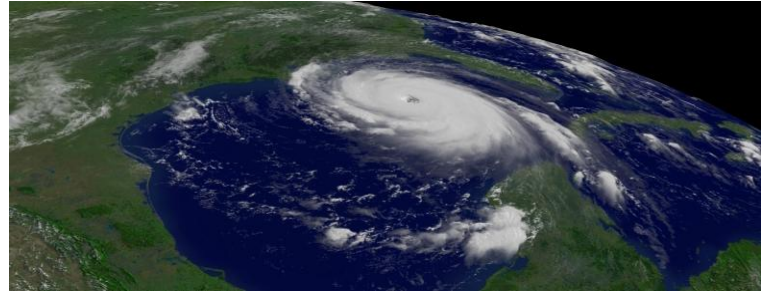




# HURRICANE SEASON 2011

## Tips for Preparedness

The 2011 Hurricane season officially began on June 1<sup>st</sup> and this year is forecasted to be an above average year with respect to Hurricane activity. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has forecasted that there is expected to be between 12 – 18 named storms this year, with 6 – 10 becoming hurricanes and 3 – 6 becoming major hurricanes.



Although statistically Trinidad and Tobago is not hurricane prone, we are still subject to severe weather associated with the hurricane season. The following are some helpful tips to help you prepare for this hurricane season.

### **The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM)**

The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) has embarked on a national campaign to improve awareness of the systems in place. The ODPM has listed disaster maps on their website which shows the locations of ALL designated shelters nationally. PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE (<http://odpm.gov.tt/>) AND BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE SHELTERS AND THE CONTACT NUMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FOR YOUR AREA.

### **Flooding**

Nationally there have been several infrastructural projects done in 2010 to manage flood prone areas. Drainage along the Uriah Butler and Sir Solomon Hochoy Highways has been improved to reduce the impact of flooding on these critical transport routes. Bridges have been widened and rivers cleared.

### **Electricity**

In the event of an impending hit by a hurricane, the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) **WILL** cut power to the islands. This is done before rather than during the hurricane to reduce potential damage to equipment and rescue workers. If you are not prepared for this, it can be a very frightening experience. Therefore, the proceeding actions must be taken to ensure

that you are well equipped and prepared to minimize infrastructural damage to your home and injury to your family and person.

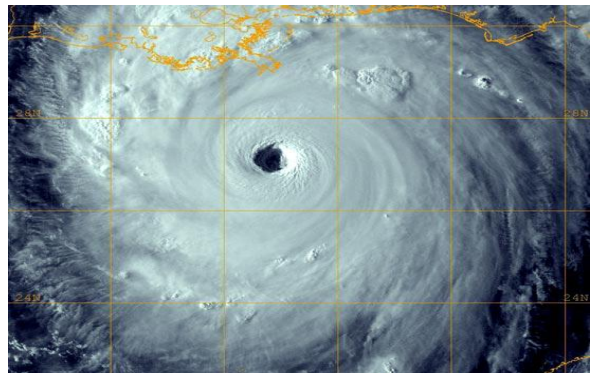
## **WHAT CAN ONE DO TO BE PREPARED?**

### **Before the Hurricane Season:**

1. Trim all trees that are near to roofs, power lines or drains
2. Become aware of the “Shelters” in your area and the various routes to get to the shelters. (Visit the ODPM website at <http://odpm.gov.tt/>)
3. Keep a “GO Bag” readily available in the event that you need to get to the shelter in short notice
4. Ensure you have clothes, canned foods, water, first aid supplies, and other essentials
5. Store ALL important documents in a water proof bag and keep in a high and secured area
6. Identify vulnerable individuals (family members or neighbours) who may need special assistance in an emergency
7. Prepare survival kits: Food, water and emergency supplies

### **During the Severe Weather:**

1. Stay indoors
2. Listen to the radio for weather updates
3. Ensure everyone is accounted for
4. Unleash animals
5. Be mindful of flying debris
6. Be mindful that when the eye of the hurricane is overhead, the weather is calm and then turns violent again.



### **After the Severe Weather:**

1. Again, ensure everyone is accounted for
2. Assess your home for damages
3. Look out for fallen power lines and trees
4. Check on your neighbours

## **SURVIVAL KITS**

**Food and water:** - Your survival kit should contain adequate food and water to sustain you for a minimum of 3 days. (Water: 1 gallon per person per day)

- Select food items that do not require refrigeration.
- Items that are ready to eat from the can or require minimal preparation. Always ensure that canned items have not expired.
- A three (3) day supply per person.
- High energy foods (granola bars, etc.) and comfort foods

**First Aid Kit:**

- Assemble a first aid kit for home and one for each vehicle
- 20 Adhesive bandages (various sizes)
- 1 5" x 9" sterile dressing
- 1 conforming roller gauze bandage
- 2 triangular bandages
- 2 3" x 3" sterile gauze pads
- 2 4" x 4" sterile gauze pads
- 1 roll 3" cohesive bandage
- 2 germicidal hand wipes or alcohol-base hand sanitizer
- 6 antiseptic wipes
- 2 pairs large medical grade non latex gloves
- Activated charcoal
- Adhesive tape (Width – 2 inches)
- Antibacterial ointment
- Cold pack
- Scissors (small)
- Tweezers
- First aid manual

**NON Prescription Drugs:**

- Aspirin or non aspirin pain reliever
- Anti diarrhoea medication
- Antacid
- Laxative

**Tools and Supplies:**

- Communication devices (signal mirror, cell phones, etc)
- Other: battery operated radio, flash light and pliers
- Duct tape

**Sanitation:**

- Cleaning products (toilet paper, soap, disinfectant, bleach, etc.)
- Feminine supplies
- Personal Hygiene items
- Garbage bags

**Clothing:**

- Two changes of clothing and footwear
- Boots
- Rain coat
- Sleeping bags

**Special Needs:**

- Baby items (formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk, and medications)
- Entertainment (cards and board games)