

# HURRICANE

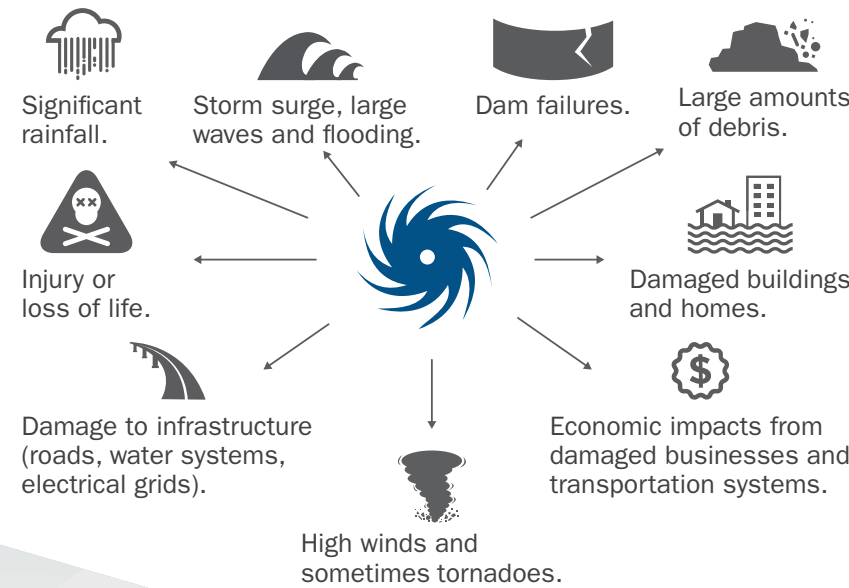
Hurricanes are among the most destructive natural weather phenomena on Earth, with winds ranging from 75-200 mph. Hurricanes carry water from the ocean onto land and can cause extensive flooding and destruction.

## CAUSES




Warm, moist air over the ocean rises and is replaced by cooler air. The cooler air warms and rises, causing storm clouds that begin to rotate and spin. With more warm water, the clouds and wind speeds grow, building a hurricane.


## IMPACTS




## How I Can Reduce My Risk




Know your evacuation route and fill your car with gas. Follow evacuation or shelter orders. If advised, evacuate early.




Know what your insurance covers. Purchase separate flood insurance.




Know the difference between a hurricane watch (potential within 48 hours) and a warning (expected within 36 hours).




Purchase a whole-house or portable generator. Consider building a safe room. Only use generators outdoors and maintain your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.




Trim or remove damaged trees and limbs on your property.




Anchor objects not suitable to bring inside (e.g., gas grills, propane tanks, sheds, trampolines).




Practice a communication and evacuation plan with everyone in your family. Have a plan for pets and livestock.




Close and reinforce all doors and windows. Consider investing in hurricane shutters.



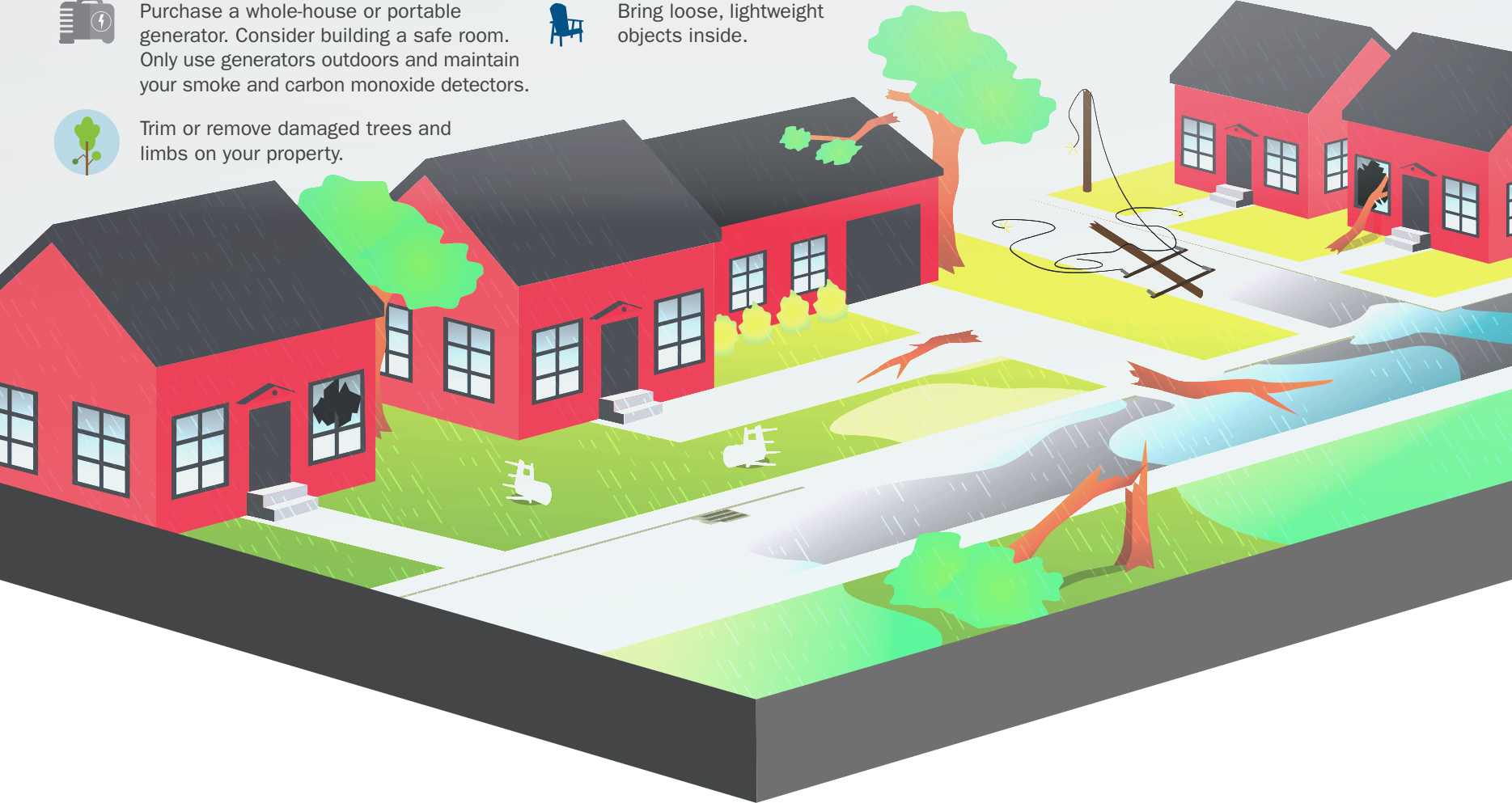
Bring loose, lightweight objects inside.








Build an emergency kit.



Know your community's warning system and sign up for any alert systems. Follow local news, local leaders, and disaster organization social media accounts. Listen to the Emergency Alert System, NOAA Weather Radio or local alert system for current emergency information and instructions.



## How Local Officials Can Reduce My Risk

-  Promote the importance of flood insurance.
-  Adopt and enforce higher building code standards and local floodplain management ordinances.
-  Provide an alert system with sirens; familiarize residents with regularly scheduled tests.
-  Provide local emergency shelters.
-  Become a StormReady community through the National Weather Service; conduct drills and exercises.

## Additional Resources

- FloodSmart**  
[www.floodsmart.gov/](http://www.floodsmart.gov/)

**NOAA Weather Radio**  
[www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/)

**Ready.gov**  
[www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)
- American Red Cross**  
[www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane.html](http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane.html)
- Contact your local or state emergency management department for more information on hurricane risk reduction.