

Guantanamo Bay Hurricane Preparedness 2020: Are You Ready?

“If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.”

-Benjamin Franklin

Hurricane season begins June 1st for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NSGB), but the time for planning and preparing is now. This special edition of the Guantanamo Bay Gazette has information to help you, your family, and your pets be in the best situation should the worst happen: this is not an area which you ever want to fail to plan.

Online Hurricane Preparedness Resources:

Ready.gov (www.ready.gov) – Emergency planning information and tools for all personnel.

NFAAS and Page 2 (<https://navyfamily.navy.mil>) – Web based accountability assessment and recovery tool for disaster-affected Navy personnel and their families. Ensure Page 2 is updated.

FEMA (www.fema.gov) – Offers information on a range of natural and man-made disasters and guidance for protecting families and their property.

National Hurricane Center (www.nhc.noaa.gov) – Coordinating with the National Weather Service, the National Hurricane Center provides tropical weather analysis and forecasts in efforts to save lives, mitigate property loss and improve economic efficiency by issuing watches and warnings.



Hurricane COR Levels:

Condition of Readiness Levels, or COR, are the standards by which installations prepare for the potential of destructive weather. NSGB’s COR Levels will be displayed on the NSGB Facebook page and broadcasted on Radio GTMO.

COR 5 means hurricane season has arrived, so get a kit and make a plan.

COR 4 means that Destructive Winds are anticipated within 72 hours, continue General Operations and check your Hurricane Kits.

COR 3 means Destructive Winds are anticipated within 48 hours. Secure outside equipment and furniture, prepare to secure to quarters, and monitor FM 102.1 / FM103.1 / AM 1340 for more info.

COR 2 means Destructive Winds are anticipated within 24 hours. All on base leave / liberty is cancelled; all outdoor furniture and movable objects must be secured.

COR 1 means destructive Winds anticipated within 12 hours. Remain in shelter until ALL CLEAR is announced. Follow directions of Shelter Wardens.

COR 1, Recovery means Non-Recovery, non-First Response and non-Emergency Personnel should Remain Sheltered, and roads are secured until notice is given.

Base Hurricane Shelters:

- JTF Personnel.....*As Assigned*
- Marine site..... *Marine Hill Liberty Center*
- Marina Point.....*Marine Hill Liberty Center*
- Radio Point.....*Youth Center*
- Paola Point.....*Youth Center*
- Deer Point.....*Marine Hill Liberty Center*
- Contractor Manned Camps....*Bowling Center*
- Overflow.....*Community Center*

EMERGENCY KITS

Basic Home Kit:

- Water – at least one gallon per day per person for at least three days
- Food – Nonperishable food to support everyone in the household for at least three days
- Manual can opener
- First aid kit
- Prescription medications – enough for at least three days
- Dust masks or cotton shirts for every member of the household to help filter the air
- Personal sanitation supplies – Moist towelettes, garbage bags, plastic ties, etc.
- Flashlight – One flashlight for every two people in the household
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- All-hazards NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radio
- Extra batteries – sizes and quantities based on flashlights, radios, and other items in kit
- Money – At a minimum, \$100 in local currency, small denomination bills
- Wrench or pliers for turning off utilities
- Local maps and your family emergency plan
- Your command muster information
- Important personal and financial documents – Printed copies or electronic copies on a durable storage media such as a thumb drive and stored in a waterproof container

***Additional things to consider**

- Infant formula – enough for at least three days
- Diapers – enough for at least three days
- Food and water for your pet – enough for at least three days
- Items for individual with special needs, such as wheelchair batteries or other medical equipment or supplies
- Paper plates, paper cups, plastic utensils, paper towels
- Disinfectant
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Whistle to signal for help
- Sturdy shoes
- Hats and gloves
- Sleeping bag or other weather-appropriate bedding for each person
- A weather-appropriate change of clothes for each person
- Coats, jackets, and rain gear
- Fire extinguisher
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles, toys and other activities for children
- Any items necessary for a specific type of disaster and to assist you during electricity, gas, water, and sewage outages. Additionally, you may want to consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks.

NEO: What you need to know.

Noncombatant Emergency Operations, or NEO for short, is the process by which the United States Government organizes the departure of non-critical personnel from an overseas location to a designated safe haven, normally within the continental United States. It can happen due to war, security concerns, a catastrophic natural disaster, or if critical infrastructure such as power or water production. NEO is a time-critical process that requires regular planning and decisive action so that, if and when the time comes, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay residents are ready.

Who can be ordered to evacuate? All residents on NSGB are subject to an evacuation order. The Naval Station is unlike a civilian municipality where evacuation can be refused. If instructed, anyone given an evacuation order must comply.

Who can order an evacuation? An order to evacuate will come from the Naval Station Commanding Officer.

What are the evacuation categories?

Category I – Personnel identified in the divisions below, official visitors and guests of station residents.

1. Division A – Pregnant women.
2. Division B – Minor children under 18 years of age, and designated escorts (regardless of other category) to include Single parents (excluding those identified as Essential). Within this group, the highest priority will be accorded to the escorts with the youngest children.
3. Division C – Aged and/or sick individuals with significant medical problems or special needs as identified by medical representatives.

Category II – Non Mission Essential DoD Civilian Employees, DoD Dependents over 18 years of age, and Special Category Residents (SCRs).

Category III – All other non-mission essential personnel (including contractors and their dependents).

Who assigns my evacuation category? Your command will assign your category.

How do I know when to evacuate? Each command has a NEO Warden designated. Notifications will be sent to the NEO warden and also broadcast over AFN Guantanamo radio, the base roller, AtHoc and via Giant Voice. Every attempt will be made to give as much advance warning to personnel as possible.

What paperwork do I need? The recommended items for your NEO Kit can be found in this issue. Most of these items are simply your important personal and financial documents, but to be manifested on a flight all personnel need an ID card (Military), Passport (DoD Civilian or Contractor), Power of attorney and Family Care plan (if necessary), and a copy of your evacuation orders which will be given to you by your command. You should also have a copy of the original orders assigning you to NSGB.

Can I just show up? Timing is critical during NEO, and personnel arriving outside of their designated category cause disruptions both in the manifesting process as well as other unnecessary delays. Do not come to the processing area until called.

What about pets? Pets may or may not be authorized during a NEO event. Ideally a pet will remain with the non-evacuating member on island. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the owner to ensure their pet is ready to travel (i.e. current immunizations).

To fly on most Air Mobility Command or commercial airlines typically requires completion of the DD Form 2209, Veterinary Health Certificate, and the DD Form 2208, Rabies Vaccination Certificate.

If you are permitted to bring pets in an evacuation, make sure you have a separate carrier for each animal (except those nursing in litters), collars on each animal with owner ID information or microchip, two copies of movement orders, health certificate, and shot records (one for owner to keep on person and one set attached to cage in waterproof pouch), and supply of pet food (specialty if required).

What about Service / Emotional Support animals? During a NEO event Service and Emotional support animals will fall under Air Mobility Command guidelines. They can be found at [http://www.amc.af.mil/Portals/12/Users/032/88/288/pet_brochure_may_2017\[1\].pdf](http://www.amc.af.mil/Portals/12/Users/032/88/288/pet_brochure_may_2017[1].pdf).

What should I bring? Evacuees can bring one bag not to exceed 25 pounds per person plus one personal item. Child seats and strollers do not count towards this limit.

Where can I go once we reach our Safe Haven? Military members and DoD civilians will be given instructions on personnel accountability and distance limitations for travel. Contractor personnel should check with their management regarding support options.

How do I get back? Military Members and DoD civilians will be returned to NSGB as soon as it is reasonably safe to do so. Note that the same travel limitations apply on the return trip. Contractor personnel should check with their management in regards to return travel.

What else do I need to know? NEO can be a quick or a permanent process. If a NEO is ordered you should leave with the expectation you may not return and plan accordingly.

AVOID SPREADING RUMORS AND REMEMBER OPSEC. Remember, NEO isn't just for bad weather. It's a military operation that requires precision, urgency, and adherence to good operational security measures.

Move to your evacuation points as quickly as possible. As mentioned before, NEO is time-critical and even a short delay can cause departure times to move as much as 8 hours.

Please be cooperative with the Evacuation Team. They are likely sending loved ones out of harm's way as well and your cooperation and flexibility will make the process much smoother and as stress free as possible.

Help your neighbor. NEO is by nature a stressful operation and your assistance of those in need will speed up the process for everyone.

Noncombatant Evacuation Checklist:

- ID cards (Military or U.S. Government)
- Passports for all travelers (visa, if required, as well)
- Power of attorney (family care plan/spousal needs, as applicable)
- Authorization Orders (provided by NEO Warden)

***Other documents (may be required to verify entitlements post-evacuation)**

- Birth certificates
- Marriage certificates
- Naturalization certificates, citizenship papers (as applicable)
- Alien Registration Card (USCIS Form I-551) (as applicable)
- Last will and testament
- Financial records (checkbook/bank books/credit cards/tax record/current bills, etc.)
- Insurance policies (car, life, health, etc.)
- Completed Reparation Processing Center Processing Sheet (DD Form 2585)
- Copies of PCS orders authorizing family to be in endangered country (validates command-sponsorship, and for civilians, return transportation agreement)
- Employment documents (Resume, latest pay voucher, latest performance evaluation)
- Medical records (Immunization, copies of important medical and dental records)
- 30-Day supply of prescription medications
- School records for children/adult evacuees (transcripts, test scores, etc.)
- Record of emergency Data (DD Form 93 / Page 2)
- Vehicle registration/title/U.S. driver's license
- Personal Property inventory with photos (DD form 1701-includes household goods)
- Emergency Payment Authorization (DD Form 1337)
- Money for emergencies

In a backpack or small suitcase (no more than 25 lbs. per person), pack:

- Lightweight, high-energy, packaged food for all travelers (sufficient to keep you going – if not satiated – for three days)
- Baby toiletries (diapers, etc.) three-day supply
- Personal toilet articles (toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Feminine hygiene articles
- First aid kit
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Extra clothing
- Blankets