receipts and receipts for claimed items \$75 and higher. When completing a travel voucher, members are reminded to claim their vehicle mileage, list any dependents along with their relationship and date of birth, and ensure the voucher is signed by the member and his supervisor.

Additionally, members should be aware that an evacuation order given by civil authorities does not constitute eligibility for entitlements as they cannot authorize the obligation of DoD funds for evacuations. Those who have evacuation entitlement-related questions can call the 325th Comptroller Squadron (850) 283-8340.

Hurricane Conditions

- HURCON 5** Indicates the threat of a hurricane exists. This level exists from June 1 - Nov. 30, and may be upgraded as storms form and/or threaten Tyndall.
- HURCON 4** Indicates surface winds in excess of 58 mph could arrive within 72 hours.
- HURCON 3** Indicates surface winds in excess of 58 mph could arrive within 48 hours.
- HURCON 2** Indicates surface winds in excess of 58 mph could arrive within 24 hours.
- HURCON 1** Indicates surface winds in excess of 58 mph could arrive within 12 hours.
- HURCON 1E** Indicates surface winds in excess of 58 mph are occurring, and other dangerous condition associated with the storm are present. All outside activity is prohibited.
- HURCON 1R** Indicates life-threatening hazards due to the storm have passed, but damage may persist and only emergency responders and damage assessment personnel are released to move about, an emergency exists.

Hurricane 101: Commonly-used terms

Hurricane Evacuation Support Staff - The HESS is comprised of six members evacuated ahead of the base populace to Robins AFB, Ga. east wing basement of Building 300. The HESS is an accountability team whose purpose is to consolidate incoming phone calls from evacuated units and assigned members, to include dependents. When directed to do so by the 325th Fighter Wing commander, the HESS will perform functions necessary to maintain command and control of Tyndall personnel in the event of extended evacuation operations. When activated, the HESS contact number will be 1-800-325-EVAC (3822).

Hurricane Watch Team -The HWT is responsible for providing information to the installation commander and the Installation Control Center on the status of the storm; legal and financial considerations; personnel issues for military, civilian and contract personnel; and inputs regarding aircraft evacuation issues.

Ride Out Element - The ROE is a small cadre of personnel that will remain on base in a shelter during a hurricane to provide minimal command, security and immediate damage assessment/control.

Base Recovery Element -This BRE provides a more detailed damage assessment, an emergency landing area, and ensures safe return for mission essential personnel.

Installation Control Center - The ICC is a cadre of senior leadership who meet to discuss all options affecting personnel during a contingency.

Installation Control Center Directive - The ICC-D is a written directive describing actions planned by the ICC and approved by the installation commander.

Emergency Operations Center - The EOC is a county-owned and run command and control facility from which hurricane operations are conducted.

Contingency line information

Courtesy of 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A contingency phone number has been set up and activated to disseminate information to Team Tyndall during events such as hurricanes.

By calling the Straight Talk Line at (877) 529-5540, military and civilian personnel get information from wing leadership through updated recorded messages.

In the event of a contingency, such as a hurricane, messages will be posted informing base personnel when to evacuate if necessary or if an aircraft evacuation has been ordered.

This Straight Talk Line is not to be confused with other 1-800 numbers used during hurricane evacuations. Those numbers are dedicated to informing Tyndall employees when to return following an evacuation.

This contingency number is used primarily to keep Tyndall personnel aware of a situation's current status.

The other numbers for use during hurricane evacuations are (800) 896-

8806 for the status of the base and to learn return to duty information, and (800) 453-9941 to contact the Air Force Personnel Center to report your location during an evacuation and to receive further instructions.

To reach the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management flight, call (850) 283-2010. They will have updated information pertaining to the current situation and conditions. The Straight Talk Line number has 32 lines available in an effort to handle many callers at the same time.

Keep these phone numbers in your hurricane evacuation kit to ensure you have the latest information.



Hurricane Checklist

Proper hurricane preparation begins long before the first glimpse of a storm on a weatherman's radar screen.

Creating a checklist to be used prior to a hurricane's arrival can ensure both you and your family are safe and secure when a storm makes landfall.

The following list can be clipped and saved.

Do the following before an evacuation order is issued:

- Check hurricane kit and replace missing items. Ensure items such as food, water and batteries are replaced periodically to maintain freshness.
- Listen for official weather reports and announcements on radio and televisions. Announcements will also be posted on the base cable channel 12.
- Note the address of nearest emergency shelter.
- Low-lying areas or mobile homes should be evacuated.
- If pregnant or ill, call a doctor for advice.
- Be prepared to turn off gas, water and electricity.
- Keep vehicles fueled and prepared to evacuate.
- Moor boats securely. Use long lines and allow for rising water.
- Secure objects that could become deadly hazards, such

as doors, shutters, gates, outdoor furniture, garden tools, sprinklers, hoses, children's toys, trash cans and loose branches.

If a hurricane evacuation is advised, do the following:

- Notify unit of evacuation destination.
- Notify evacuation destination, tell them you are an evacuee and ensure there is no change in availability.
- Notify out-of-area family and friends of evacuation.
- Leave the area as soon as possible.
- Follow official instructions.
- Disconnect all major appliances except for the refrigerator and freezer. Turn their controls to the coldest setting and keep the door closed.
- Provide food and water for pets, or board them in a kennel. Pets cannot be taken to a Red Cross shelter or billeting.
- Shut off water and gas at the main valve.
- If prescription medicine is needed, have two weeks worth on hand at all times.
- Ensure your home is properly secured.
- Drive safely, allow time for your trip and avoid areas where traffic congestion is likely to occur.

Hurricane watch vs. warning?

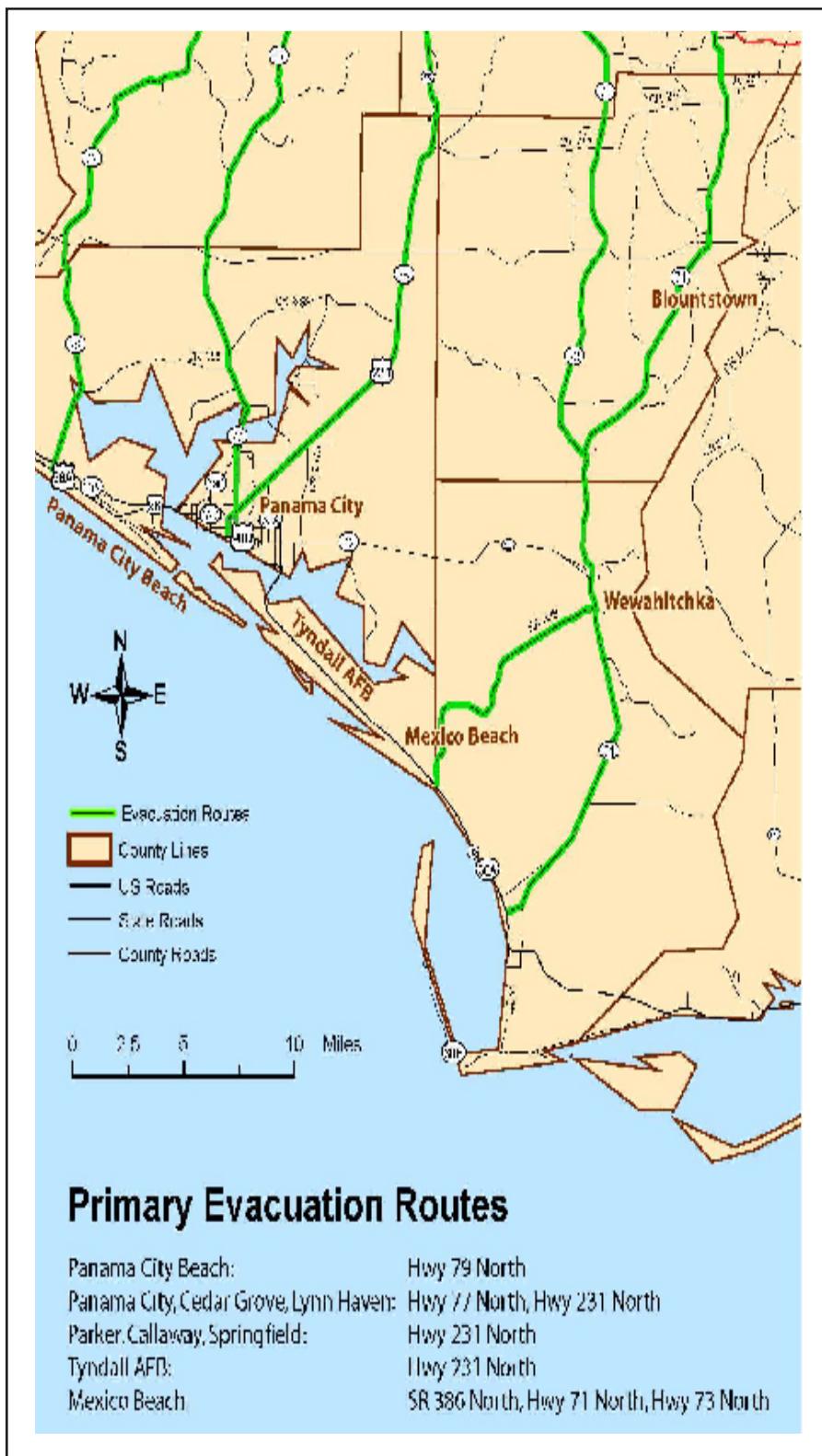
Hurricane watch

A hurricane watch means hurricane conditions could arrive within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan, and proactive measures should be initiated, such as securing objects around your home.

Hurricane warning

A hurricane warning means sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once a warning is issued, your family should complete proactive actions and decide the safest location to be during the storm.

Evacuation routes



Evacuation options

In the event of a hurricane, the three Air Force bases listed below serve as evacuation options. The numbers listed may help for planning purposes.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Moody AFB, Ga. - | operator: (229) 257-1110 |
| | lodging: (229) 257-3893 |
| Maxwell AFB, Ala. - | operator: (334) 953-1110 |
| | lodging: (334) 953-3931 |
| Robins AFB, Ga. - | operator: (478) 926-1001 |
| | lodging: (478) 926-2100 |

Know the Facts

Some answers to evacuation-related questions

Q - How do I report my accountability during an evacuation?

A - Ensure that you call your supervisor once relocated. If you cannot reach your supervisor, call the Hurricane Evacuation Support Staff, when activated, at (877) 325-EVAC. If the first two options are not viable, contact the Air Force Personnel Center at (800) 453-9941 to report your location and status or update status using the AF Personnel Accountability and Assessment System at [via https://afpaas.af.mil](https://afpaas.af.mil).

Q - I am military, but I live off base. If the installation commander orders military people to evacuate, do I have to leave?

A - Yes. An evacuation order given by the installation commander is a lawful order and must be followed. The decision to evacuate will be coordinated with associate unit commanders to ensure the mission needs of all units are met. Military members who violate orders are subject to discipline under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Q - I am a civilian and my spouse is military and we live in base housing. Can the installation commander order me to evacuate?

A - Yes. All military facilities on the installation, including base housing areas, fall under the authority of the installation commander. Additionally, the installation commander is responsible for maintaining the safety and security of personnel assigned to Tyndall AFB and their families.

Q - Does an evacuation order affect civilian personnel residing outside the installation?

A - Civilian personnel residing off base are not required to evacuate when the installation evacuates; however, if the installation commander authorizes civilian personnel to evacuate they are entitled to limited reimbursement for expenses incurred should they evacuate.

Q - If Bay County orders an evacuation but the installation commander doesn't, do I have to leave?

A - Base authorities work closely with community authorities, so conflicting evacuation orders are unlikely; however, military members are ultimately required to follow the orders issued through their chain of command.

Q - Can my supervisor authorize me to evacuate?

A - A supervisor cannot, on their own authority, give an order to evacuate. The order to evacuate is only given by the installation commander.

Q - If I evacuate, can I use my government travel card for expenses?

A - If the installation commander orders an evacuation, members who reside in an evacuation zone are authorized to use their government travel card to pay for evacuation-related expenses only.

Q - Where do I go if I am told to evacuate?

A - Personnel ordered to evacuate are authorized to seek shelter, typically within a 350 mile radius of the installation. Evacuation points have been pre-arranged at three alternate bases, but an individual can choose their own location with commander approval.

Q - Can I evacuate even if I'm not in an evacuation zone?

A - It depends upon the evacuation order. Certain personnel may be deemed mission essential or be required to stay behind if they are on the installation's ride-out or base recovery teams.

Q - Do I need to have current evacuation plans on file with my Commander's Support Staff or Unit Control Center?

A - Yes. All personnel are required to have their current evacuation information updated with their CSS or UCC.

Q - What should I do with my pets?

A - Pets are not allowed in county storm shelters, military lodging facilities and some motels. Airmen should develop a pet care plan. Suitable places include kennels or pet shelters or a pet-friendly hotel. Some on-line resources include www.letsGOPets.com and pets-allowed-hotels.com.

Q - What should I do after the storm passes?

A - Contact your chain of command or call Straight Talk at (877) 529-5540 for updated information.

Q - How will I know when I have to return to work?

A - All personnel should monitor radio and TV news reports for recovery information. Additionally, the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office maintains the Straight Talk information line, which provides updated information regarding Tyndall issues at (877) 529-5540.