

Protect your home

Hurricanes are powerful storms. We are vulnerable to hurricane-force winds and torrential rainfall. Call your local building inspection office to find out if your home meets current building code requirements for high-wind regions. Experts agree that structures built to meet or exceed current building codes' high-wind provisions have a much better chance of surviving violent windstorms.

Inside your home

- ❖ The safest doors to withstand strong winds have three or more hinges, and a dead-bolt security lock with a bolt at least 2.5 cm long. Door frames should be securely anchored to wall framing. Double doors should be secured with head and foot bolts.
- ❖ Window glass covered with protective film will not shatter if it breaks.

The home itself

- ❖ Install storm shutters to all exposed windows and glass surfaces. This is the easiest and most cost-effective way to protect your home from this hazard.
- ❖ Garage doors: All garage doors can pose a hazard during a violent wind storm with doors more than eight feet wide being the most vulnerable. Many garage doors can be reinforced at their weakest points by installing wood or metal stiffeners. Some garage doors can be strengthened with retrofit kits. This involves installing horizontal bracing onto each panel. These can be a part of a kit or provided by the manufacturer.
- ❖ Roof: Homes with gable roofs are more likely to suffer damage during a hurricane. A gable roof looks like an "A" on the ends, with the outside wall going to the top of the roof. Check to see if your home has truss roof bracing; if not, be sure to have it installed.
- ❖ If you are replacing your roof, take steps to ensure that both the new roof covering and the sheathing to which it is attached to will resist high winds. Your roofing contractor should:
 - Remove old coverings down to the bare wood sheathing.
 - Temporarily remove enough sheathing to confirm that rafters and trusses are securely connected to the walls.
 - Replace damaged sheathing.
 - Refasten existing sheathing according to the proper fastening schedule outlined in the current model building code for high-wind regions.
 - Install a roof covering that is designed to resist high-winds. Also consider using a double-layer application of heavier felt roofing paper, secured with sufficient sheet metal tabs, to avoid water damage.
- ❖ Connections: The points where the roof and the foundation meet the walls of your home are extremely important if your house is to resist high-winds and the pressure they place on the structure.
- ❖ Have a professional install hurricane straps – these are designed to help hold your roof to the walls.
- ❖ If your home has more than one storey, make certain that the upper storey wall framing is firmly connected to the lower framing. The ideal time to have this done is during remodeling.

Outside your home

- ❖ Replace gravel-rock landscaping material with shredded bark.
- ❖ Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed.



Protect yourself

Hurricanes are powerful storms that have devastating impacts on people, property and the environment. Learn how to protect yourself and your family. It is important to know how to respond when a hurricane strikes.

If you are indoors

- ❖ Stay indoors, away from glassed areas.
- ❖ Turn on a battery-operated radio or television and listen for the latest emergency information.
- ❖ If told to leave, grab your disaster safety kit and go immediately to the designated shelter. Be sure to follow the recommended evacuation routes – never take shortcuts.
- ❖ If in a mobile home, get out and seek shelter elsewhere.
- ❖ If power is lost, turn down major appliances to reduce power "surge" when electricity is restored.

If you are outdoors

- ❖ If possible, get inside a building.
- ❖ If there is no shelter, lie down in a ditch or ravine.
- ❖ Use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- ❖ Stay away from bridges and overpasses.

If you are in a vehicle

- ❖ Immediately stop the car and turn off the engine.
- ❖ Get out of the vehicle and seek shelter in a building, ditch or ravine.

Become familiar with your community's hurricane warning system. Every member of your family should know what to do when a hurricane warning or watch is released. Learn about the disaster safety plans in the workplace and at your children's school and/or childcare centre.

Create a family disaster safety plan. Assemble a disaster safety kit. Together, identify escape routes from your home and neighborhood. Choose an emergency meeting place for your family. Be prepared!

Research, the foundation for action

The Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) is a world-class centre for multi-disciplinary disaster prevention research and education. Through research, ICLR is working to strengthen the foundation for effective action to achieve its mission to reduce the loss of life, injuries and property damage due to natural hazards.

Building disaster research capacity

ICLR is an independent, not-for-profit research institute founded by the Canadian insurance industry. It is affiliated with The University of Western Ontario. Institute research networks are building the capacity of the research community. ICLR staff and research associates are internationally renowned for their expertise in wind and seismic engineering, atmospheric science, risk perception, hydrology, economics, geography, health sciences and public policy.

Many losses are preventable

Worldwide, natural disasters killed more than 650,000 people during the 1990s, and caused more than C\$1 trillion in damage. Disaster damage payments by insurance companies, governments and international aid organizations has been doubling every five to seven years since the 1950s, an alarming international trend. Perhaps the greatest tragedy is that many disaster losses are preventable.

Community and individual safety

Nature's extreme events are remarkable forces. They can be relentless and unforgiving, but they do not need to cause disasters. Hazards deserve respect. They demand that individuals prepare, and that communities invest in resilience. Resilient communities and knowledgeable individuals can best prevent hazards from becoming disasters, but are often not doing so.



building resilient communities

Be prepared.
Disasters can strike at any time.


Visit www.ICLR.org
and learn how to protect your family
and home.

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Disaster prevention research saves lives
Disaster prevention research protects property

Hurricanes



Protect yourself
and
your home

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