



GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Understanding National Weather Service *watches* and *warnings* is critical to being prepared for any dangerous weather hazard, including hurricanes.

A *watch* lets you know that weather conditions are favorable for a hazard to occur. It literally means "be on guard!" During a weather watch, gather awareness of the specific threat and prepare for action - monitor the weather to find out if severe weather conditions have deteriorated and discuss your protective action plans with your family.

A *warning* requires immediate action. This means a weather hazard is imminent - it is either occurring (a tornado has been spotted, for example) - or it is about to occur at any moment. During a weather warning, it is important to take action: grab the emergency kit you have prepared in advance and head to safety immediately. Both watches and warnings are important, but warnings are more urgent.

Hurricane / Tropical Storm Alerts

- **Tropical Storm Watch:** An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are *possible* within the specified area.
- **Hurricane Watch:** An announcement that hurricane conditions are *possible* within the specified area.

Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, ***watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.***

Action: During a watch, prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation in case a Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning is issued. Listen closely to instructions from local officials.

- **Tropical Storm Warning:** An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are *expected* within the specified area.
- **Hurricane Warning:** An announcement that hurricane conditions are *expected* within the specified area.

Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, ***warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.***

Action: During a warning, complete storm preparations and immediately leave the threatened area if directed by local officials.



GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

- **Extreme Wind Warning** - Extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane (115 mph or greater), usually associated with the eyewall, are *expected to begin within an hour*.

Action: Take immediate shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.

Additional Watches and Warnings may be issued to provide detailed information on specific threats such as floods and tornadoes. [Local National Weather Service offices](#) issue Flash Flood/Flood Watches and Warnings as well as Tornado Warnings.