

Severe Weather Hurricanes & Tropical Storms

Atlantic hurricane season runs from June to November, although the risk of hurricanes in Nova Scotia is highest during the months of September and October. Hurricanes are classified by categories ranging from 1 to 5. Regardless of the category all hurricanes cause damage to buildings and infrastructure. Wind is responsible for much of the damage, uprooting of trees, and downed power lines. Even a tropical storm can carry winds strong enough to cause widespread damage.

If a Watch or Warning is Issued:

- Fill your bathtub(s) with water for flushing, washing and cleaning
- Be sure to tune in to local broadcast networks and Canada Alert for updates from authorities
- Secure all gates, doors and windows
- Move lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything that can be picked up by wind
- Trim dead or diseased branches from trees to help make them more wind resistant, or remove dead trees entirely. Safety should always be your first priority when trimming trees. Ensure that you are not working near a power line.
- Park your vehicles in a garage or away from trees
- Fill your car's gas tank
- Keep pets indoors
- If you own a watercraft be sure it is out of water and up to high ground
- Prepare to evacuate low lying areas where storm surges and rains are predicted to flood.
- Always have your emergency kit prepared, on hand, and ready to use.

Hurricane or Tropical Storm Watch: If an approaching hurricane is considered a threat to coastal and inland areas, meteorologists issue a hurricane watch. This is meant to alert everyone in the area to be prepared to act if definite hurricane warnings are issued.

Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning: A warning is issued to areas where severe winds are expected to occur, or if dangerously high waves are expected. The warnings are issued 48 hours in advance, with the storm track monitored by Environment Canada.

- When a warning is issued, all recommended precautions must be followed. For more information on hurricanes visit the Canadian Hurricane Centre website at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ouragans-hurricanes>

BE PREPARED.



Nova Scotians are encouraged to be ready to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency.

Being prepared means:

- knowing the risks,
- developing a plan, and
- preparing a kit.

For more information, visit novascotia.ca/EMO

Emergency Numbers to Remember

911 – This is for emergencies only. If someone's health, safety or property is threatened and help is needed right away, call 911.

Emergencies include:

- Fire
- Serious accident
- Crime in progress
- Emergency medical situation
- Poisoning

811 • for health information and advice when you have a health concern or question

511 • for information about provincial roads in Nova Scotia

211 • for community and social services

Other important numbers

Power Outage

1-877-428-6004

Bell Aliant Outage

611 or **1-800-663-2600**

Eastlink Outage

1-888-345-1111

Drinking Water Safety

1-877-936-8476

Food Safety

1-877-252-FOOD (3663)

Environmental Emergencies (such as oil spills and gas leaks): **1-800-565-1633**

Emergency Management Office (Nova Scotia Office)

1-866-424-5620