

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGES FOR CYCLONE SAFETY TIPS

Before the Cyclone Season

- Keep watch on weather situation, weather forecast and listen to Radio /TV. Remain alert about the community warning systems – loudspeakers, bells, drums or any traditional warning system besides announcements made through loud speakers from mosques etc.
- Get to know the nearest cyclone shelter / safe places and the safest route to reach shelters/safe places.
- Also designate a safe area within and around your home.
- Prepare an emergency kit containing:
 - A portable radio, torch and spare batteries;
 - Fresh drinking water , dried/canned nonperishable food stuff
 - Matches, fuel lamp, portable stove, cooking utensils, waterproof bags
 - A first aid kit
 - Small saw, axe and plastic rope
 - Any other item you think necessary
- Check the walls, pillars, doors and windows to see if they are secure. If not, repair those at the earliest. In case of tin roofs, check the condition of the tin and repair the loose points. Cover the mud walls with polythene or mats or straw mats on a bamboo frame if possible. Bind each corner of the roof with a plastic rope in case of thatched roof.
- Trim dry tree branches, cut off the dead trees and clear the place/courtyard of all debris.
- Clear your property of loose materials that could blow about and cause injury or damage during extreme winds.
- Removal of advertisement hoarding or making arrangements to secure the same.
- If your area is prone to storm surge, locate safe high ground for shelter.
- Keep important documents including the Holy Quran or religious books, passbook, etc. in a tight plastic bag and take it along with your emergency kits if you are evacuating.
- Identify in advance the spot where you can dig holes to store food grains, seeds, etc. in polythene bags.
- Keep a list of emergency addresses and phone numbers on display. Know the contact telephone number of the government offices /agencies, who are responsible for search, rescue and relief operations in your area.
- Fishermen be advised not to venture in open sea. The ones who are already in open sea be advised to return to coastal areas.
- People be advised to refrain from swimming in the sea.
- Warning and forecasts be issued to people, fishermen and ship captains , ports etc.

Upon a Cyclone Warning

- Store loose items inside. Put extra agricultural products/ stock like paddy in plastic bags and store it by digging up a hole in the ground, preferably at a higher elevation and then cover it properly if covered storage is not available. Fill bins and plastic jars with drinking water.
- Keep clothing for protection, handy.
- Prepare a list of assets and belongings of your house and give information to volunteers and other authorities about your near and dear ones.

- Fill fuel in your car/motorcycle and park it under a solid cover. Tie bullock carts, boats securely to strong posts in an area, which has a strong cover and away from trees. Fallen trees can smash boats and other assets.
- Close shutters or nail all windows. Secure doors. Stay indoors, with pets.
- Pack warm clothing, essential medications, valuables, papers, water, dry food and other valuables in waterproof bags, to be taken along with your emergency kit.
- Listen to your local Radio / TV, Local Community Warning System for further information, forecast, warnings etc.
- In case of warning of serious storm, move with your family to a strong pucca building. In case of warning of cyclones of severe intensity, evacuate the area with your family, precious items and documents and emergency kit. Take special care for children, elders, sick, pregnant women and lactating mothers in your family. Do not forget your emergency food stock, water and other emergency items. **GO TO THE NEAREST SAFE PLACES.**
- Do not venture into the sea for fishing.

On Warning of Local Evacuation

Based on predicted wind speeds and storm surge heights, evacuation may be necessary. Official advice may be given on local radio / TV or other means of communication regarding safe routes and when to move/ move out.

- Wear strong shoes or chappals and clothing for protection.
- Lock your home, switch off power, gas, water connections/points, and take your emergency kit.
- If evacuating to a distant place take valuable belongings, domestic animals, livestock and leave early to avoid heavy traffic, flooding and wind hazards.
- If evacuating to a local shelter or higher grounds carry the emergency kit and minimum essential materials.

When the Cyclone Strikes

- Disconnect all electrical appliances and turn off gas.
- If the building starts crumbling, protect yourself with mattresses, rugs or blankets under a strong table or bench or hold on to a solid fixture (e.g. a water pipe)
- Listen to your transistor radio for updates and advice.
- Beware of the calm 'Eye'. If the wind suddenly drops, don't assume the cyclone is over; violent winds will soon resume from the opposite direction. Wait for the official "All clear".
- If driving, stop – but well away from the sea and clear of trees, power lines and watercourses. Stay in the vehicle.

After the Cyclone

- Do not go outside until officially advised that it is safe.
- Check for gas leaks. Do not use electric appliances, if wet.
- Listen to local radio for official warnings and advice.
- If you have to evacuate, or did so earlier, do not return until advised. Use a recommended route for returning and do not rush.
- Be careful of snake bites and carry a stick or bamboo
- Beware of fallen power lines, damaged bridges, buildings and trees, and do not enter the floodwaters.
- Heed all warnings and do not go sightseeing.