

Dear friend,

Now is the time to check your emergency supplies, do safety checks around your home and review plans for evacuation if needed. I hope you have downloaded the American Red Cross Hurricane App to your smartphone by now. It will help you find emergency shelters as they open and will help you stay safe.

We don't know what Sandy may ultimately bring to us, but there could be flooding or wind damage that would disrupt power and potentially force people to leave their homes. We want you to be ready to spend a few days without power or to be able to leave your homes quickly, if ordered.

Some of the basic items that should be part of your family emergency kit:

- Water—one gallon per person, per day (a minimum 3-day supply)
- Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (a minimum 3-day supply)
- Supplies that will be needed by your pets
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and any special medical items needed by family members
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash – ATMs will not function in power outages
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area

If the storm, which is forecast to bring high wind and heavy rains, knocks out power, here are some tips for coping with the outage safely:

- Only use a flashlight for emergency lighting; never use candles
- Turn off electrical equipment you were using when the power went out
- Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer unnecessarily to preserve food
- DO NOT run a generator inside a home or garage
- If you use a generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. DO NOT connect a generator to a home's electrical system – that's a job for a professional electrician.
- Keep tuned to local radio and television for updated information

Because the storm may bring both wind and rain, here are some additional suggestions:

- Fill your vehicle's fuel tank before the storm – gas stations may not have power after the storm

- Bring in any lawn furniture or small items that could become wind-blown hazards to life and property
- Stay off roads if advised by authorities to do so. If you must travel, do not drive through standing water, which could hide other hazards or strand your vehicle
- If you encounter downed power lines, consider them live and report them to your local utility.

Your local Red Cross is preparing for the storm. We are contacting our volunteers to determine their availability, checking our supplies and readying our plans. Red Cross is also in constant communication with state and local government officials to coordinate all efforts.

The best thing that you can do right now is to take personal preparedness steps at home. The work you put into planning and preparing now can significantly reduce the disruption caused by this storm.

As we continue to prepare for this storm, it's always a good reminder that we all need to be prepared first at home for storms and other emergencies. Please feel free to visit our newly designed preparedness page at www.redcross.org/prepare

Red Cross Mobile Apps



[First Aid App](#) [Hurricane App](#) [Shelter Finder App](#)

HOW TO HELP : You can always help by making a donation by visiting www.redcross.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or texting the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Contributions may also be sent to the local Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

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