

How to help survivors and communities impacted by Hurricane Ida

- **Be patient.** Recovery will take many months or more. People can help by donating to or volunteering with the voluntary or charitable organization of their choice, many of which are already areas impacted by Ida supporting survivors. Learn how to best help those in need.
- **Do not self-deploy.** Seeing images of disaster may compel you to head to the impacted area. Until a need has been identified and the community affected by Hurricane Ida has requested support, volunteers should not enter the area.
- **Cash is the best donation.** When people support voluntary organizations with financial contributions, it helps ensure a steady flow of important services to the people in need after a disaster. To find a reputable organization, visit the National Voluntary Organizations Active in a Disaster Hurricane Ida page.
- **Do not send or bring unsolicited donations.** In the early stages of the response phase, unsolicited donations create storage and sorting challenges when focus is needed on response and recovery.

Stay safe from post-storm hazards

- Use a generator safely. Never use a generator inside a home, basement, shed or garage even if doors and windows are open.
 - Keep generators outside and far away from your home. Windows, doors and vents could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors. Read both the label on your generator and the owner's manual and follow the instructions.
 - Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. A generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal burning devices should never be used inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. These should only be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows.
- Put your health and safety first: be careful in areas with storm damage or flooding. If you evacuated, return only when officials say it is safe to do so. Areas without power may experience heat advisories, which can lead to illness or a threat to life.
- Be aware of heat-related illnesses. Areas without power may experience heat advisories, which can lead to illness or a threat to life. Learn to recognize the signs of heat illness.

- o Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated beverages such as water or juice. Keep your pets hydrated by providing plenty of fresh water for your pets and provide a shady area.
- o Check on family, friends, and neighbors. Visit adults at risk at least twice a day and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.
- Be careful when cleaning up. Wear protective clothing, including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, work gloves and sturdy thick-soled shoes. Do not try to remove heavy debris by yourself. Use an appropriate mask if cleaning mold or other debris. People with asthma and other lung conditions and/or immune suppression should not enter buildings with indoor water leaks or mold growth that can be seen or smelled. Children should not take part in disaster cleanup work.
- Avoid downed power or utility lines; they may be live with deadly voltage. Stay far away and report them immediately to your power company.
- Check on friends and family: If you are able, please check on your neighbors, friends, and family because some may need more help than others.

Accessible Resources

- Ready.gov Preparedness and Safety Information for People with Disabilities: [Individuals with Disabilities | Ready.gov](#) and [Personas con discapacidades | Listo.gov](#)
- Safety and Awareness videos (ASL): [FEMA in Your Language | FEMA.gov](#).
- [Be Aware of Scams](#)
- [Be Prepared](#)
- [Don't Drive Through Flood Waters](#)
- [Need to Evacuate?](#)
- [Learn Your Evacuation Route](#)
- [Get Vaccinated to Protect You and Your Family](#)
- [CDC Carbon Monoxide Poisoning](#)
- [CDC Flood Waters During and After a Disaster](#)
- [Cleaning Up After a Disaster](#)
- [CDC Mold Safety After a Disaster](#)
- [CDC Shelters and Evacuations During a Disaster](#)
- [USDA Food Safety After a Disaster](#)