

Hurricanes



What Every AIRSTA Borinquen Family
Needs to Know

1. The Caribbean Hurricane season runs from 1 June – 30 November each year. Although hurricanes can happen at any time, they are most likely during this period.
2. Each family or individual is responsible for maintaining their own personal hurricane supplies. The following is a recommended checklist:
 - ___ a. Plastic drinking water containers (minimum of. 7 gal./person).
 - ___ b. Flashlights, portable radio and extra batteries.
 - ___ c. Medications (2 week supply) and First Aid Kit with gauze.
 - ___ d. Canned/ready-to-eat food for your entire family (7 days).
 - ___ e. Paper plates, cups, napkins or towels (7 day supply).
 - ___ f. Hand-operated can opener and plastic utensils.
 - ___ g. Toilet articles including soap, tissues, and diapers.
 - ___ h. Portable ice chest, bucket for water and plain bleach.
 - ___ i. Plastic trash bags and zip lock bags for valuable papers.
 - ___ j. Bug spray, insect repellent, and a loud rescue whistle.
 - ___ k. Sterno stove or gas grill with fuel, lighter, & fire ext.
 - ___ l. 5 gallon gasoline container (safety approved) for portable generator use.
3. A useful website to monitor storm warnings and projected hurricane tracks is:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/index.shtml>
4. The AIRSTA Borinquen Hurricane Update line is updated throughout hurricane season, and as much as several times a day when a storm is imminent. Check for the latest updates by dialing 787-890-8461.
5. Please remember, the active duty member will have responsibilities at work to prepare the Air Station for the storm. Do not put off your preparations until the last minute – you may not have time!

6. When landfall at AIRSTA Borinquen is **possible** within the next 48 hours, the AIRSTA will set Hurricane Condition 3. At this time, you should take the following actions:
 - a. Re-check emergency supplies. Stock up on extra batteries.
 - b. Police the yard for loose limbs, coconuts, boards, or debris.
 - c. Fill/service family automobile with gas and oil.
 - d. Discuss with Medical Officer any major medical conditions that may be exacerbated by staying through the hurricane and recovery period, i.e. MEDEVAC.

7. When landfall at AIRSTA Borinquen is **probable** within the next 24 hours, the AIRSTA will set Hurricane Condition 2. At this time, you should take the following actions:
 - a. Fill water jugs, bathtub, (use caution if you have small children) freezer, & any other containers.
 - b. Take down awnings, swings, and antennas (including satellite dishes). Watch power lines.
 - c. Bring in garbage cans, grills, bikes, toys, and lawn furniture. Gas barbecue grills are especially important – small propane tanks represent an extreme hazard if not stowed.
 - d. Bag valuable papers, linens, and dry clothes in plastic.
 - e. Secure all doors and windows. Do not tape windows. Remove all screens and store where they are readily available after the hurricane.

8. When landfall at AIRSTA Borinquen is **probable** within the next 12 hours, the AIRSTA will set Hurricane Condition 1A. At this time, you should take the following actions:
 - a. Remove window air conditioners.

9. When landfall at AIRSTA Borinquen is **imminent** within the next 12 hours, the AIRSTA will set Hurricane Condition 1B. Understand that the power company may secure power early (before storm arrives) as a preventative measure against downed live wires. All gates closed except main housing gate and Hangar. All persons should remain inside rooms without windows. Prepare a last safe refuge in an interior hallway or closet. Listen to AFRTS 90.5/91.1FM, NOAA weather, or local radio for storm reports. If the eye of the storm passes over, a period of calm will be followed by the most vicious storm winds. DO NOT GO OUTSIDE until the ALL CLEAR is given by SECURITY vehicle siren. There may be downed wires, broken water mains, and flooded roads. Wait until emergency repairs are conducted before proceeding outside. The initial “All Clear” means work parties can begin work outside, however, the area may still pose serious hazards to all.

10. After the storm:

- a. Minimize opening your freezer and refrigerator until power is available. Even without power, the insulation in the freezer/refrigerator will keep items frozen/cold for an extended period if kept closed.
- b. If extended power outage is expected, emergency generators will be distributed. The AIRSTA has enough for one generator for every two houses – you'll share with your neighbor. If you have your own emergency generator, please consider passing on the AIRSTA generator so that we can address other needs. The generators are big enough to run your refrigerators, lights and electronics. A personal UPS between the generator and equipment is highly recommended if you wish to connect electronics (TV, computer, etc), since generator power is not as “smooth” as commercial power. The generators are NOT sized to run air conditioners, or any major appliances (stove, washer, dryer, etc). More info will be passed when generators are distributed.
- c. Gas to re-fuel generators will be made available if extended outage is expected. It will be distributed at the VMS Fuel tanks near the Hangar. Storage / transportation (i. e. in your 5 gallon gas can from personal hurricane supplies) will be a resident responsibility. Monitor the Hurricane Update line for details regarding times.
- d. Water for washing and flushing will be stationed at strategic points around the housing area. This water is NOT for drinking – use your personal stock for that.
- e. The Community Center and Pool Bathhouse are both equipped with emergency power and back-up water supply.
- f. Continue to monitor the Hurricane Update line at **787-890-8461** for further instructions.