

Hurricane watch or warning?

Know the Difference

A HURRICANE WATCH issued for your part of the coast indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, etc.

A HURRICANE WARNING issued for your part of the coast indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours or less. Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

The hurricane threat to Southeast Louisiana may be the **GREATEST PROBLEM** facing the state today. The low lying coastal parishes are extremely vulnerable to flooding by the hurricane storm surge and heavy rains. In addition, the flat terrain does little to diminish the strength of the damaging wind as hurricanes approach the coast. Add the fact that over a million people live in coastal areas of southeast Louisiana and it's easy to understand that **WE MUST BE PREPARED**.

For more information visit
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

Basic Hurricane Safety Actions

- ✓ Know if you live in an evacuation area. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind. Have a written plan based on this knowledge.
- ✓ At the beginning of hurricane season (June 1st), check your supplies, replace batteries and use food stocks on a rotating basis.
- ✓ During hurricane season, monitor the tropics.
- ✓ Monitor NOAA Weather Radio (see <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr>)
- ✓ If a storm threatens, heed the advice from local authorities. Evacuate if ordered.
- ✓ Execute your family plan.