

# Hurricane season is back and begins June 1<sup>st</sup> !

Hurricane season is back and begins June 1<sup>st</sup>! United States weather officials are predicting that this year's hurricane activity will be above average. According to Conrad C. Laitenbacher, "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predict 13 to 17 named storms, with 7 to 10 becoming hurricanes of Category 3 strength or higher." To see the different Category strengths, please see our posting of the [Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale](#).

## Important Information For Policyholders


### What Else Can You Do?

You can take a number of precautions to protect your home against the amount or severity of damage it might sustain should a hurricane strike.

 Install storm shutters or windstorm protective glazing material for all exterior openings such as windows, skylights and glass doors, to prevent or minimize breakage. Shutters and glazing materials should be capable of withstanding hurricane-force winds and wind-blown debris.



Install Shutters

 Have a professional re-evaluate and strengthen entry and garage doors to withstand wind and flood loads.



Strengthen Entries

 Have composition roof shingles checked and, if necessary, reinforced with additional nails or screws to more firmly secure them to the roof sheathing. Also, when you replace your shingles, replace or install a water-resistant membrane (tar-paper or hot-mopped underlayment) under new shingles.



Reinforce Roofs

These steps can prevent or reduce hurricane windstorm damage — saving you time, money and frustration — and keeping your insurance premiums as low as possible.



### Hurricane Watch

Issued for coastal areas when hurricane conditions are threatened to hit within 24 - 36 hours.



### Hurricane Warning

Issued for coastal areas when hurricane conditions are threatened to hit within 24 hours or less.



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## Be Prepared

**If you are evacuating to a shelter, before you leave your home:**

- Secure windows and shutters with plywood for storm emergencies
- Remove all downed shrubbery and tree limbs from your property
- Secure patio Furniture
- Top-off car gas tank
- Turn off electricity at main switch
- Shut gas valve at the appliance, not the main
- Let friends, relatives or neighbors know where you are going