

Emergency Preparedness: Nor'Easters



CREW

Communities
Responding
to Extreme Weather



What is a Nor'easter?

- A Nor'Easter is a storm that travels along the east coast of North America, most often between September and April. Usually, winds travel from the northeast, giving Nor'easters their name.
- Nor'Easters can cause intense winds, heavy rain or snowfall, coastal erosion, storm surge, and rip currents.
- Nor'Easters get their power and intensity from the differences in temperature between cold Northern winds and warmer air above water along the Gulf Coast.
- Human-made climate change is causing more and more snow or rain to fall during Nor'Easters. It also causes more coastal flooding during Nor'Easters, due to rising sea levels.

Before the Storm:

- Make sure you are signed up for local government alerts about storm and weather statuses.
- Check to see if your home is in a high-risk category for flooding, and purchase flood insurance if necessary.
- Assemble an emergency kit.
- Prepare for power outages by recharging electronics and putting fresh batteries in smoke and carbon dioxide detectors. Consider using a generator as well.
- Review other property insurance policies.
- Make and review an emergency plan for your family unit, including whom to contact and multiple places to meet up.
- Check heating fuel and insulate your home as much as you can, including along window lines and door cracks.
- Prepare your home for the storm as follows:



How to Prepare Your home:

- Know how to turn electricity gas, and water valves off and on.
- Secure large objects, freestanding objects, or damageable objects (including any patio furniture outside or shelves inside).
- If expecting high winds, cover windows with storm shutters or plywood, but NEVER tape.
- For homes with flood risks, remove valuables from where waters could easily reach, unclog gutters and drains, and consider purchasing sump pumps for your basement.



During the storm:

- Monitor news updates from local organizations, radio, and government alerts.
- Do not go outside or drive unless absolutely necessary.
- If outdoors, avoid flowing water, even if it looks shallow.
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately with your emergency kit and pets if possible.
- If sheltering in place, avoid windows and listen for news updates.
- Avoid using any fire hazards, such as candles.

After the storm:

- Continue to monitor news updates.
- Avoid downed utility wires and flowing water if outside.
- Call 9-1-1 to report emergencies, downed utility lines, and gas leaks.
- Check if water supply is safe to drink and boil water for at least one minute before using until certain of its safety.
- Check home for property damage (generators, pipes, etc...) and take pictures of damage as proof for insurance.
- Avoid broken glass or other hazardous material.
- Throw away any food that was in contact with flood water or that was not at a refrigerated temperature for more than two hours.
- Check-in with family and neighbors to confirm everyone is safe.

For more information, check out:
[www.mass.gov/info-](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/noreaster-coastal-storm-safety-tips)
[details/noreaster-coastal-storm-](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/noreaster-coastal-storm-safety-tips)
[safety-tips](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/noreaster-coastal-storm-safety-tips)
www.climate crew.org

