



All Hazards

Are You Prepared?



Table of Contents

Useful Contacts	3
What is a Hazard	5
Emergency Preparedness	6
Protecting Your Pets	7
Tropical Storms & Hurricanes	8
Emergency Supplies	13
Securing Your Boat	14
Protecting Your Property	15
Flooding	21
Nor'wester	24
Waterspouts, Tornadoes & Droughts	25
Earthquakes	26
Tsunamis	31
Lightning	34
Fires	37
Choosing a Safe Shelter	40
Hazard Management Cayman Islands	42
Community Service Response Team	44
National Emergency Notification System	45

Useful Contacts

Emergency Services

Grand Cayman

Police 911 or 949-4222

Fire 911 or 949-2276

Hospital 911 or 949-8600

Divers Recompression Chamber 911

National Emergency Operations Centre 949-6555

(Only during activation of National Emergency Operations Centre)

Hazard Management Cayman Islands 945-4624

Mental Health Helpline 1-800-534-6463

Cayman Brac

Police 911 or 948-0331

Fire 911 or 948-1293

Hospital 911 or 948-2243

District Commissioner's Office 948-2222

Little Cayman

Police 911 or 948-0100

Fire 911 or 948-0011

Medical Clinic 911 or 948-0072

District Officer 948-1051

Utility Companies

Grand Cayman

Electricity:

Caribbean Utilities Co. 945-1CUC (1282) or 949-5200

Water:

Water Authority 949-2837 or 946-4537

Cayman Water Company 945-4277

Cayman Brac

Electricity 948-4224

Water Authority 948-1403

Livestock & Pet Help

Department of Agriculture Veterinary Service

947-3090 or 916-2218

Cayman Brac 948-0522 or 916-5144

Telecommunication Providers

FLOW 811 or 949-8450 | www.discoverflow.ky

Digicel 100 or 623-3445 *(from outside Cayman)*

www.digicelgroup.com

C3 333-3333 | www.c3.ky

Logic 745-5555 | www.logic.ky

Airlines

Cayman Airways *(Reservations)* 949-2311

Cayman Airways Cayman Brac 948-1211

Cayman Airways Little Cayman 948-0144

American Airlines 949-0666

Air Canada - Owen Roberts Airport 949-2309

Air Canada *(Reservations)* 1-888-247-2262

Island Air *(Reservations)* 949-5252

British Airways *(Owen Roberts Airport)* 945-6382

United 1-800-231-0856

Delta *(Reservations)* 1-800-221-1212 or 949-8700

Jet Blue 1-881-538-2583 or 946-7483

WestJet 1-800-204-0081

Southwest Airlines 1-800-435-9792

Government Websites

Cayman Islands Government www.gov.ky

CI Department of Tourism

www.caymanislands.ky

Hazard Management Cayman Islands

www.caymanprepared.gov.ky

News Media Websites

Cayman Compass www.caymancompass.com

Cayman News Service www.caymannewsservice.com

Radio Cayman www.radiocayman.gov.ky

Caymanian Times www.caymaniantimes.ky

Radio Stations

Government Operated

Radio Cayman One 89.9 *(Grand Cayman)*

(or 93.9 on Cayman Brac & Little Cayman)

Radio Cayman Two 105.3

(or 91.9 on Cayman Brac & Little Cayman)

Cayman Weather Radio 107.9

Private

Big Fish 95.5

Bobo 89.1

Cay Country 93.5

Cayrock 96.5

Gold FM 94.9

Hot 104.1

ICCI 101.1

Island FM 98.9

Kiss 106.1

Love FM 103.1

Magic 91.5

Praise 87.9

Rooster (101 - 101.9)

Star 92.7

X107.1

Z99 99.9

Television

CIGTV

Channel 28 (*Logic*)

Channel 3 (*C3*)

Channel 106 (*wireless cable*) or with an outdoor antenna

Consular Representatives

Austria

Pasadora Place, Smith Road, George Town

Martin Richter Austrian@consulate.ky

www.consulate.ky

Barbados

15 Brisbane Street

Juliette Gooding barcon2@gmail.com | huntewo@candw.ky

Brazil

Ogier, 89 Nexus Way, Camana Bay

Giorgio Subiotto giorgio.subiotto@ogier.com

Canada

Landmark Square, Suite 1F, 64 Earth Close

Yves Martel Cdncon.Cayman@candw.ky

France

115 West Bay Road (St. Matthews University)

Sebastien Guilbard frenchconsulatecayman@gmail.com

Germany

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

10 Waterloo Rd., Kingston 10

1-876-631-7935 or 1-876-926-6728

After hours emergencies 1-876 819-4351

info@kingston.diplo.de

Honduras

Miguel Molina-Brown

miguelmbrown@yahoo.com

Jamaica

Dot Com Centre, # 342A Dorcy Drive (Industrial Park)

Elaine Harris

Jamaica@candw.ky | www.jaconsulatecayman.org

Philippines

Suite 219 Cannon Place, 294B North Sound Road

Arturo Ursua artursua@candw.ky

Spain

49 Mary Street, George Town

Garth Arch spainconsulate@candw.ky

Switzerland

#45 Market Street, Camana Bay

Markus Mueri cayman@honrep.ch

United States

Smith Road Centre, Unit 202B, Smith Road

caymanacs@state.gov

Immigration Matters

Passport Office

Sussex House, 128 Elgin Ave, George Town

949-8344

WORC 945-9672

Red Cross

949-6785

dm@redcross.org.ky | www.redcross.org.ky

What is a Hazard?

A hazard is a natural or man-made phenomenon which has the potential to cause environmental damage, economic loss, or threaten life and well-being. The extent of the destruction is dependent on the level of intensity of the event.

Although the Cayman Islands is spared from some hazards such as avalanches and ice storms, we are at high risk for other hazards such as hurricanes, flooding, and earthquakes. An event only becomes a "Disaster" when it exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope.



Types of Hazards

Natural

Drought

Earthquakes

Epidemics

Floods

Hurricanes

Lightning

Tornadoes

Tsunamis

Volcanic eruptions

Wild fires

Manmade

Arson

Accidents

Bombings

Chemical agents

Epidemics

Food poisonings

Food contamination

Hostage situation

Riots

Shootings

Terrorism

Technological

Accidents (*transportation*)

Building/structure failure

Fires

Gas explosion

Hazardous materials

Industrial accidents

Nuclear accidents

Power/utility failure

Radiological accidents

Emergency Preparedness

Emergencies disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Each emergency can have lasting effects, both to people and property. If an emergency occurs, the government and emergency-relief organisations will try to help you, but you need to be ready as well. Responders may not be able to reach you immediately, or they may need to focus their efforts elsewhere. You should know how to respond to severe weather or any emergency that could occur - hurricanes, earthquakes, or flooding etc.



Inventory

Make an inventory of your belongings and/or photograph or video tape your possessions.



Emergency Supplies

Stock non-perishable emergency supplies, an emergency supply kit and a first aid kit.



Documents

Keep vital documents in a waterproof container or sealed in a large Ziploc bag. Store them in one secure, readily accessible location.

- Passports
- Driver's license
- Vehicle registration & title
- Birth & marriage certificates
- Insurance policies
- Medical & immunisation records
- Will
- Bank account numbers
- Land and property titles,
- A list of important phone numbers.



Computers

You may want to copy your computer hard drive to a portable desk or thumb drive and store this in your waterproof container.



Stock Up On Medicine

Plan ahead for any special medical needs that you may have. Keep prescriptions full and up to date at the start of hurricane season.



Boats

Plan ahead for where you will store or dock your vessel in the event of an impending strike from a hurricane.



Pets

Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you are facing the threat of a hurricane and need to leave your home or fly off island. Update pet vaccination and microchip your pet.



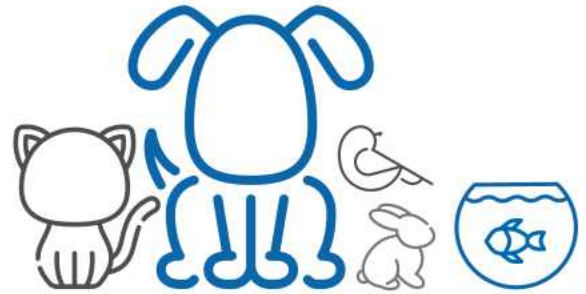
Gas Cylinders

Never store Gas cylinders inside your home. Never operate a generator indoors. Never refuel a generator while it is running.

Protecting Your Pets

What About Pets?

Without proper planning pets are likely to get injured, lost, or worse. Even if you decide to stay home, authorities may issue an evacuation order requiring you to leave at short notice. There are currently two emergency shelters which accept pets (*dogs and cats only*) and space is limited. Details of what you have to bring are on the Caymanprepared website www.caymanprepared.gov.ky.



Have a safe place to take them in case you have to leave home:

- Ask friends, relatives, or others whether they could shelter your animals. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.
- Ask if your workplace will allow you to shelter there with your pets.
- Keep a list of pet-friendly places, including phone numbers, with other emergency information and supplies.
- If you decide to leave the island before the storm, the best thing to do is to evacuate your pets with you. Call the Agriculture Department well in advance to find out the requirements for taking your animal out of the country and for bringing them back in. Also, be sure to find out the requirements of the country to which you want to take the pet.

Assemble a portable pet supplies kit:

Like you, your pet will need essential supplies during and after the storm. Keep items in sturdy containers that can be carried easily (*duffle bags, covered trash containers, etc.*).

Include:

- A first aid kit, including any medicines your pet is taking and their medical records.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers for transportation.
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost.
- Food, potable water, bowls, cat litter and pan, and a manual can opener.
- Information on feeding times, medical conditions, behaviour problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable.

What to do as the storm approaches:

- Check that your pet emergency kit is ready to go at a moment's notice.
- Bring pets into the house to avoid searching for them if you have to leave.
- Dogs and cats must wear securely fastened collars with up-to-date identification. Write down your contact details on a temporary tag or put adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag, adding information with an indelible pen.

If you must leave your pet at home:

- If you are off island when a storm approaches, ask a trusted neighbour or friend to take care of your pets. It is best to arrange this before you travel in case a storm comes while you are away. This person should be comfortable with your pets, know where your animals are likely to be, know where your pet emergency supplies kit is kept, and have a key to your home.

Other considerations:

- Transporting pets: Animals react differently under stress. Outside your home, and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed and muzzled when necessary. Transport cats in pet carriers. Don't leave animals unattended anywhere they can run off. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or even bite or scratch. When you return home, give your pets time to settle back into their routines. Call your veterinarian if any behaviour problems last for more than a few days.
- Transport birds in a secure travel cage or carrier. Provide a few slices of fresh fruits and vegetables with high water content. Have a photo for identification and leg bands. If the carrier does not have a perch, line it with paper towels and change them frequently. Do not let the birds out of the cage or carrier.
- Small mammals (*hamsters, gerbils, etc.*) should be transported in secure carriers suitable for maintaining the animals while sheltered. Take bedding materials, food bowls, and water bottles.
- Horses and other livestock have a better chance of survival when turned out in clean pastures with native vegetation, but not in flood prone areas. Contact the Department of Agriculture for more information on sheltering farm animals.

Microchips to the rescue!

All pet owners in the Cayman Islands are encouraged to have their dogs or cats microchipped. The chip is a tiny and harmless electronic device inserted by a veterinarian just under the pet's skin. It contains information to identify the pet and its owner and gives you the best chance of being reunited swiftly with your pet if it gets lost during an emergency.

Tropical Storms & Hurricanes

Hurricane season is June 1st - November 30th annually in the Atlantic and Caribbean Sea. However, storms have formed outside of hurricane season as early as May and as late as December. During this season there is an increased probability of tropical cyclones passing over, or in the vicinity of the Cayman Islands. The most active months within the hurricane season are September and October.

The destructive force of storms comes from four (4) areas: strong winds, heavy rains, very large waves and storm surge. When most people think of hurricanes, they conjure up pictures of the wind and heavy rain. What many people don't think of are the dangers of the sea (storm surge). Storm surge is a rise in the level of the sea that occurs as the storm winds push water forward. As the storm nears land, the water can build up to several feet above normal sea level. The very large waves and storm surge produce sudden, severe, and even life-threatening flooding.

The Cayman Islands is low-lying (*particularly Grand Cayman and Little Cayman*), small and narrow making them especially vulnerable to storm surge.

Tropical Storms and Hurricanes are categorised based on the strength of their maximum sustained winds.



What to do at the Start of the Hurricane Season

Be Informed

- Learn all you can about hurricanes, how they affect the Cayman Islands and how to prepare.
- Learn about your area. Knowing how high above sea level it is, and its flooding history will give you an idea of how safe your area is. But remember: new buildings, roads and other construction could make flooding more likely even if it was not a problem in the past. You can find out the elevation of your area from the Lands and Survey Department at 949-7900. Inland areas which have had serious flooding in past storms include the West Bay peninsula, central George Town, Red Bay, Prospect, Savannah, areas around the North Sound, low lying areas of Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman.
- Learn the location of official public shelters and emergency medical centres – note the closest ones to you.

Make a Plan

- Find a relative or friend you can stay with if your house isn't safe. Make sure the house you choose is well constructed and on high ground or has a foundation high enough to avoid too much water getting in.
- Decide where you will store your boat in an emergency and how to secure it.
- Make sure your home and property insurance is up-to-date. And that you understand what your coverage provides.

Prepare

- Trim dead wood from trees and cut back overhanging branches.
- Check and repair loose gutters around the roof and downspouts.
- Check your hurricane shutters or plywood covers and the tools you need to install them. Practise installing them.
- If you do not have shutters for windows and doors, stock up on plywood and get it cut and labelled for each opening.
- If you can afford it, install properly constructed garage doors. Get wood or metal planks to reinforce the doors from the inside in the event a hurricane warning is issued. If you can't afford commercial garage doors, get plywood sheets to nail over the openings and wooden planks to reinforce the plywood. (*See page 16 for more tips*)
- Check and repair loose or damaged roofing; install hurricane straps on roofs if they do not already have them.
- Stock up on emergency supplies. Begin collecting enough non-perishable food, water, first aid and other survival supplies to last each person about a week. A good idea is to buy the supplies a little at a time, picking up some extras with each trip to the supermarket. Always store in a cool and dry environment.
- Don't forget any prescription medication your family may need and special items for the young and elderly.
- Keep your vehicle gas tank above half at all times during hurricane season.
- Inspect your cistern and get it cleaned if necessary.
- Have your cesspool emptied.
- Take pictures of your house (*inside and out*) and of furniture and equipment for insurance claims. Secure these in a safe place in an airtight/waterproof container.

What to Expect from Different Storm Categories

Storm experts classify storms by their wind speed and have developed the chart below to show the type of damage that different storms can produce.

It is important to know, however, that every system is different and behaves in its own way. Also the 'category' measures wind speed only and this often has very little bearing on the height of the surge which is the primary threat to life and property. The factors that determine how much damage a hurricane causes include:

- the wind speed.
- the amount of rainfall.
- whether the hurricane generates tornadoes.
- how fast or slowly the system is travelling, and how compact or spread out the system is.

The amount of damage received also depends on how well individuals and the country as a whole have prepared.



What to do When a Storm Threatens

ALERT | Take Precautions



TROPICAL STORM ALERT



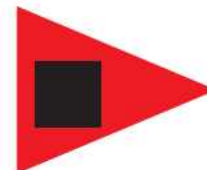
HURRICANE ALERT

Tropical Storm/Hurricane could strike within 72 hours

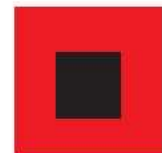
- Check emergency supplies and items for securing your home. Stock up.
- Assess your home and make necessary reinforcements or repairs to roofs or outdoor structures.
- Remove overhanging limbs and fruit from trees.
- Decide whether you need to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter.
- Find out which shelter is closest to you and decide how you will get there if you need to.
- Check that your generator is in good working order, and ensure you have oil and extra gasoline.
- Make necessary preparations for your pet(s) in case you have to go to a shelter.
- Fill vehicles with gasoline and withdraw some cash from the bank.
- Stay tuned to radio stations and local television for the latest official notices from Hazard Management Cayman Islands and the Cayman Islands National Weather Service.

WATCH | Batten Down

Tropical Storm/Hurricane could strike within 48 hours



TROPICAL STORM WATCH



HURRICANE WATCH

Before the Storm Strikes

Outside

- Put up shutters or board up windows, glass doors and skylights.
- Bring in or secure everything that could be blown away, such as outdoor furniture, potted plants, clothes racks, garden tools, garbage pans, etc.
- Remove antennas and satellite dishes to prevent damage or loss.

Inside

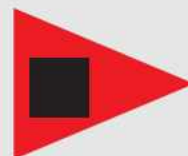
- Sterilise bathtub, pans, jugs and bottles and fill with water.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and open as little as possible. Remember to return to original setting after the storm.
- Raise furniture, appliances and other valuables off the floor. Cover and secure with plastic sheets.
- Close curtains and blinds to minimise the danger of flying glass if windows are broken.
- Put your food and other emergency supplies in plastic bags and containers so they won't get wet.
- Turn off outside gas cylinders and disconnect gas pipes.
- Bring pets indoors. If you have to leave home and cannot take your pet, make alternative arrangements for your pets. Do not leave them alone.
- Shelters will usually open during this phase. If you intend to go to a shelter, listen for announcements that the one nearest you is open. Before you leave, turn off the main power and fuel supply and take the items you have prepared.
- If you intend to stay with relatives or friends, go now.
- Park vehicles inside the garage or on higher ground if possible, to reduce the likelihood of your vehicle being damaged.
- If you are remaining at home, go indoors, secure and brace external doors. You can brace an inward-swinging door by wedging a chair with the back against the door knob.
- Use your telephone for emergencies only. You will need the battery to last!
- Stay tuned to local media for official notices and instructions from Hazard Management Cayman Islands and the Cayman Islands National Weather Service.
- Stay indoors, but be ready to evacuate to a shelter or other location if your home is damaged, or if you are instructed to do so by emergency personnel.

WARNING | Take Refuge

Tropical Storm/Hurricane could strike within 36 hours

A Warning remains in effect until the storm has passed or is no longer a threat.

- Stay calm and listen to official updates over the radio.
- Continue making the necessary preparations if you did not complete everything during the Alert or Watch phase.
- Go to a nearby Shelter now as they will be open.



TROPICAL STORM WARNING



HURRICANE WARNING

During the Storm

- CUC will usually turn off the electricity just before the storm approaches to protect their equipment. However, if the electricity is still on and water begins to blow into the house and settle on the floors, turn off the main breaker switch to avoid electrical accidents. **However, before you touch the breaker, make sure you are not standing in water and are wearing rubber-soled shoes.**
- Close all inside doors. If the wind gets inside, closed doors will help stop it from entering other rooms. You can also brace inward-swinging doors by wedging a chair-back against the knob.
- Do not go outside while the eye of the storm (*an area of calm weather at the centre of the storm*) is passing, unless absolutely necessary. Depending on the size of the eye and the speed at which the hurricane is travelling, the calm weather can last for up to half an hour or more, but winds will return unexpectedly from the opposite direction, sometimes with greater force. Don't be caught off-guard.
- If your roof or walls begin to fail, go to an inner room (*preferably one without windows*), or to a cupboard or passageway or empty bathtub or stall and shield yourself with a mattress.

What to do After a Storm

ALL CLEAR | Beware

Tropical Storm/Hurricane conditions have passed

Stay indoors until the authorities declare the storm is over.

Note that the **All Clear** announcement may not be made immediately after the storm passes as conditions may still make general movement unsafe.

- Help injured or trapped persons, but do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Give first aid, where appropriate.
- Debris clearance, search and rescue and other emergency vehicles will go out as soon as conditions allow. **Call 911 or 949-6555** for help.
- Do not touch loose or damaged wires or anything that is touching them. Always ensure you wear protective footwear and do not step in pools of water where such wires could be grounded!
- Avoid trees, signs, buildings and other structures that appear damaged.
- Listen for official information from Hazard Management Cayman Islands and the Cayman Islands National Weather Service. Such information will include locations of post-hurricane shelters, and arrangements for relief and medical services.
- Remain off the roads until advised by the authorities that it is safe.
- Use your telephones for emergencies only. You will need the battery to last!
- If you have been away from home, do not return until advised by the authorities that it is safe to do so. Be very careful when re-entering your home.



TROPICAL STORM ALL CLEAR



HURRICANE ALL CLEAR

Emergency Supplies

Nobody knows just how much damage a storm will cause until it is over. Be prepared for the worst by putting together the following supplies, which you will need during and after the storm.

Tip: Collect your supplies a little at a time from the start of the season. This makes them more affordable.

■ Drinking Water

Minimum of one gallon per person for 3-5 days. Use pre-bottled water or keep clean containers with tight-fitting lids. Once you fill them, seal tightly, use a permanent marker to write 'drinking water' and the date; store in a cool, dark place. Also ensure you have enough water for your pet(s).

■ Non-perishable Food & Beverages

At least 3-5 days supply for each person:

- Buy items in cans, plastic or other unbreakable, waterproof containers.
- If items have paper labels, use a permanent marker to write the name of the item and expiration date directly on the container, as the label may get wet and fall off.
- Some items do not keep long once they are opened. Buy sizes which you can finish the same day opened.
- Include some high-energy and comfort foods such as granola bars, chocolate, candy, etc.

■ Special Needs Items

For the sick or disabled, such as:

- Extra prescription medicine (*two-week supply. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for guidelines for storing these*).
- Special foods.
- Special equipment.

■ Baby & children's items

Food and liquid formula, diapers, wipes, snacks, a few favourite small toys or games, etc.

■ Cooking, heating equipment & fuel

Portable stove (e.g. camp stove, mini propane/butane tanks), "Sterno" for heating food, waterproof matches or lighters, oil and gasoline for generators.

■ Portable Cooler/Ice Chest

■ Disposable Utensils

Plastic cutlery, plates and cups.

■ Tools and materials

Including: Can opener (*non-electric*), sharp knife, scissors, duct tape, rope, hammer, nails, screws, screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers, tarp or heavy-duty plastic, work gloves.

■ Portable Radio

- If battery-powered, get extra batteries; consider a wind-up, or solar-powered, radio (*these do not need batteries*).
- Cell phone, car charger and/or extra battery.

■ Lighting

- Two flashlights for each person and 2 extra packets of batteries, or wind-up flashlight.
- Battery-operated lanterns, replacement bulbs and batteries.

Note: It is best to avoid using open flames such as candles or kerosene lamps for lighting as these carry a great risk of starting a fire. Flashlights provide the safest light.

■ Personal hygiene, sanitation & health aids

Toiletries, paper towels, toilet paper, insect repellent, hand sanitiser, first-aid kit, bleach (*pure, unscented*), water purification tablets, heavy-duty trash bags, containers for sewage - at least two 5-gallon buckets with tight-fitting covers. Line with plastic bags.

■ Miscellaneous

- Cash.
- Important documents.

■ Storing your supplies

Pack smaller items in waterproof containers and store on a shelf or counter top away from the floor in case of flooding. Tie bigger items down or store in a safe place where they won't float or blow away.



Grab-and-Go Survival Kit

Conditions may suddenly change in an emergency and you may have to leave at a moment's notice. When an emergency threatens, get together a personal survival kit from your supplies or, better yet, prepare it beforehand. The kit is a bag or other portable container with your most important emergency items, which you can just grab if you have to go in a hurry. Each family member should have one.

It should contain:

- Drinking water for at least three days (*see guidelines on previous page*).
- Food for at least three days - lightweight, compact, waterproof packaged, non-perishable items that don't need cooking, heating or refrigeration and which can be eaten from the container.
- Change of clothing and sturdy protective shoes; rain gear, hat, sun glasses.
- Sleeping bag, mat or blanket.



In addition, the kit for each adult and each child old enough to carry them should contain:

- Personal identification and other important documents (*see box*).
- Portable radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Cell phone and charger/extra battery.
- Can opener, utility knife, utensils.
- Cash (*including coins*).
- Prescription medicine if necessary (*ask your doctor or pharmacist for guidelines for storing these*).
- Eyeglasses if used (*extra pair and/or a copy of the prescription*).
- Extra keys for house and vehicles.
- Special items for children, elderly or those with special needs.

Important Family Documents

Keep these records in a waterproof pouch in a convenient place known to all family members or store a copy of the documents in a cloud based storage. When an emergency is threatening, place your pouch in your survival kit.

- Personal identification, Passports and travel visas (*or waivers*).
- Immigration records/permits.
- Other travel documents such as airline tickets.
- Emergency contact list and phone numbers.
- Bank and credit card account numbers.
- Insurance policies & papers (*household, auto and life*).
- Inventory of valuable household goods.
- Contracts, deeds and will.
- Family records (*birth, marriage, death certificates and immunisation records*).

Store other valuables in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home to minimise the chance of them becoming soaked.

Securing Your Boat

When Securing Your Boat:

- Take all trailers and small vessels out of and away from the water.
- If your boat must remain in the water, please read through the advice that is available on the Cayman Prepared and Cayman Islands National Weather Service websites.
- If your boat is on land, remove boat plugs or add weights to smaller boats by filling the boat up to half-way with water. Filling it all the way could cause damage.
- If radio equipment can be removed, take it out. Remove outboard motor and anything that could blow away.
- Store boats and trailers inside if possible.
- If your boat must remain outdoors, strap both boat and trailer down with heavy rope or chains anchored to the ground and away from objects that could fall on them.
- Flatten the trailer tires.
- Support the trailer axle and prevent the trailer from rolling by placing blocks against each wheel.
- Never venture out to sea if a small craft advisory, or storm warning alert is in force.

Post-Hurricane Safety

Beware Of Unstable Structures

Never assume that water-damaged structures or ground are stable. Buildings that have been submerged or have withstood rushing flood waters may have suffered structural damage and could be dangerous.

- Don't work in or around any flood-damaged building until it has been examined and certified as safe for work by a registered professional engineer or architect.
- Assume all stairs, floors, and roofs are unsafe until they are inspected.
- Leave immediately if you see or feel shifting or hear any unusual noises. These signal a possible collapse.

Tiredness can lead to Injuries

Continued long hours of work, combined with exhaustion, can create a highly stressful situation during cleanup. People working on hurricane cleanup can reduce their risks of injury and illness in several ways:

- Set priorities for cleanup tasks and pace the work. Try not to get totally exhausted.
- Resume a normal sleep schedule as quickly as possible.
- Be alert to emotional exhaustion or strain. Consult family members, friends or professionals for emotional support.

Carbon Monoxide can Kill

Carbon monoxide (CO) gas is poisonous to breathe and is even more dangerous because it cannot be smelt or seen.

CO is formed in the exhaust of gasoline-powered devices such as generators, pumps and pressure washers, as well as by using camp stoves or charcoal grills or coal pots/stoves. These items are commonly used in the aftermath of a storm if there is a power outage.

To be Safe:

- NEVER use generators indoors, including in homes, garages, and other enclosed or partially-enclosed areas, even with ventilation. Only operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area, away from air intakes to the home, and protected from direct exposure to rain, preferably under a canopy or open shed.
- If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using or being near a generator, pumps, pressure washers, camp stoves or charcoal stoves get to fresh air RIGHT AWAY. DO NOT DELAY. Carbon monoxide can rapidly lead to full incapacitation and death.
- If symptoms persist go to the hospital immediately and inform medical staff that CO poisoning is suspected.
- Install battery operated certified CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with battery back-up in your home, according to the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Generator Safety

Portable electric generators offer great benefits but can be hazardous if used improperly. They can cause carbon monoxide poisoning, electrocution and fires. Follow these safety tips on the proper use of generators:

Prevent Electrocution

- Keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. To protect from moisture, operate generators on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure. Dry your hands if wet before touching the generator.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator. Or use a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Check that the entire cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- NEVER try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "backfeeding". This is an extremely dangerous practice that presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer. It also bypasses some of the built-in household circuit protection devices.
- If you must connect the generator to house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician make the appropriate connection.

Prevent Fires

- Before refuelling the generator, turn it off and let it cool down. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Do not over-fill the tank; only fill to level line or about 90% of the tank's capacity.
- Refuel generators in a well ventilated area and clean up all spills before restarting the machine, or move it from the refuelling area.
- Check for leaks before starting the generator.
- If the generator is giving problems, get it repaired by a mechanic.



Handling Hazardous Chemicals

Store used oil, solvents and batteries in a safe and secure location outside of the home before transporting to the landfill. Always protect yourself from chemical burns by wearing work gloves and work shoes when handling dangerous chemicals and batteries.

Gasoline & Diesel

- Never drink water from a container that has held gasoline or diesel. Gasoline contains an ingredient that is known to be capable of causing cancer.
- Never siphon gas by mouth or put gasoline in your mouth for any reason. Gasoline can be fatal if swallowed. If gas is swallowed, do not induce vomiting. Contact a doctor immediately.
- Separate gasoline, oil, solvents, lubricants and household cleaners in secured containers for storage.
- Store gasoline only in containers made for the purpose. These containers have "UL or FM" "imprinted on them. These are international symbols that lets you know the container is safe for gasoline. Hardware and supply stores sell these containers. Other containers such as glass bottles, soda cans, bleach bottles, etc., can break or leak.
- Don't store gasoline containers in the same place as a fuel-burning appliance. Gasoline vapours can travel invisibly along the ground and catch on fire from pilot lights or arcs caused by activating electric switches.
- When filling the container place it on the ground to avoid fuel vapours catching fire because of static electricity.
- Make sure containers are secured with lids before transporting.

Vehicle Batteries

- Keep batteries upright and place side by side without stacking to prevent leakage.
- Store battery acid in an appropriate container.
- If battery acid spills on your skin, rinse immediately with soap and water. Take precautions and protect your eyes.
- Clothing should be discarded if battery acid has spilt on them.

In-home Fire Safety Tips

- If possible use solar powered or battery operated lamps and lanterns rather than candles which could be a fire hazard.
- If candles are used, keep away from open windows and doors, curtains, paper towel holders, tablecloths etc.
- Never leave candles unattended and always extinguish candles before going to sleep.
- Keep lighters and matches in a safe place and away from children.
- Make sure that matches and cigarettes are properly snuffed out before throwing away.

Gas stoves & Gas Lanterns

- Before using, make sure all persons intending to use the stove reviews the instruction manual.
- Never use in enclosed room; always ensure proper ventilation is available.
- To avoid the build-up of gas in a gas stove or lantern, always light the match or lighter and hold it to the burner before turning on the valve.
- Never allow children to operate a gas stove.
- Keep all combustible materials such as towels, paper holders, pot holders etc, away from stove when in use.
- Never leave a lit stove unattended.
- Propane cylinders used for cooking must be kept outside of buildings. This includes the small 20lb cylinders.
- Always turn off cylinder after each use.

Grills & Charcoal Stoves

- Keep lighter fluid away from burning coals, and other open flames.
- Never use a grill inside the home.
- Make sure coals are properly snuffed out after each use.

Oil Lamps

- Refuel oil lamps in a ventilated area and clean up any spills before lighting.
- Move the lamp away from the area where it was refueled.
- Keep lamps away from any possible moving objects such as curtains, fans etc.

Fire Extinguishers

- Always ensure that your home has adequate fire extinguishers.
- Learn how to use extinguishers before they are needed.

Smoke detectors

- Make sure your home is equipped with at least one working smoke detector. Change the batteries annually.



Protecting Your Property

Take Care of Your Home's Outer Shell

When the outer shell of a house is damaged, it becomes prone to sudden collapse. For example, if a door facing the wind blows in, the full force of the storm will hit the interior. Needing somewhere to go, the wind will then rip out windows, doors, walls or the roof. Even a small breach such as a roof tile bursting through a window can have the same effect. Therefore, pay special attention to all exterior openings.

Storms often get a finger into the house through the roof if it not secure. The wind begins to peel away the roofing material at the gable ends or eaves, exposing the edges of the roof sheathing. The sheathing then becomes damaged and the ceiling gets soaked and collapses, allowing wind and water inside. While the structure may survive, the interior and its contents will likely be destroyed.

For homes already built:

- Check roof structure to see if it is reinforced with hurricane straps. Hurricane straps anchor the wood frame of the roof to the walls, helping to keep the roof on during high winds. If you have a gable-end roof, make sure it is properly braced at the ends. Consider having an experienced builder or engineer check your roof and do the necessary repairs and installing of hurricane straps. It is worth the investment. If you live in rented accommodation, ask your landlord about this.
- Replace roof covering that is cracked, rusted, loose or brittle. If you are replacing roof covering, consider metal roofing, asphalt shingles or standing seam as they perform well when installed correctly. Avoid roof tiles as they can cause a lot of damage when they go air-borne and need very careful installation.
- Check double entry doors. Secure the inactive door to the header and thresholds by adding reinforcing pins to the top and bottom of the door as well as by adding heavier hinges and more secure locks.
- Make sure door and window frames are securely fastened to their rough framing and check that the header is held in the wall with steel strapping and not just a couple of nails.
- Double garage doors are another weak point because they tend to wobble as high winds blow. These doors can pull out of their tracks or collapse from the wind pressure. Install bracing horizontally across the door. This can be done anytime as the bracing can remain on the doors year round. Use six to eight 2x4s or steel supports for this.
- Shutters are the most effective protection for all windows, French, and sliding doors. The best option is to install shutters bolted to the walls as strong winds tend to rip off plywood, roll-down, and louvered aluminium shutters. However, homemade plywood shutters, if installed properly, can offer a high level of protection. (*See information on plywood and commercial shutters*)
- Remember to cover any vents on the gable ends of your roof if you have a gable-end roof.

Building a home? Now's the time to make it hurricane-proof:

- Properly constructed hip roofs can withstand hurricane winds better than gable end roofs. This is because all surfaces of the hip roof are sloping, allowing wind to flow around them, whereas gable ends are vertical, which allows the force of the wind to constantly build up against them. If you are building a gable end roof it is crucial to make sure that it is properly braced. (*See information on bracing gable-ends under "For homes already built"*)
- Make sure your builder installs hurricane straps wherever roof beams join each other or join the walls.
- Ensure that exterior doors open outwards. It is harder for them to blow in.
- For windows, French or sliding doors, choose an impact-resistant glazing such as laminated glass or install hurricane-rated shutters.
- When installing a garage door, buy a specially reinforced one and have it installed by a professional.

Shuttering

Covering your windows and doors properly is one of the most important things to do when a storm is coming. The aim is to protect your house from wind and prevent flying objects crashing through the windows/doors into the building which would allow rainwater into your home, and increase the chance of your roof blowing off.

You can buy either ready made shutters or plywood sheets. Remember though: no covering will compensate for a poorly built house, or an unprotected garage.

Effective Plywood Shutters

- Plywood should be at least 5/8 of an inch thick and must be properly attached to the building in order to work. Even the best-designed shutter will fail in strong winds if not installed properly.
- Large openings such as glass doors need at least 3/4-inch thick plywood. Additional stiffeners may be required depending on span.
- Mark each sheet so that you will know what opening it is for.
- Practise installing the sheets at the start of the hurricane season.
- Store the sheets with the nails, screws or other hardware you will need to install them.

Caution! Some people cut the plywood and attach it in the inset of the window, against the window frame. However, in many homes, the window frame itself is not attached firmly enough to the surrounding wall and in high winds the added force of the plywood against the window frame could cause the entire window to blow out.

Installing Plywood Covering

- Use 1/4 inch Tap Cons screws 2.5 to 3 inches in length in masonry and concrete to fasten the plywood to the wall around the window/door. Screws should be inserted at six inch intervals all around the edge of the plywood sheet.
- On openings, where a window or door is larger than the plywood sheet, use two sheets side by side. Nail a 2x4 or 2x6 plank of lumber across where the two pieces join to strengthen the junction.
- Sliding glass patio doors: If there isn't a wall below a sliding glass door to secure the plywood to, nail a length of timber (2x4 or 2x6) across the bottom edge of the plywood and secure to the floor.
- Garage doors: Brace them from the inside with 2x4 or 2x6 wooden beams, running lengthwise.

Remember: When a hurricane warning is issued, stores will quickly run out of plywood supplies. If you do not prepare beforehand, you might not be able to get any plywood on the day before a hurricane strike.

Commercial Shutters

Listed below are the most popular types of commercial shutters with the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Storm Panels

These steel or aluminum shutters attach to the walls around windows and doors on bolts or tracks. The biggest problem with storm panels is that homeowners often don't check them when they buy a home. Many discover later that panels are missing or were cut improperly, or are too heavy to install themselves.

Pros

- Most inexpensive of the permanent shutter systems.
- Removable, so they don't change the look of the house when not in use.
- Strong, and can provide excellent protection for both doors and windows.

Cons

- Require storage, but usually stack together tightly and take up little space.
- Can be difficult to handle; hanging can require more than one person.
- Sometimes don't line up properly.
- Have sharp edges. Average storm preparation time: *15 minutes per window depending on the style.*

Roll-Down Shutters

These shutters attach above the window. They roll up and store in an enclosed box when not in use.

Pros

- They are permanently affixed above the windows and don't require any extra storage space.
- They can easily be made storm-ready by one person.
- They offer some of the best protection, and make an excellent theft deterrent.
- Average storm preparation time: *Minimum - probably the easiest shutter to operate.*

Cons

- They are the most expensive of the popular shutter systems.
- Push-button-operated, roll-down shutters require a battery backup system so that the shutters can be lowered and raised during power outages.

Accordion Shutters

These one or two-piece shutters are housed beside the windows of doors when not in use.

Pros

- They are permanently affixed beside the windows and don't require any extra storage space.
- They can easily be made storm-ready by one person.
- Some models can be locked with a key and may be used as a theft deterrent. Average storm preparation time: *15-30 minutes for an entire house.*

Cons

- These shutters can look bulky and out-of-place on some houses. Consider the aesthetics before having them installed.
- They glide on wheels, and have the potential to break more easily than some of the other systems.

Colonial Shutters

These are two-piece louvered shutters that attach to the wall beside each window.

Pros

- They are permanently affixed beside the windows and don't require any extra storage space.
- They can easily be made storm-ready by one person.
- Colonials are decorative; they can beautify as well as protect your home.
- Average storm preparation time: *15-30 minutes for an entire house.*

Cons

- Some types of colonials require a storm bar or centre rod to lock the shutters in place. This can increase installation time.
- They can't be used to protect doors, and must be combined with another shutter system to ensure complete home protection.

Bahama Shutters

These one-piece louvered shutters attach directly above the windows and prop open to provide shade for the window.

Pros

- They are permanently affixed above the windows and don't require any extra storage space.
- They can easily be made storm-ready by one person.
- They provide permanent shade and privacy, even in the open position. Average storm preparation time: *15-30 minutes for an entire house.*

Cons

- These shutters have traditionally been weaker than other systems, but the newest models protect well.
- Some people complain they block too much light.
- Their design limits their use. They can't be used to protect doors.

Other Types of Commercial Coverings

- Hurricane-proof glass. This has a special film attached to the glass' surface, or a special material bonded between two panes of glass to make one thick pane. The glass is then mounted into the window or door frame.
- Storm shields – these resemble thick mesh.

Know Your Risks

The location, design specifications, and resilience of the materials used, all contribute to your homes ability to withstand natural hazards. Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your homes vulnerability to earthquake, storm surge, flooding and wind. Components of a home are typically divided into two categories:

- Structural elements: those essential elements that determine the overall safety such as the roof, beams, columns, slabs, load-bearing walls, braces or foundations.
- Non-structural elements: all other elements that enable the home to operate. These include elements such as the water heater, air conditioning unit, appliances, shelving and cabinets.

Take Precautions



Insurance

Check your insurance coverage and update if needed - flood damage is not always covered by homeowners insurance.



Utility Shut Offs

Show family members the location of the electrical circuit box and the shut off valve for the water entering the house. Label utility shut offs and show family members how to turn them off.



Family House Plan

Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911. Determine escape routes and meeting places. Locate safe rooms within the home (*innermost room with no windows or outside walls*).



Trim Trees

Check if there are trees that are likely to hit your home in the event of a storm.

Flooding

What is a flood?

A flood is typically a natural phenomenon caused by rain, large waves, high tides or storm surge. However, broken water pipes can also cause localised flooding. In simple terms, a flood is a temporary rise in water level caused by water overflowing onto land that is normally dry. Preparation is the key to reducing property damage caused by floods.

Intense rainfall from Cold fronts, Tropical Depressions, Tropical Storms and Hurricanes can cause flooding. The Cayman Islands are vulnerable to flood waters, both from events that bring torrential rain and from storm surge that breaches the coastline and inundates the interior. In addition, the low lying nature of the Islands generally mean that the water table is often just a few feet below the ground. Therefore flooding can occur rapidly with short duration/periods of intense rainfall.



Protect your home

- Check valves installed in your building to prevent sewerage from backing up and entering your home.
- Check homeowner policy to determine if you are covered for flood damage.
- Take an inventory of all personal items, including model type, serial numbers, pictures and descriptions.
- Keep important documents safe in a waterproof container and in a high location.
- Sandbags can be used to protect doorways, air conditioning compressors, etc.
- Raise items such as furniture and appliances up on concrete blocks.



Protect your vehicle

- Park your vehicle(s) at an elevated location safe from wind damage and flooding prior to the approach of any severe weather.
- Check and ensure that vehicle documents and insurance are up-to-date and are stored in a water-proof location.
- Avoid parking vehicle(s) under trees, and power lines.
- Avoid driving through standing water and flooded areas. Hidden debris and other hazards could be concealed by flood waters.
- Vehicles can easily become buoyant when exposed to floodwaters. Do not drive through moving flood water as this can cause the vehicle to tip or flip. Vehicles can float in just two feet of water!



Know Your Flood Risk

Storms can bring several inches of rainfall and if this rain has nowhere to run off it will cause flooding. A storm surge can then add several more feet of water. Find out how high above sea level your property is by contacting the Lands and Survey Department. Measure how high above the ground outside the threshold of your door is. Add these two measurements together to see how high above normal sea level the floor of your dwelling is.

Before a flood



Listen for official information from Hazard Management Cayman Islands or Cayman Islands National Weather Service.



Prepare an Emergency bag with food, water, medicine, personal identification, important documents, cash, etc.



Plan out evacuation routes as well as alternative routes.



Continue to listen for official information from Hazard Management Cayman Islands or Cayman Islands National Weather Service.

During a flood



Disconnect electricity and gas.



Do not walk or drive through flood waters. There may be hidden hazards such as submerged appliances & broken glass.



Get to higher ground.



Follow Evacuation Orders. **Do not** ignore an evacuation order.

After a flood



Avoid contact with or swimming in flood water.



Do not touch power lines.



Do not return home until the area is deemed safe. **Do not** consume food which may have been contaminated by flood waters.



After it is safe to return home, clean and disinfect surfaces & items to discourage mold growth. **Do not** mix chemicals.

Other Considerations after a Flood

Cost to business

- Loss or damage to property can result in clean up costs.
- Increased traffic congestion, employee absenteeism, flooded parking lots can result in lost business.



Cleaning up after a flood



- If your property is flooded, remove all wet materials as soon as possible.
- Damp materials provide an ideal environment for the growth of mold and other microorganisms.
- Open windows and doors to provide fresh air. Use fans to dry out the building.
- Thoroughly wash and disinfect all walls, floors, doors, closets and shelves that were affected.
- Care must be taken when using chemical cleaning agents. Never mix bleach with anything but water. Mixing bleach with ammonia or other cleaning products will produce dangerous toxic fumes.
- Wear rubber boots, mask, and non-porous gloves while cleaning. Wash hands and face often with soap.

Public Health Threat

- Flood waters may be contaminated with sewage containing viruses and bacteria. Don't risk consuming anything that has been contaminated by flood waters, as it may result in serious illness.
- Stagnant water may encourage the hatching of mosquitoes, so practice preventative measures; empty and remove outdoor receptacles that can accumulate water for mosquito larvae and purchase effective repellent.



Nor'wester

What is a Nor'wester

Climatically the year can be divided into two seasons-the wet, summer season, generally from mid-May through October and the dry, winter season, from November to April. Occasional surges of cooler air from continental North America, the leading edge of which is called a cold front, affects the Cayman Islands from late October through early April.



Exercise Caution

The stronger cold fronts tend to bring strong north to northwest winds and rough seas, especially along the western and northern coasts. Fifteen and twenty foot waves hammer the coastline leading to a halt in water-sports and can cause port activities to cease. Vessels, which do not heed the weather forecast to move to safe harbor, are at risk to be damaged or destroyed by the very rough seas produced by such a system. On average the Cayman Islands observes the passage of some 10 to 15 cold fronts per year with three such fronts producing seas rough enough to close roads along the coast.



Waterspouts, Tornadoes & Droughts

Waterspouts

Waterspouts occasionally occur in the coastal waters around the Cayman Islands and are generally not a cause for concern. They are formed by vertical convective action and are associated with dark, flat bottomed convective cumulus clouds.

Waterspouts develop rapidly and are usually gone within 20 minutes. Typically the wind inside the waterspout is less than 67mph and they normally move very slowly.

What to do during a Waterspout

Take waterspouts seriously. If you are a boater or a person living along the coast you should be aware of their destructive potential. When a waterspout is observed, be prepared to quickly seek safe harbour, or to find shelter out of the path of the waterspout.



Tornadoes

Tornadoes are very rare in the Cayman Islands. When they do occur they are very weak in comparison to the systems that occur in the United States or other countries. Weak Tornadoes are likely to be found in the northeast portion of strong Hurricanes.

What to do during a Tornado

- **IF IN A BUILDING:** Get to a interior room preferably without windows. Avoid going into large open rooms such as cafeterias and gymnasiums.
- **IF OUTSIDE:** Seek shelter inside of a sturdy building immediately.
- **IN A VEHICLE:** Being in a vehicle during a Tornado is not safe. Drive to the closest shelter. If you are unable to make it to shelter, get down in your car and cover your head.

Droughts

Droughts are considered to be an increasing problem for the Caribbean. Scientists who study climate change believe that our region will experience less rainfall overall. Prolonged periods of drought can have detrimental effects on agriculture and farming. It may also lead to increased demands on the water supply, raise household costs and affect the capacity of the water lens to recharge.

The Cayman Islands has not experienced a drought in the true sense of the definition; however we have had a number of periods over the years where we had very low rainfall totals that have produced "drought-like" conditions.

Earthquakes

What is an Earthquake?

An earthquake is a natural phenomenon like rain. Earthquakes have occurred for billions of years. In simple terms, earthquakes are the sudden, rapid release of energy stored in the earth's rocks. The earth's rock layer is broken into large pieces called plates which are in slow but constant motion.

They may slide by each other smoothly and almost unnoticeably. From time to time, the pieces may lock together and energy that accumulates between the pieces may be suddenly released. The energy that is released travels through the earth in the form of waves. People on the surface of the earth, near where the movement occurred, experience an earthquake.



Earthquake Epicenters

The epicenter of an earthquake is the place on the Earth's surface directly above the focus or (*hypocenter*), the place inside the earth where the quake originates. Earthquake foci are usually somewhere between the surface and 100 km in depth. In some areas, however, the foci may be as deep as 700 km.

Physical results of Earthquakes

The waves of energy earthquakes release not only shake the earth but can cause ground ruptures, landslides, tsunamis, and liquefaction.

Land Shifts and Scarps

Sections of the ground may be elevated or may subside during an earthquake. Sometimes one side of a fault will rise or sink, creating a scarp (*an earthquake caused cliff*). Scarps may be lifted again and again in successive earthquakes, with the uplifts in any one earthquake ranging from a few centimeters to several meters or more.

Water Changes

The underground water system may also be disturbed by an earthquake, causing fluctuations in water pressure and stream volume, and the appearance or disappearance of springs. Well water levels or temperature can change, and the water can become cloudy and muddy. Underground oil and gas deposits could be similarly disturbed.

Seiches

When an enclosed body of water such as a bay, a dam, a swimming pool, or even a pan of water is rocked, the water may begin to slosh back and forth rhythmically. The water surges from one side to the other often gaining in intensity and may overflow its basin before gradually slowing down.

Liquefaction

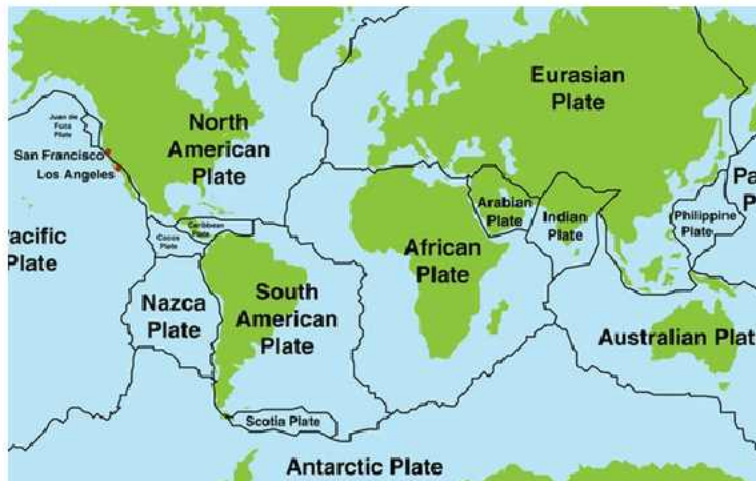
Loose soils with a high water table such as sand, peat and mud may experience liquefaction. As the earthquake's vibrations pass through the loose soil, it becomes like quicksand. This can cause structures to sink or tip, and hillsides topple.

The Cayman Islands lie close to the boundary zone of the Caribbean and North American tectonic plates. There are two different types of plate interactions close to the Cayman Islands; there is a short spreading centre (*divergent plate boundary*) south and west of George Town, where the two plates pull away from each other causing magma to come up through the divide, it then cools and creates new crust. The other plate interaction is a transform boundary (*strike-slip*), where the plates slide past each other. Both of these plate interactions are known to generate earthquakes.

On January 28, 2020 a 7.7 Magnitude Earthquake occurred with the epicenter being 80 miles (130 km) ESE of Cayman Brac.

Another significant earthquake occurred on 14 December, 2004 and while this earthquake was weaker than the 2020 event, it was much closer with the epicenter just 20 miles south of George Town, Grand Cayman.

Both of these events were associated with (*left-lateral*) movements on the transform plate interaction between the North American and Caribbean plates. There is the potential for us to be affected by a major earthquake.



The Earth's Tectonic plates ►

01 Plan

You need to have an emergency plan. Have your survival kit or getaway kit ready to go.

02 Practice

Remember:
DROP, COVER, HOLD ON

03 Find Safe Places

Before an earthquake make sure you know where the safe places are – under a strong table, away from glass or where you area at the time.

Earthquake Precautions

Although earthquakes strike without warning, there are many actions that can be taken to reduce their impact. It is important that some of these precautions be taken before an earthquake occurs.

Before an Earthquake

- Ensure your building meets the requirements of the building code. This will help make it earthquake resistant.
- You can mitigate non-structural hazards in your building by doing the following:
 - Bolt down water heaters and gas appliances.
 - Place large and heavy objects on lower shelves.
 - Securely fasten shelves, heavy furniture and filing cabinets to walls.
 - Store bottles, glass, china, and other breakables in locked cabinets.
 - Securely anchor and cover overhead lighting fixtures, such as chandeliers and other suspended lighting.
 - Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches and anywhere people sit.
- Know where and how to shut off electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves.
- Practice earthquake drills regularly, so you know what to do in an earthquake.

Have on Hand

- Flashlights and battery-operated radios in case power is cut off.
- Fire extinguishers.
- First Aid kit.
- Emergency supplies of food and water.

During an Earthquake

During an earthquake, the ground moves like waves on the ocean. The actual movement of the ground, however, is seldom the cause of injury or death. Most injuries and deaths are caused by the collapse of structures, falling masonry, and other objects. Injuries are commonly caused by:

- Structures collapsing, falling blocks, walls, poles, roofs, ceiling plaster, light fixtures and pictures.
- Flying glass from broken windows.
- Overturned bookcases, wall units, filing cabinets, and other heavy furniture.
- Fires from ruptured gas and broken electrical lines (*this danger may be aggravated by a lack of water due to broken water mains*).
- Fallen power lines.
- Vehicular accidents.
- Heavy vehicular traffic congestion.

After an Earthquake

- Check for hazards:
 - Fire hazards: extinguish trash can size fires in your home or neighbourhood and immediately call for help.
 - Gas leaks: shut off main gas valve ONLY if you suspect a leak because of broken pipes or odor.
 - Electrical: shut off power at the control box if there is any danger to house wiring.
 - Downed or damaged utility lines: do not touch downed power lines or any objects in contact with them. Report damage to the appropriate utility companies.
 - Spills: clean up any spilled medicines, drugs, or other harmful materials such as bleach, lye, gas.
 - Fallen items: beware of items tumbling off shelves when you open doors of closets and cupboards.
 - Check food and water supplies: Do not eat or drink anything from open containers near shattered glass; If power is off, plan meals to use up foods that will spoil quickly or frozen foods (*food in the freezer should be good for at least a couple of days*).
- Listen to the radio stations for the issuance of an **All Clear** by the Cayman Islands Government along with other information.
- Do not use your telephone, EXCEPT for an emergency.
- Do not go sightseeing. Keep the street clear for emergency vehicles.



In the aftermath of Earthquakes sinkholes are often discovered. Be mindful of unstable ground when walking or driving. Sinkholes can also cause buildings to become structurally unstable and unsafe.

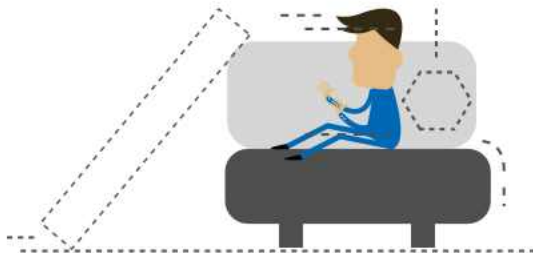
What to do during an Earthquake?

INDOORS



Duck, Cover and Hold On

You have very little time to protect yourself.



Stay in Bed

Protect your head and neck with a pillow.



No Elevators

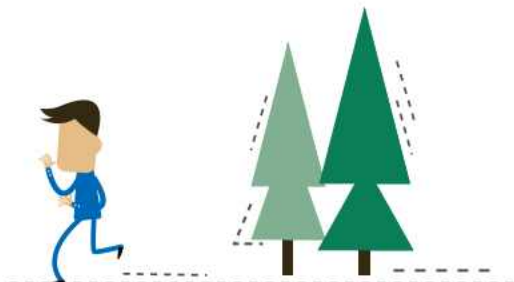
Do not run outside or use elevators during shaking.

OUTDOORS



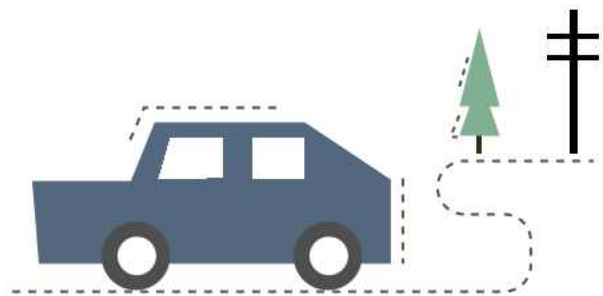
Stay Outside

Stay away from buildings.



Stay Away from Trees

Move to an area clear of trees and poles.



Stop Your Car

Pull over to a clear area and stay inside.



After the shaking stops, you need to think, was it hard to stand up? Did it last longer than a minute? If so, DO NOT WAIT FOR AN OFFICIAL TSUNAMI WARNING!

What to do during an Earthquake?

- Move immediately to upper floors of concrete building or to higher ground.
- Only go outside if it is necessary to find safe, elevated shelter.
- Stay in your safe, elevated spot until the all clear is given by officials.

How to stay safe during an Earthquake

PREPARE BEFORE

- **Secure items such as pictures, televisions and objects that hang on walls.** Store heavy and breakable objects on low shelves.
- **Practice Duck, Cover and Hold On** with family and coworkers. Drop to your hands and knees. Cover your head and neck with your arms. Crawl only as far as needed to reach cover from falling materials. Hold on to any sturdy furniture until the shaking stops.
- **Create a family emergency communications plan.** Determine where to meet if you get separated.
- **Make a supply kit that includes enough food and water** for at least 3-5 days, a flashlight, a fire extinguisher and a whistle. Consider each person's specific needs, including medication. Do not forget the needs of pets. Have extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.

SURVIVE DURING

- **Duck, Cover and Hold On** like you practiced. Drop to your hands and knees. Cover your head under a sturdy piece of furniture. Hold on to the furniture until the shaking stops.
- **If in bed, stay there** and cover your head and neck with a pillow.
- **If inside, stay there** until the shaking stops. DO NOT go outside as there is the potential for a Tsunami.
- **If in a vehicle, stop in a clear area** that is away from buildings, trees, overpasses, underpasses or utility wires.
- **If outside move into an open area** away from trees, poles and buildings.

SAFETY AFTER

- **If it's difficult to stand up and it lasts longer than a minute,** move immediately to the upper floors of a concrete building or to higher ground. **Do not wait for an official tsunami warning.**
- **Expect aftershocks to follow** the largest shock of an earthquake sequence.
- **Check yourself and others** for injuries.
- **If in a damaged building,** go outside and quickly move to a neighbouring building that does not have visible structural damage.
- **Save phone calls** for emergencies.
- **Wear** sturdy shoes, work gloves and eye protective gear.

Tsunamis

What is a Tsunami?

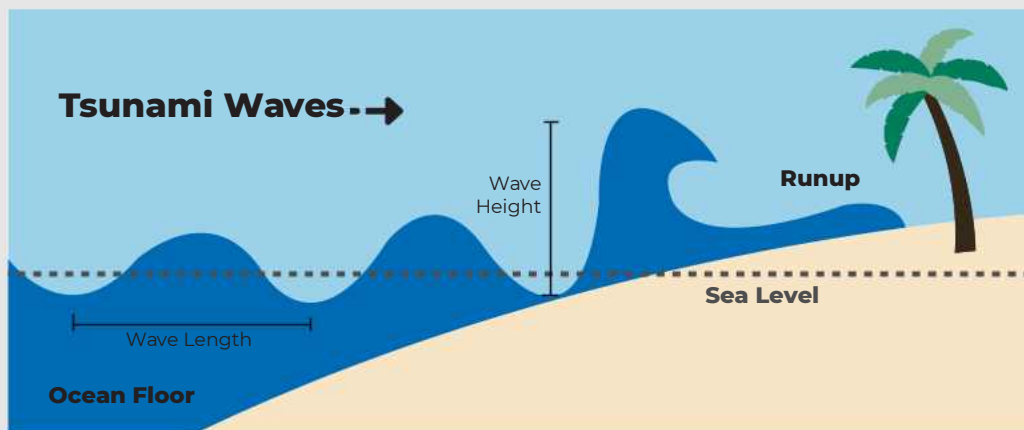
The National Science Foundation calls tsunamis the Caribbean's "forgotten hazard". A tsunami (*pronounced soo-nah-mee*) is a wave or series of waves caused by an abrupt displacement of a large body of water. Earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, explosions and even the impact of asteroids, meteorites or comets can generate tsunamis.



The main sources for tsunami in the Caribbean are earthquakes (*generated at the boundaries of the Caribbean Plate or within the Plate*), submarine landslides, volcanoes, and large earthquakes which occur far away and generate a large tsunami which reaches the Caribbean. An example of the latter is the "Great Lisbon Earthquake" of 1755 which affected several islands. Waves as high as 23 feet were reported from Saba, and Barbados reported a rise in sea-level of about 3 feet followed by large waves.

Within the region there are numerous reports of tsunamis, some of which have caused fatalities. There are reports of 100 fatalities in the Dominican Republic from the 1946 Tsunami. Most recently, tsunamis associated with volcanism in Montserrat have been reported from neighbouring islands. The building codes in the Cayman Islands ensure that modern buildings are strong enough to withstand a certain degree of shaking. However, given the significant amount of coastline and the low-lying nature of Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, we strongly encourage you to assess your risk and know what to do in response to a Tsunami Alert. It is important to note that the Cayman Islands can be affected by Tsunamis that have been generated in other parts of the Caribbean.

Tsunami modeling has been conducted for the Cayman Islands by NOAA. Whilst the overall Tsunami risk to the Cayman Islands is relatively low, HMCI is working to implement mitigation measures in higher risk communities, as a result of these findings. However the threat is real, and all residents of the region should know the warning signs and the basic precautions which are necessary.



Tsunamis can devastate coastlines, causing widespread property damage and loss of life. They strip beaches of sand, uproot trees and other coastal vegetation and cause large scale flooding. Most deaths from tsunamis are caused by drowning.

▲ A cross section of the coast during a Tsunami

Sea Level Monitoring Station

The Sea Level Station Monitoring Facility was initially focused on operational monitoring of sea level measuring stations in Africa and was developed from collaboration between Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) and the ODINAFRICA project of IODE. Their site has since been expanded to a global station monitoring service for real time sea level measuring stations that are part of IOC programmes i.e. (i) the Global Sea Level Observing System Core Network; and (ii) the networks under the regional tsunami warning systems in the Indian Ocean (IOTWS), North East Atlantic & Mediterranean (NEAMTWS), Pacific (PTWS) and the Caribbean (CARIBE-EWS).

The Sea Level Monitoring Station in the following locations are part of the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Programme:

- Royal Watler Cruise Terminal.
- Customs dock, Cayman Brac.
- Gun Bay dock East End.
- Bloody Bay dock, Little Cayman.

What to do during a Tsunami?

Know When to Act



Natural Signs

If the sea is pulling back from the shore, a sudden rise in sea levels or a loud roar coming from the sea.

Know How to Act



On Land

Move immediately to upper floors of concrete buildings or to higher ground. Stay in your safe, elevated spot until the all clear is given by officials. Only go outside if it necessary to find safe, elevated shelter.



An Earthquake

If you feel an earthquake that makes it hard to stand or lasts longer than a minute.



At Sea

If you are already in a boat, go out to deep water.



If you think a Tsunami may have been generated, DO NOT WAIT FOR AN OFFICIAL TSUNAMI WARNING. There may not be time to issue one. Take action now!

Download HMCI's National Emergency Notification App and follow HMCI on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date Earthquake information and safety tips.

How to stay safe during a Tsunami

PREPARE BEFORE

- **Learn the signs of a potential tsunami** such as an earthquake, a loud roar from the sea or unusual signs such as a sudden rise or wall of water or sudden draining showing the sea floor.
- **Create a family emergency communications plan** that has an off-island contact. Plan where to meet if you get separated.
- **Know and practice your evacuation plan** and map out your routes from home, work and play. Pick shelters at least 2 floors up or higher.

SURVIVE DURING

- **If there is a warning**, either natural signs or an official warning, move immediately to the upper floors of a concrete building or to higher ground. High, multi-story, reinforced concrete buildings and hotels are located in many low-lying coastal areas and in George Town. The upper floors of these buildings can provide a safe place to find refuge should there be a tsunami warning and you cannot move quickly inland.
- **If you are in a boat**, face the direction of the waves and head out to sea. If you are in a harbour, go to at least the 2nd floor of a concrete building.
- **Avoid the coastline** and head as much inland as possible to find high ground (*at least 2 floors up*).
- **Evacuate immediately** if you are told to do so.

SAFETY AFTER

- **Listen to local alerts and authorities** for information on areas to avoid and shelter locations.
- **Avoiding wading in floodwater and moving water**, which can contain dangerous debris, oil, raw sewage, etc. Water may be deeper than it appears.
- **Be aware of the risk of electrocution**. The water may be electrically charged from downed power lines. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are still standing in water.
- **Document property damage** with photographs. Conduct an inventory and contact your insurance company for assistance.
- **Save phone calls for emergencies**. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.
- **Stay away** from damaged buildings and roads.

Tsunami Facts

- Tsunamis are not tidal waves, as they are not caused by tides and are not related to tides.
- Tsunamis are generally triggered by a major earthquake under the sea/ocean.
- Once created, they may spread out from the point of creation very fast (*up to 435 mph*).
- In the open sea/ocean, these waves may only be 1.5 feet (*0.5m*) high, but 50-60 miles wide.
- They may be so low and broad that they may not be recognised by ships.
- Coastal water usually recedes before the first tsunami strikes.
- As the waves enter coastal waters, their speed decreases and height increases.
- The first hit on land is usually not the biggest. Larger waves may follow in 15-minute to one-hour intervals.
- Damage is generally caused by the flow of water (*the run-up and drawdown*) on the coastal area.
- Normally encounters look more like a quickly rising high tide than a large breaking wave.

Lightning

Lightning and Boating

If you are in a small boat and close to shore when a thunderstorm approaches, get off the water immediately. When lightning strikes, it will most often strike the highest object in the immediate area. On a body of water, that highest object is a boat. Once it strikes the boat, the electrical charge is going to take the most direct route to the water where the electrical charge will dissipate in all directions.

Do not become a lightning target. Preferably stay off of the water whenever weather conditions are threatening. Check weather condition before you go out.



**Official Weather Source
of the Cayman Islands**

To check the latest weather conditions in the Cayman Islands visit:
www.weather.gov.ky (Cayman Islands National Weather Service)

There is no such thing as lightning-proof boats, only lightning-protected boats. All metal ships are rarely damaged, and injuries or death are uncommon. These ships are frequently struck, but the high conductivity of the large quantities of metal in direct contact with the water, causes rapid dissipation of the electrical charge.

But small boats are seldom made of metal. Their fiberglass construction does not provide the automatic ground protection offered by metal-hulled crafts. Therefore, when lightning strikes a small boat, the electrical current is searching any route to ground and the human body is an excellent conductor of electricity.

These boats can be protected from lightning strikes by properly designed and connected systems of lightning protection. However, the majority of these boats are not so equipped.

The vast majority of lightning injuries and deaths on boats occur on small boats with no cabin. Boats with cabins are safer particularly if they have been fitted with lightning protection. One should avoid using the radio in a storm unless there is an emergency.



First Aid

First call 911 - It is a myth that lightning victims are electrified and should not be touched. First aid, such as CRP or mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, should be administered to strike victims as soon as possible. All deaths from lightning are from cardiac arrest and stopped breathing at the time of the strike.

If you are still in an active thunderstorm and the lightning poses a risk to the victim and yourself, consider moving the victim and yourself to a safer location.

Swimming Pools

The water in swimming pools does not necessarily attract lightning strikes, but it does conduct the electricity extremely well if the pool is hit. The electricity of lightning strikes can cause permanent injury and is potentially deadly. Swimming pools should be vacated whenever there is a threat of lightning.

Safer Locations During Thunderstorms

Where possible, find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck or a van with the windows completely shut. When inside a building AVOID:

Water

Avoid taking showers, washing your hands, washing dishes and any other activity involving water.



Contact with Conductive Surfaces

Avoid contact with surfaces with exposure to the outside such as a metal door, window frame, electrical wiring, landline telephones, etc.

Windows & Doors

Stay away from windows, doors and porches.



Electrical Devices

Unplug devices to avoid potential electric surges caused by lightning strikes.

When thunder roars, go indoors. Find a safe, enclosed shelter when you hear thunder. If you are unable to get indoors, crouch low to the ground to reduce your chances of being struck.

The Lightning Threat

Lightning has been known to come into homes via the telephone line or the pipes in the plumbing. Deaths have occurred to persons on the phone or in the bathtub. It can strike persons lying on the beach, in the shower, in parking lots or in boats. When lightning is around, no place seems totally safe.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service, over the past 30 years lightning has killed more people in the U.S. than tornados or hurricanes. But the real story of lightning isn't the deaths, it's the injuries. Only about 10% of those struck are killed; 90% survive. But of the survivors, many suffer life-long severe injury and disability. These injuries are primarily neurological, with a wide range of symptoms.

The Solution

The vast majority of lightning casualties can be easily, quickly, and cheaply avoided. People need increased awareness of the lightning hazard and knowledge of lightning safety. Lightning safety involves several easy steps that anyone can do. While lightning safety can be inconvenient, consider how inconvenient the alternative of not following these simple rules could be!

Lightning Safety Tips

The following lightning safety guidelines can greatly reduce the risk of injury or death. The individual is ultimately responsible for his/her personal safety and has the right to take appropriate action when threatened by lightning. Adults must take responsibility for the safety of children in their care during thunderstorm activity. When you first see lightning or hear thunder, activate your emergency plan. Now is the time to go to a building or a vehicle. Lightning often precedes rain, so don't wait for the rain to begin before suspending activities.



Listen for official information from Cayman Islands National Weather Service or Hazard Management Cayman Islands.



Activate your emergency plan as soon as you see lightning or hear thunder.



Go into a building or a vehicle when you first see lightning.



Disconnect Electronic devices/appliances.



Avoid water during a thunderstorm; **do not** go swimming.



Stay away from power lines.



Avoid high ground and open areas.



Avoid trees.



The lightning crouch: Crouch down and cover your ears.

Fires

What is a Fire?

A fire is a chemical reaction, often uncontrolled combustion that releases light and heat. Fires need heat, oxygen and fuel. There are different causes and levels of fires.



Main Causes of Fires



Cooking



Heating



**Electrical
& Lighting**



Candles



Smoking



Grilling



Child Play



**Wildfires/
Bushfires**



Lightning



Arson



What is a Wildfire/Bushfire?

- Bushfires are large unwanted fires which spread quickly through bushland.
- Bushfires can start naturally through lightning, or extreme heat.
- Man-made fires can become out of control and spread, becoming bushfires.
- Bushfires threaten wildlife and become even more dangerous when they occur near communities.

Fire Safety Tips

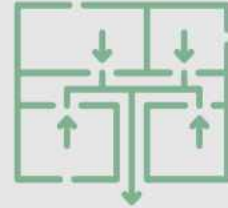


Smoke Detectors Save Lives

Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and remember to charge/replace the batteries. Conduct tests regularly.

Create an Escape Plan

Ensure all members of the family know the emergency exits at home in case of fire.



Switch Off Appliances

Double check and make sure appliances are not left running after use.

Monitor Your Extinguishers

Constantly check your fire extinguishers and replace as necessary.



Clean Vents and Dryers

Clean lint filters after each use and ensure all vents are unobstructed.

Never Leave Cooking Food Unattended

Cooking is one of the leading causes of home fires. Stay in the kitchen when cooking.



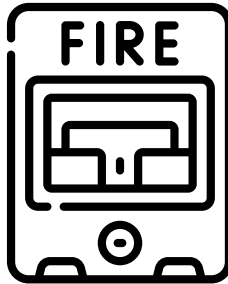
In Case of a Fire

1



Call 911.

2



Sound the fire alarm.

3



Stay calm and evacuate immediately.

4



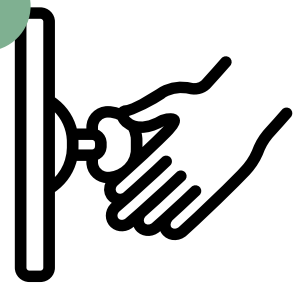
Use stairs, do not use elevators.

5



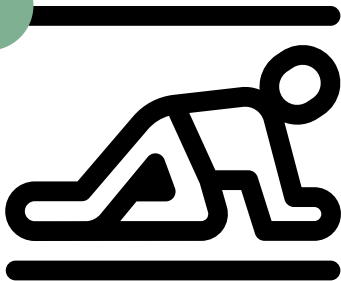
Help others who need it.

6



Check the door knob with the back of your hand. A hot door knob can indicate the room may be on fire.

7



If there is smoke, get low and cover your nose & mouth with a damp cloth.

8



If you catch fire, stop, drop and roll.

9



Stay outside until authorities deem it safe.

Choosing a Safe Shelter

When an emergency occurs, the Cayman Islands Government provides safe refuge in temporary emergency shelters. These Shelters can be activated for any emergency that significantly affects a community or the Cayman Islands as a whole. It is up to you to decide on the best place for your family and yourself to seek refuge pre or post event. Public shelters are provided in each district but space is limited and is meant for people whose homes cannot be made safe and who can't find another safe place to stay after an emergency.

If your home is hurricane-proof and is in a safe location it is probably the best place to be during a storm. The next best place is with family or friends whose house is well-constructed and in a safe location. However, if you have no other alternative or are not sure, do not hesitate to go to a public shelter. Here are some tips to help you decide.

Assess Your House

If you can, get a structural engineer to do a proper assessment.

- Can the walls stand up to strong hurricane winds, earthquakes or flooding etc?
- Is there adequate protection for all windows, doors, and patio openings, skylights and roof vents (*commercial shutters, properly cut and secured plywood sheets or hurricane-rated glass; sturdy locks and hinges; tight, water proof seals*)? Are garage doors reinforced with wood or metal beams?
- Are the roof trusses tied with hurricane straps bolted to the walls? Are they braced with proper supports and properly nailed down? Is the roof cover waterproof and properly secured?
- Is your building on high ground or is the floor several feet higher than the surrounding yard? Are the windows and doors water-tight and do they swing outwards? Do the pipes to the septic tank have backflow valves/float plugs, or is there a second floor to which you can go if waters begin to rise?
- Can you make the necessary renovations in time? If you cannot, make plans to stay with someone in a safer location or to go to a shelter.
- Are items in your home securely fastened to the walls or shelving in the event of an Earthquake?

Assess Your Location

- Is your house on or near the beach/ironshore?
- Is it in an area with a lot of weak, unprotected buildings or loose structures such as trailers, equipment, derelict vehicles or other items which could become missiles or battering rams in a hurricane?
- Has there been serious flooding in your area in the past? (*If you are new to the area, ask other residents.*)
- If you are in an unsafe location, make plans to stay with someone in a safer location or to go to a shelter.

Assess Your Health

- Are you or a family member elderly, bedridden, severely disabled?
- Do any of you have a chronic medical condition, or are you in the last three months of pregnancy? If you do, go to an Emergency Medical Centre.

NOTE: Most areas of Cayman will get some flooding. Don't worry about the yard flooding, or even some water seeping inside. If you live in an area where rising water could pose a threat to life, plan to stay with someone in a safer location or to go to a shelter.

If You Decide to Stay

If you're satisfied your house and location are safe and you decide to stay:

- Make sure you have adequate supplies. (*See emergency supplies checklist on page 12*)
- Know that you may still be required to leave if authorities feel an area is at great risk. (*See Evacuation Order*)
- If you need help at any time, contact 911 or the National Emergency Operations Centre at 949-6555.

If You Decide to Leave

If you consider you will be at risk, decide on a plan for you and your family in advance:

- If you have family or friends in hurricane resistant homes on high ground, make arrangements, in advance, to stay with them.
- If your work place is safe and secure, consider getting permission to shelter there.
- Know which shelter is nearest you and what is the quickest way (*and the next best alternative route*) to get there.

NOTE: If you are leaving home to stay with someone else, let someone know, preferably your district Police Station, your neighbour, and a friend or relative outside the area.

Public Shelters

A number of government buildings in each district are chosen and equipped to serve as public shelters. HMCI in partnership with Public Works Department (PWD) choose these based on the buildings' ability to withstand hurricane conditions and their height above sea level. As newer, purpose-built centres are constructed, HMCI and PWD phase out older shelters.

What to take to the Shelter

Supplies are not provided for shelterees, so each person must bring:

- Three to five days supply of food which does not require cooking.
- Special items such as medication, baby food and diapers, female sanitary supplies, etc.
- If you have small children, do not forget to bring at least one of their favourite foods (*e.g. breakfast cereal*) and something to keep them occupied.
- A blanket and pillow.
- A working flashlight and extra batteries.
- A change of clothing.

Additional information about what to bring to the shelter including a list of supplies needed for the Pet Shelters is available on www.caymanprepared.ky.

DO NOT TAKE: Alcohol, cooking equipment and weapons. Items not allowed in the shelter will be confiscated and the owners will be asked to sign them over. The items will be returned to the owners when they are leaving the shelter. Pets (cats & dogs) can be taken to John Gray High School Gymnasium or Clifton Hunter Gymnasium as they are the designated pet friendly shelters.

Who is in Charge?

The Shelter Management team is in charge of the shelter. They are volunteers that have been trained for this function. They are supported by the RCIPS, Cayman Islands Regiment, and Cayman Islands Red Cross.

REMEMBER: Many people have to share the available space at a shelter. Be prepared for some amount of discomfort. Safety is the main concern, so follow the Shelter Management teams instructions.

Hazard Management Cayman Islands

Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI) has overall responsibility for the national Comprehensive Disaster Management programme, including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. HMCI is responsible for the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), which is activated to direct and coordinate the response to national threats. HMCI also has responsibility for maintaining the National Hazard Management plans for threats such i.e hurricanes, earthquakes, oil spills, tsunamis etc.

HMCI Vision Statement

To create a resilient and prepared community across the Cayman Islands, through proactive and effective hazard management strategies that minimise the impact of disasters on our residents and visitors.

HMCI Mission Statement

To enhance the Cayman Islands resiliency, by preparing for, responding to and recovering from all national emergencies through a coordinated all-hazard approach to disaster management.

Working with public and private entities as well as the community to provide continuous hazard management improvement through exercise and testing, public education and awareness programmes. Also, by strengthening and improving the infrastructure and providing sustainable development strategies.

MITIGATION

When prevention is not practical or possible, mitigation represents an alternative. Mitigation reduces the vulnerability of the population and developments, and as such reduces the impact of the hazard.

PREPAREDNESS

Preparedness involves increasing awareness of threats and putting in place strategies to reduce potential risks. We cannot always expect to eliminate the threat to our lives and property from hazards, but by preparing in advance, we can usually reduce stress, minimise loss and respond appropriately.

RESPONSE

For response, the agency will become involved when there is a perceived national threat, or when there is a need for a coordinated national response. During this time efforts are made to reestablish normalcy in the aftermath of an incident.

RECOVERY

Recovery activities include both short and medium to long term post-impact activities.

Organisational History

The Cayman Islands has had an official Hurricane Plan since the early 1970s. Regular revision kept the plan current and lessons learned from Hurricane Ivan in 2004 changed the approach to Disaster Management.

The Cayman Islands National Strategic Plan 1998 -2008 lists “comprehensive contingency planning” and the establishment of a “national emergency management agency” among its strategies. The document also mentions prevention and mitigation as desirable activities to be undertaken to safeguard the country. The proposal for a national agency with a comprehensive mandate to lead the risk management process is therefore in keeping with the plans for national development.

In January 2007, Hazard Management Cayman Islands was established as the government agency responsible for coordination of all programs dealing with national disasters, whether natural or man-made.

HMCI Responsibilities

Some major responsibilities of the agency include:

- The development of the national risk management strategic framework and the national risk management programme.
- Developing and implementing a national public awareness programme aimed at all sectors of the country.
- Establishing and maintaining a fully equipped and functioning National Emergency Operation Centre.
- Coordinating the response to national threats and events.
- Guiding the recovery process to ensure the incorporation adequate mitigation and prevention provisions.
- Overall management oversight of Public shelters.
- Development of National plans (*Hurricane plan, Relief plan, etc.*).
- Community preparedness through Community Emergency Response Teams.
- Encouraging and supporting measures for mitigating the effect of hazards.
- Developing and coordinating all emergency and disaster related exercises.

The Disaster Preparedness and Hazard Management Act, 2016 (Act 46 of 2016) 2019 Revision

The Disaster Preparedness And Hazard Management Act, 2016 was passed in the Legislative Assembly on 5 December 2016 providing HMCI with the legislative authority to carry out its responsibilities.

This law was revised in 2019 and a couple of amendments were made including inclusion of National Emergency Notification System (NENS) and Disaster Fund, etc.



Community Emergency Response Team

What is a CERT?

A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is formed by members of a neighborhood or workplace who want to be better prepared for the hazards that threaten their communities. They are trained by HMCI & Cayman Islands Red Cross to recognise, respond to and help their communities recover from major emergencies or disasters.

These teams provide immediate, vital (*and often life-saving*) services during large scale incidents, particularly when the response from professional emergency responders might be delayed. CERTs are not intended to replace a professional responder response capability, but rather, to serve as an important supplement to it. It's families helping themselves, neighbours helping neighbours to prepare, respond and recover in their own community.

Who Should Get Involved in CERT?

It starts with YOU. The CERT program is open to anyone and everyone in the Cayman Islands. Individuals who are concerned with making our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared are encouraged to get involved.

As a member of a CERT team, you can respond to disasters, participate in drills and exercises, and take additional training. CERT teams are known and trusted resources to emergency responders and their communities. No matter where you live, no matter who you are, we all have a role to play in your community preparedness. What role will YOU play?

Why Are CERTs Important?

Under the direction of the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC), CERT members give critical support to first responders in emergencies, provide immediate assistance to victims, organise spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site, providing damage assessment information, and collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

Volunteers trained in CERT also offer a potential workforce for performing duties such as shelter support, crowd control, and evacuation. However, CERT members must always keep their safety in mind as their first priority.

CERTs do NOT:

- Suppress large fires.
- Enter structures that they consider heavily damaged and dangerous (*e.g., leaning or moved from foundation*).
- Perform hazardous materials cleanup or respond to incidents involving radiological, chemical, or biological agents.
- Perform medical, fire, or search and rescue operations beyond their level of training.
- Activate or deploy unless called for in their procedures.

What About Training?

It is FREE! Government recognises the great benefit of having community members trained in CPR, First Aid, Fire Safety and Suppression and Disaster Response; interested persons can sign up for these important life saving skills.

The training sessions may be scheduled to accommodate the availability of community residents - so you decide what suits you!

Participants will learn how to:

- Identify and anticipate hazards
- Reduce fire hazards in the home and workplace
- Extinguish small fires
- Assist Emergency Responders
- Conduct light Search and Rescue
- Set up Medical Treatment Areas
- Apply basic medical techniques
- Help reduce survivor stress
- Activate or deploy unless called for in their procedures

If you are interested in the program, contact HMCI via email at HMCI@gov.ky.

National Emergency Notification System

What is National Emergency Notification System (NENS)?

Communicating with the public in emergencies is a critical Government function. HMCI currently does this through a number of ways including sending information to local media houses, through our website, and social media accounts.

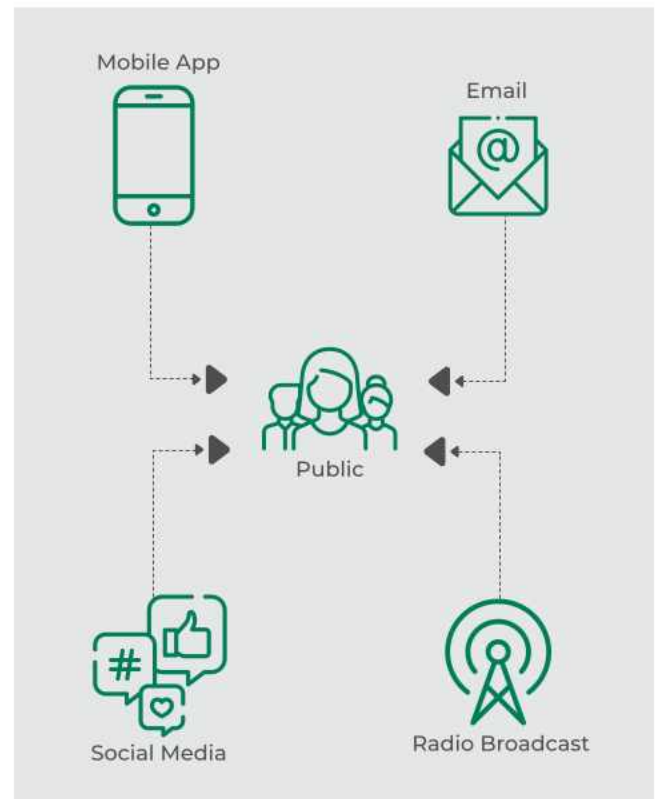
In 2018, HMCI launched the radio alert system in collaboration with Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC).

The emergency messages interrupt (*automatically*) radio broadcasts after which normal programming resumes. This system enables HMCI and DPSC to broadcast emergency alert messages across all radio networks.

In order to reach as many persons in the Cayman Islands as possible, HMCI is continually working to increase the number of ways that emergency messages are delivered to the public.

HMCI has now developed a mobile alert application (App) that can deliver emergency notifications to subscribers.

Residents and visitors can download the free app on their phones by going to www.nens.gov.ky. Once signed up, you will receive emergency notices from HMCI directly to your phone.



When will NENS be used?

The NENS is used to notify the public about imminent threats to health and safety relating to major incidents. An incident is considered a national emergency if multiple agencies are involved in the response. Whilst the list below is not intended to be exhaustive of all of the types of incidents that would be notified via NENS, the list shown below provides examples of the sorts of incidents to which the National Emergency Notification System could alert you:

- Earthquake
- Tsunami
- Major Fires
- Major road incidents
- Major impact on water supply
- Major impact on power supply
- Chemical spill
- Major disruption at Airport or Ports

This app will deliver critical information that can help save you and your family's life!

Get the official emergency alerts you need, always by your side

1. Visit nens.gov.ky to opt-in

Visit nens.gov.ky and select 'Opt-in'.

Choose 'App' and provide your email address to sign up.

Additionally, you can sign up to receive SMS and email alerts.

2. Download AtHoc app

Download the **BlackBerry AtHoc** mobile app from your app store.



Note: you must have access to the email address you opted in with in order to verify and activate your account.

3. Open your email to verify your account

Open the Blackberry AtHoc app on your device.

On the registration screen, enter your email address and hit '**Send**'. *(Note: This must be the same email address used to opt-in)*

Check your email for a link from Blackberry AtHoc and click '**Verify Now**'

Critical Step: For Android devices, once you return to the Blackberry AtHoc app, please wait 1 - 2 minutes for the mobile app to request the organisation code.

Apple (iOS) devices automatically connect to the mobile app to request the organisation code.

4. AtHoc app will ask you for the code HMCI

Once your email has been verified, **open the Blackberry AtHoc app**.

Enter the organisation code.

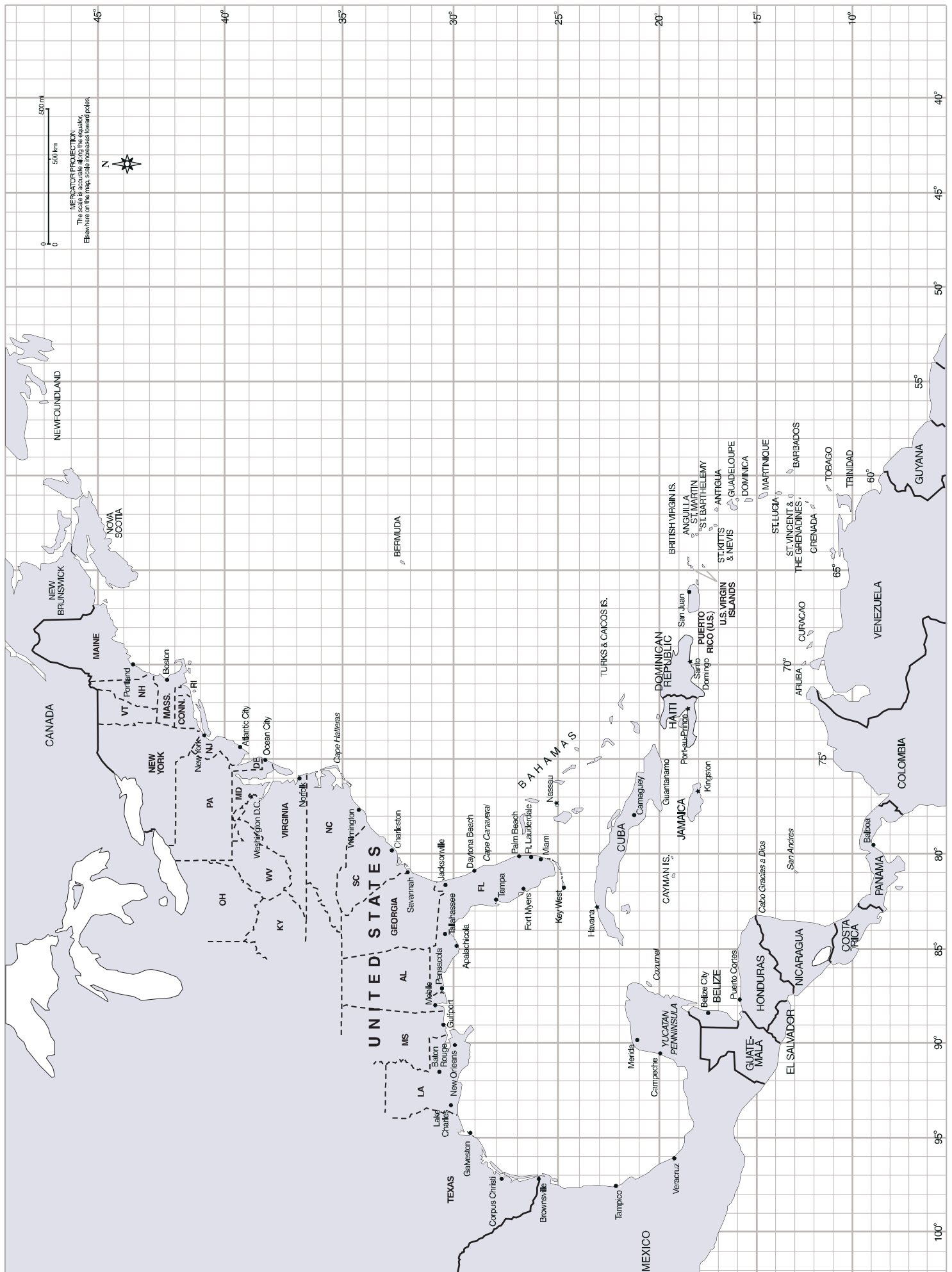
Your organisation code is **HMCI**. Press '**Send**'.

The screen will indicate that you are now set up to receive notifications.

Having trouble with the app?

Email us at nens@gov.ky

ATLANTIC HURRICANE TRACKING CHART





Hazard Management Cayman Islands

345-945-4624 | HMCI@gov.ky

949-6555 (*Only during activation of National Emergency Operations Centre*)

 @Cayman Prepared  @Caymanprepared  @CINEOC

www.caymanprepared.ky