



West Virginia Emergency Management Hurricane Ian Messaging Guide

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Evacuation Resources

- [WV Turnpike](#)
- [WV511.org](#)
- [Ready.wv.gov](#)

Key Messages

- Driving through flooded roads is dangerous! Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- Flooding can occur anywhere it rains. Be aware of your neighborhood's [flood map](#) to understand what areas may be most likely to flood. The first step to being prepared is to understand the type of hazardous weather that can affect where you live and work, and how the weather could impact you and your loved ones.
- Make an evacuation plan in case of floods, build an emergency kit or update your existing kit, inventory and keep important papers and valuables in a safe place, and get involved in helping others prepare. You can begin by visiting [Community.fema.gov](#).
- Know where you can go and know how to contact your family.

- Sign up for emergency alerts and know where to get the latest information. Check with your local officials and follow official sources online, including social media.
- Stay tuned to weather forecasts for updates.
- [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) has information online for individuals, families, kids and businesses on how to prepare for the upcoming season.
- Preparing your home for hurricanes can mean the difference between minor damage and complete destruction. For details visit: [Hurricanestrong](https://www.hurricanestrong.org).
- [Small businesses](https://www.ready.gov/small-businesses) should consult preparedness planning resources.

Talking Points

- Some floods develop slowly, while others, such as flash floods, can develop in just a few minutes and without visible signs of rain.
- Flash floods can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall, a dam or levee failure or a sudden release of water held by an ice jam.
- Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live or work., Even very small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds or low-lying ground that appear harmless in dry weather can flood.
- **Know the terms to help understand flood hazards:**
 - Flood Watch - Flooding is possible; tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.
 - Flash Flood Watch - Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.
 - Flood Warning - Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
 - Flash Flood Warning - A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.
- **To learn more about flood risk:**
 - Visit [Ready.gov/floods](https://www.ready.gov/floods) to learn more about flooding.
 - Use FEMA's flood mapping service at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home> to understand the flood risk in your area.
 - Visit [FloodSmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov) to learn about the National Flood Insurance Program.
 - Follow [@FEMARegion3](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion3) on Twitter.

- Follow FEMA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Follow the National Weather Service on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- **Make an [Emergency Plan](#)**
 - Identify three places to meet family and friends in the event of an emergency. One in your neighborhood, one in your town, and one out of town. Make sure that all locations are in higher elevation and offer protection from the elements.
 - Learn how you will get to your out of town location; determine your evacuation routes.
 - Write down information on important locations like workplaces, schools, daycares, houses of worship, doctor's offices, hospitals, etc.
 - Make sure you take into account everyone's needs, such as any medical concerns, communications, etc. Don't forget to include your pets in your plan as well.
 - Know how you will learn important information after a disaster (radio, warning sirens, reverse 911, etc.).
 - Share contact information with everyone (friends, family and out of town contacts).
- **Don't forget about the needs of your pets.** Find pet-friendly shelters in advance. Gather enough supplies for your pets ahead of time (food, water, medications, toys, etc...)
- Check on your neighbors if it is safe to do so.
- **Only drive when it is safe to do so** – If you evacuated, only return when it is safe to do so. Follow the directives of your local officials.
- **Steer clear of debris** – Watch for flooded roads, washed out bridges and gullies, and downed power lines
 - If you smell gas, *do not* enter your home.
 - If your home is flooded, *do not* enter your home
 - If your home has fire damage, *do not* enter your home
 - Use battery-powered flashlights to enter your home; *do not* use candles. Turn your flashlight on *before* entering your home, as batteries may cause a spark when the flashlight is turned on and start a fire if gas is present.
- **Practice generator safety** – Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of death post-storm. Never use a portable generator inside your home or garage.

- **Protect yourself while cleaning up** - Be careful during clean-up. Wear protective clothing, use appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning [mold or other debris](#), and maintain a physical distance of at least six feet while working with someone else.
- **Manage your stress** - The threat of a hurricane can add additional stress. Follow CDC guidance for [managing stress during a traumatic event](#)

Social Media

West Virginia is using the hashtags #WVwx (WV Weather) and #HurricaneJan (if needed).

For graphics, please see:

- [Flood Safety](#) (Ready.gov)
- [Flood Safety](#) (NWS)
- [Hurricane Preparedness/Flood Water](#) (Ready.gov)

Power Outages

- Keep cell phones and backup batteries charged and gas tanks full.
- Check supplies. Have flashlights and extra batteries for everyone in the home.
- Sign up for local alerts and monitor weather reports.
- Make sure there is enough water and non-perishable food, including pet food, for the household.
- Charge cell phones and back up batteries. Have utility numbers close by to report outages.
- Assume all downed power lines are LIVE. Call 911 or the power company to report. Never try to move, drive over or touch objects around a downed power line.
- Keep cell phones and backup batteries charged and gas tanks full.
- Check supplies. Have flashlights and extra batteries.
- Sign up for local alerts and monitor weather reports.
- Make sure there is enough water and non-perishable food, including pet food, for the household.

Flooding/Heavy Rain

- Monitor alerts and local forecasts, especially if you live in flood-prone area.
- Know evacuation routes.

- Make sure there is enough water and non-perishable food, including pet food, for the household. Check prescription medicines to have enough for 72 hours on hand if needed.
- Having basic supplies to cover 72 hours is advised when planning for emergencies.
- Charge phones and backup batteries in case of power outages.
- Most flood deaths occur in vehicles. Turn around, don't drown when encountering flooded roads.
- Listen to emergency officials, know evacuation routes in case of flash flooding.
- Please, do not attempt to travel through flooded roads. Find alternate routes. It takes only a few inches of moving water to stall or carry vehicles away.
- Heavy rain makes low-water crossings especially dangerous. Please, do not attempt to travel across flooded roads. Find alternate routes. It takes only a few inches of swiftly flowing water to carry vehicles away. Turn around, don't drown!
- Most flood deaths occur in vehicles. Turn around, don't drown when encountering flooded roads.
- Please report severe weather to the National Weather Service by calling toll free, 800-401-9535, when you can do so safely.
- Monitor local forecasts and weather alerts.
- Listen to local officials.
- Prepare an emergency kit to cover 72 hours by collecting supplies including food, water, and medication for each person and pet in your home. You may be forced to leave quickly due to high-water or stay at home until water recedes.
www.ready.gov/kit
- Reduce speeds when driving in case of ponding on roads. Check wv511.org for road conditions.
- If you live in an area prone to flooding, pack a bag now in case you must evacuate quickly. Be sure to include essentials for each person and pet in your household including any medications.
- Monitor local forecasts and listen to information from local emergency officials.
- Prepare an emergency kit to cover 72 hours by collecting any needed supplies including food, water, and medication for each person and pet in your home.

FEMA Hurricane Ian Messaging

- We can't say it enough: know your evacuation routes! (***link to county/city evacuation website***)

- Preparing your pets makes sense. #PetPreparedness
<http://www.ready.gov/animals>
- Develop a family plan, make an #emergencykit & get involved in #preparedness
- Do you have the basics in your emergency kit? Pledge to prepare and check this list: <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>
- Be sure that your loved ones are safe and sound after a #tornado! Have a meeting place or communication plan! www.ready.gov/make-a-plan
- Flood fact: 2 feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including SUV's and pick-ups. <http://Ready.gov/floods>
- Flood fact: 6 inches of water will reach the bottom of most cars causing loss of control & possible stalling. <http://Ready.gov/floods>
- Learning flood hazard terms will help you recognize and prepare for a flood. <http://Ready.gov/floods>
- 1 out of every 2 flood fatalities is vehicle-related. Turn Around, Don't Drown. <http://youtu.be/eI6mIIHKrVY> #FloodSafety
- It is impossible to know how deep water is just by looking at it. <http://youtu.be/eI6mIIHKrVY#FloodSafety>
- Flood waters can damage important papers. Store critical docs in a waterproof container or electronically. #FloodSafety

West Virginia National Weather Service Offices

- [Charleston, WV](#)
- [Pittsburgh, PA](#)
- [Sterling, VA \(Baltimore-Washington\)](#)
- [Blacksburg, VA](#)

NWS Social Media Pages

Facebook:

- US National Weather Service Charleston WV
- US National Weather Service Blacksburg VA
- US National Weather Service Pittsburgh PA
- US National Weather Service Baltimore/Washington

Twitter:

- @NWSCharlestonWV
- @NWSPittsburgh

- @NWSBlacksburg
- @NWS_BaltWash

