



Hurricane/Tropical Storm Preparedness Tips

The City of Boston is working with partners at the state and federal level to monitor and prepare for any potential impact from Hurricane Earl. We recommend that residents take the following steps to prepare for the impact of damaging winds and rain that are typically associated with hurricane or tropical storm conditions.

- Ensure you have an adequate supply of food and water.
- Be alert for potential of downed power lines, trees and other street fixtures.
- Should we experience urban or flash flooding, do not attempt to drive through waters.
- Trim back trees and shrubbery around your home. Remove diseased or damaged tree limbs that could be blown down, causing damage, during a storm.
- Clear clogged rain gutters. Hurricanes/tropical storms often bring torrential rain. Providing clear drainage will help prevent misdirected flooding.
- Bring in outdoor items such as lawn furniture, trash barrels, hanging plants, toys and awnings that can be broken or picked up by strong winds and cause damage.
- Make sure storage sheds, children's playhouses or other outbuildings are securely anchored, either to a permanent foundation or with straps and ground anchors.
- Elevate articles in your basement that could be damaged from even minor flooding.
- Keep your vehicles fully fuelled.
- Have a certain amount of cash available. If power is lost, ATMs may not be working.
- Make a record of your personal property. Keep an itemized list of your furniture, clothing and valuables to assist adjusters in case of a claim. Back it up with photographs or video.
- Protect your insurance policies and other important documents in a secure place like a safe deposit box or a watertight box. Many people back up important documents online.
- Learn where gas pilots and water mains are located and how to safely shut off all utilities.
- Lock doors and windows to ensure that they are closed tight to help protect against strong winds and rain.

September is National Preparedness Month. Learn more about how you can be better prepared by visiting: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/ReadyBoston>.

Source: City of Boston, Office of Emergency Management; Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency