

CYCLONE

Before & During

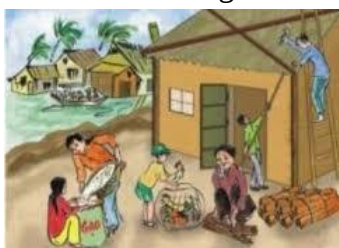
- Listen to radio or TV weather reports and alert everyone through a loud speaker or by going home to home.



- Identify safe shelter in your area. These should be cyclone resistant and also find the closest route to reach them. Move domestic animals to safety as well.



- Keep your emergency kit and basic food supply, medicines, torch and batteries etc.
- Doors, windows, roof and walls should be strengthened before the cyclone season through retrofitting and repairing. Store adequate food grains and water in safe places. Check that doors to garden sheds and garages are also secure.
- Keep flashlights, candles, and matches in case of power outages.
- Do not venture into the sea. Stay Indoors and stand below the strongest part of the house if you have not moved to the cyclone shelter.
- Remain indoors until advised that the cyclone has passed away.
- Do not take shelter close to trees because branches may break off or trees may even be uprooted, and fall on top of you or heavy constructions such as bridges etc.



- During the eye of the storm, move to the other side of your shelter, since the wind will now come from the opposite direction.
- Write each child's name, address, and contact number on a piece of paper and place it in the child's pocket.
- If you are outside, be aware of the dangers of flying objects, falling trees, buildings that may collapse, and damaged power lines.
- If you are in a car, do not try to outdrive a cyclone or heavy winds: if it changes course you will be in danger of being picked up in your vehicle. Remain in the car preferable halting at a safe place.
- Conduct Mock Drills for yourself and the community for evacuation.

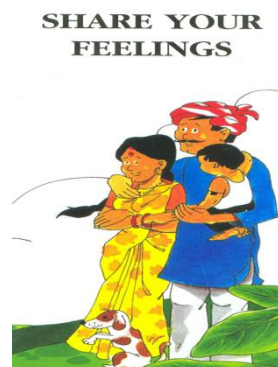


After

- After the winds die down, wait for at least 1.5 hours before leaving your shelter.
- Do not go out till officially advised that it is safe. If evacuated, wait till advised to go back.
- Do not use power points until they have been checked.
- Use the recommended route to return to your home. Do not rush.
- Be careful of fallen powers lines, damaged roads and houses, fallen trees.



- PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST-AID IN ALL DISASTERS



- SHARE AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION WITH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
USE LOCAL MEDIUM AND FOLK ART TO COMMUNICATE



PURIFYING WATER

If water supplies run low and main water is contaminated, you will have to purify water.

- If you can see particles floating in water, strain it through some paper towels then boil it, add purifying tablets, or disinfect it.
- Boil some water for 10 minutes to purify it, and then allow it to cool before drinking.
- Use chlorine-based tablets to purify water.
- To disinfect water, use regular household bleach containing 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite only. A stronger percentage is dangerous.
- Add two drops of bleach to 1 pt (500 ml) of water stir and leave it to stand for 30 minutes. The water should smell slightly of bleach. If it does not, repeat the process and leave the water to stand for 15 minutes more.

DEALING WITH STRANDED FAMILY MEMBERS AND LOOKING AFTER YOUR FAMILY

- If the disaster has caused local damage, such as roads blocked by fallen trees or flooding, school children may not be able to return home that evening. Ask any trustworthy relative or friend to collect them and keep them until you reach them.
- If the situation is severe, you may need to make arrangements for your children for a few days until travel is possible.
- If you cannot make contact with your stranded children for any reason, call disaster management helpline No. 1077 or contact local administration for help.

- Family members working outside the immediate affected area may also be stranded and unable to return home. They will need to make alternative accommodation arrangements until the situation improves.
- Any post-disaster area will be full of potential hazards, so stay alert and move around carefully.
- If you had to evacuate your home but did not manage to reach either your chosen place of evacuation or a local emergency shelter, you will need to find some form of shelter for your family.
- If you are unable to reach safety or help fails to arrive within 2 days, think about conserving your supplies of food and water.
- Restrict adult rations but give children, the elderly and pregnant women normal supplies, if possible.
- If your home has been shaken by the disaster, causing breaks and spills, clean up dangerous debris as quickly as possible. Shattered glass and spilled flammable liquids and bleaches are potentially dangerous.
- Call your insurance company's emergency helpline as soon as possible. You will be given advice on what to do.
- If immediate repairs are necessary, arrange for them to be carried out straight away. Keep the receipts to give to your insurers later.
- Take photographs or videos of the damage to corroborate insurance claims. Keep copies of all your correspondence with insurers.
- Help your family remain positive and keeps them focused on the issue of survival. Keep busy and try to work together as a team, making sure that you discuss all plans.



* Content has been customized from FEMA, Home Emergency Guide (DK publishing 2002)

* **Photo Courtesy:** Google Images

* **Disclaimer:** The information contained in this note is for general information purposes only. NIDM does not claim any liability for the use of this information.

ⁱ Safe shelters can be a home, school or office buildings and shopping centres etc. As safe vehicle can be a SUV, minivan, bus, tractor can also be used as shelters.