

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

## INFORMATION FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE ON PREPARING FOR A STORM



Hurricane season is underway, and NCTE wants you to stay safe—both from Mother Nature and from any unique problems transgender people may face during an evacuation. It is important for transgender people living in coastal regions to be prepared for obstacles both during and after a hurricane hits. NCTE urges everyone to put together a preparedness kit that not only takes into account basic survival needs, but also your specific health and legal needs as a transgender person.

Hurricane season can be a difficult and dangerous time for all residents of coastal states. For transgender people it can be especially difficult to access emergency services and shelters because of discrimination. As you may recall, during the wake of Hurricane Katrina many transgender people were victims of harassment based on their gender identity and/or expression. A few were even arrested and jailed for using gender-appropriate showers in shelter facilities. Some forgot important items, such as hormones and cosmetics.

In light of these negative experiences, and considering the often problematic treatment of transgender people within homeless and other emergency shelters, NCTE encourages community members in hurricane-prone regions to prepare in advance. You can do this by developing a Disaster Plan, building a Hurricane Preparedness Kit, gathering transgender medical, documentation items, making sure important legal and advocacy contact information is easily accessible, and cosmetic items as needed.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR TRANS DISCRIMINATION IN RELIEF SHELTERS & SERVICES

Lambda Legal National Help Desks:

Toll free: (866) 542-8336

Dallas: (214) 219-8585

Atlanta: (404) 897-1880

National Center for Transgender Equality: (202) 903-0112, [NCTE@nctequality.org](mailto:NCTE@nctequality.org)

### OTHER RESOURCES

Making Shelters Safe for Transgender Evacuees:

<http://www.nctequality.org/Resources/evacuationShelters.pdf>

Transitioning Our Shelters: A Guide to Making Homeless Shelters for Transgender People

<http://thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/TransitioningOurShelters.pdf>

National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov/os/hurricane/index.shtml>



A Resource from The National Center for Transgender Equality  
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**EMERGENCY  
KITS FOR  
EVERYONE**

The National Weather Service recommends that everyone have the following items in an emergency kit:

- Water & Food (enough for 3-7 days)
- Blankets, pillows, etc.
- Clothing (rain gear/ sturdy shoes)
- First Aid Kit , medicines, prescription drugs
- Special Items (for babies and the elderly)
- Toiletries, hygiene items, moisture wipes
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery operated radio
- Telephones (fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional-not cordless-telephone set)
- Cash (with some small bills) and credit cards
- Keys
- Toys, books and games
- Important documents (in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag, such as insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.)
- Tools (keep a set with you during the storm)
- Vehicle fuel tanks (filled)
- Pet care items

For more information about disaster planning, please visit the National Weather Service's Hurricane Awareness website at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/hurricane/index.shtml>

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**TRANSGENDER  
SPECIFIC  
SUPPLIES**

In addition to the standard emergency information, NCTE recommends that transgender people also have the following with them:

**Medical**

- Prescriptions
- Medications (hormones, etc.)
- Syringes, alcohol swabs, etc.
- Vaginal stints/dilators
- Other medical devices/supplies

**Legal**

- Phone numbers for Lambda Legal's help desks and for the NCTE (below)
- Proof of name change
- Court orders
- Identification, including passport
- Doctors letters regarding gender identity from therapist & surgeon

**Appearance**

- Razors
- Cosmetics
- Binding, Packing Equipment (e.g. ace bandages, gaffs, "packies")

We strongly recommend that you take this document with you if you evacuate so that you will have all of the resource numbers with you in case you encounter a problem.