Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Storm Preparation Guide

This guide is designed to help you, your family, and your community prepare for and stay safe during a major storm. Preparation is key.



FORUM CONNEMARA CLG

FORBAIRT TUAITHE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Comhar na nOileán CTR

Keep Your Home Warm and Safe

- Close curtains and blinds early to retain heat and use draught-stoppers on doors.
- Move everyone into the warmest room during the worst of the storm.
- Keep internal doors between rooms closed to conserve heat.
- If safe, use your fireplace or stove, and have extra fuel ready indoors.

Food and Freezer Planning



- Prepare meals in advance that can be eaten cold if power is lost.
- Freeze water bottles or freezer packs to help keep food cold for longer.
- Keep fridge and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- Have non-perishable foods ready: UHT milk; canned meals; dried snacks (cereal bars, nuts & dried fruit); and baby food if needed.

Vehicle & Outdoor Safety

- Park your car in a garage or sheltered area away from trees and loose slates.
- Bring in or secure bins, garden furniture, BBQs, potted plants, outdoor toys, etc.
- Bring indoors any tools and other loose items that could become airborne.
- Clear around your home, including gutters and drains, of loose items.



Cooking and Heating

- Small gas camping stoves can be used only in well-ventilated areas.
- Do not use camping stoves near children or pets.
- Have extra blankets and warm clothing ready.
- Have hot water bottles ready where water can be boiled.

Power and Lighting

- Fully charge phones, laptops, power banks, and rechargeable lights.
- Have flashlights ready in multiple rooms.
- Keep torches/storm lamps in a safe, easy-to-reach place.
- A battery-powered radio is essential for updates if mobile networks fail.



Community and Animals



- Co-ordinate with community leaders on facilities, outdoor equipment, etc
- Help secure parish halls, community centres and club buildings
- Secure gates and fencing and ensure livestock have access to shelter and food.
- Ensure pets are indoors with bedding, feed, and water. Are they microchipped?
- Ensure trampolines are tied down and safely secured.



Final Pre-Storm Checks

- **Plan use / conservation of resources (food, water, power) wisely.**
- **Keep essential medicines and a small first-aid kit accessible.**
- **Know where your important documents are stored.**
- **Keep clothing and torches beside each bed in case you need to move at night.**

Advance Water Preparation



- Fill the bath with clean water for washing and flushing in case supply is disrupted.
- Fill kettles, jugs, and large containers with water in advance.
- Buckets of water can be kept in the garage for flushing.
- Use water-cooler bottles or sealed containers for drinking water.

After the Storm

- Once it has been declared safe, check on your neighbours, especially the elderly.
- Be aware of hazards (treat all downed powerlines as live).
- Check buildings for structural damage, gas leaks, water issues, etc.
- Be food safe – ‘When in doubt, throw it out!’



Galway County Council

For general information and non-emergencies, you can contact Galway County Council Customer Services

- **091 509 000**
- customerservices@galwaycoco.ie
- Or visit galway.ie for updates, and to view our list of Community Support Centres.

Weather and Public Information Updates

Members of the public are encouraged to monitor official weather forecasts, warnings and updates through Met Éireann on www.met.ie

Emergency Services

Call **112** or **999** in a medical emergency when someone is:

- Seriously ill
- Injured
- At risk of dying

Utility Emergency Contacts

- Gas Networks Ireland Emergency Line - for gas leaks and emergencies: **1800 20 50 50**
- ESB Networks Emergency Line - for incidents involving electricity, fallen power lines, or power network hazards: **1800 372 999** or **+353 21 238 2410**
- Irish Water (Uisce Éireann) - to report a loss of water supply or water-related service issues: **1800 278 278**

Animal Welfare Issues

- Contact your local Teagasc Adviser - teagasc.ie
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Animal Welfare Helpline: **01 607 2379, 0761 064 408** or email animalwelfare@agriculture.gov.ie

The public is advised to follow all guidance and instructions issued by emergency response agencies.
Personal safety should remain the priority at all times.
Do not take unnecessary risks during severe weather events and avoid travel unless essential when weather warnings are in place.