

TIPS FOR SAFETY**Steps to be taken before the commencement of Cyclone season**

- Check the houses; secure loose tiles by cementing wherever necessary, repair doors and windows.
- Check the area around the house, remove dead or dying trees, anchor removable objects like lumber piles, loose Zinc sheets, loose bricks, garbage cans, sign boards etc .
- Keep some wooden boards ready so that glass window can be boarded.
- Keep a hurricane lantern filled with kerosene, flash light and enough dry cells.
- Promptly demolish condemned buildings.
- Those who have radio sets should ensure that the radio is fully serviceable. In the case of transistors, an extra set of batteries should be kept handy.

Steps to be taken when a warning for a Cyclone threatening the area is received:

- Keep your radio on and listen to latest weather warnings and advices from the nearest All India Radio Station, Pass the information to others.
- Avoid being misled by rumors, Pass on only the official information you have received from the radio to others.
- Get away from low lying breaches or others locations which may be swept by high tides or storm waves. Leave sufficiently early, before your way to high ground gets flooded. Do not delay and run the risk of being marooned.
- If your house is out of danger from high tides and flooding from river, and is well built, it is then probably the best place to weather the storm. However, please act promptly if asked to evacuate.
- Be alert for high water, in areas where stream or rivers may flood due to heavy rain.
- Board up glass windows or put storm shutters in place. Use good wooden planks securely fastened. Make shift boarding may do more damage than good. Provide strong suitable support for out side doors.
- If you do not have wooden boards handy, paste strips on glasses to prevent splinters flying into the house.
- Get extra food, especially things which can be eaten without cooking or with very little preparation. Store extra drinking water in suitable covered vessels.
- If in one of the evacuation areas, move your valuable articles to upper floors to minimize flood damage.
- Have Hurricane Lanterns, flash lights and other emergency lights in working condition and keep them handy.
- Check on everything that might blow away or be torn loose. Kerosene tins, cans, agricultural implements, garden tools, road signs and other objects become weapons of destruction in storm winds. Remove them and store them in a covered room.
- Be sure that a window or door can be opened on the lee side of the house i.e, the side opposite the one facing the wind.
- Make provisions for children and adults requiring special diets.
- If the centre of 'eye' of the storm passes directly over your place there will be a full pressure in the wind and rain lasting for half an hour or more. During this period stay in a safe place. Make emergency repairs during the full period if necessary, but remember that strong wind will return suddenly from the opposite direction, frequently with even greater violence.
- Be calm, your ability to meet emergency will inspire and help others.

When the Authorities advise evacuation follow the following instructions promptly.

- Head for the proper shelter or evacuation points indicated for your area.
- Do not worry about your left over property as evacuated areas will be policed to prevent looting.
- At shelter, follow instructions of personnel incharge.
- Remain in shelter until informed that you may leave.
- Keep calm at all times; if instructions are observed promptly, there is little personal danger involved.

Post-Cyclone measures

- After a cyclone passes, the staff are advised to take the following measures:-
- They should remain in shelters until informed by those incharge that they may return home.
- They should get inoculated against diseases immediately in the nearest hospital and seek medical care for those injured or those fallen ill.
- Any loose and dangling wire from the lamp post should be strictly avoided (A person must be kept to watch so that no body goes near the wire and the nearest authorities are informed immediately).
- People should keep away from disaster areas unless they are required to assist.
- Anti social elements should be prevented from doing mischief and reported to the police.
- Cars, Buses, Lorries and Carts should be driven carefully.
- The houses and dwelling should be cleared of debris.
- The losses should be reported to the appropriate authorities. It should be remembered that exaggeration of losses is antisocial.
- Relatives should be promptly informed about the safety of persons in the disaster area.