

# Red Cross urges preparation for current hurricane season

This year's Atlantic hurricane season is underway. Don't get caught trying to get your household ready when something is already happening. Follow these steps from the American Red Cross of Georgia and be ready before something happens.

"Being prepared is your best defense if an emergency occurs," said Adelaide Kirk, regional disaster officer. "Pack your go-kit. Get your

supplies. Protect your household by being ready for whatever may happen."

**Step 1 - make a plan to help keep everyone safe.** Have a plan to evacuate and a plan to shelter safely at home. Your evacuation plan should include knowing where you'll go, how you'll get there, and where you'll stay. Your stay-at-home plan should focus on gathering the right supplies so that you can live safely without

power, water, gas, phone or internet for a long time.

**Step 2 - prepare a go-kit and a stay-at-home kit** filled with critical supplies like food, water and medicine. Your go-kit should include three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)

Your stay-at-home kit should have two weeks of food and water, and,

if possible, a one-month supply of medications and medical supplies.

If you have pets, include leashes, carriers, food, bowls, litter boxes and photos of you with your pet in case you're separated. If you have young children, include diapers, wipes and formula.

**Step 3 - download these free Red Cross apps** by searching for 'American Red Cross' in your app store or at [redcross.org/apps](http://redcross.org/apps). The Red Cross Emergency

app includes National Weather Service alerts, help locating Red Cross shelters, and is designed with accessibility in mind. Our First Aid App puts expert advice for common emergencies at your fingertips. You can also locate your nearest hospital in case of emergency. Both are available in English or Spanish.

**Step 4 - do this now to get your home ready before storms approach.** Plan how you will secure items

outside that could be picked up by high winds. Trim or remove trees close enough to fall on your home. Get storm shutters or pre-cut plywood to protect windows. Clean drains, gutters and downspouts.

Full details on how to prepare for emergencies are available by going to <https://www.redcross.org>, clicking on the "Get Help" tab, and then clicking on the "How to Prepare for Emergencies" tab.

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**Searching Out Light in Darkness**

"In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."  
John 1:4-5 (NIV)

As the days grow shorter and Daylight Saving Time comes to a close, we may find ourselves overwhelmed by various feelings. These feelings may include anxiety or sadness, yet we may be helped by considering that in the darkness is when a light shines the brightest. Further, in these times of stress or melancholy, we must realize the light that we can bring to others in our kindness and through our abilities. During stages in our life which we may perceive as "dark times," we are tested at the highest level to let our light shine through. This can truly mean a plethora of things, whether it be recognizing our potential during a rough time in our lives, or helping someone during a rough time in theirs. As Christ declares "I am the light of the world" in John's Gospel, He is not only relaying His divinity to the disciples, but also telling them they can not be overcome by the darkness of the world through their faith in Him.

-James Stone

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