## Hurricane Safety — Evacuation Stats and Facts

## **FACTS**

- 1. **Delayed Evacuation:** Waiting too long to evacuate can result in being trapped by rising waters or impassable roads.
- 2. **Traffic Congestion:** Mass evacuations can lead to severe traffic jams, delaying escape and increasing stress.
- 3. **Shelter Overcrowding:** Insufficient shelter space can result in overcrowded conditions, potentially leading to health and safety concerns.
- 4. **Communication Breakdowns:** Overloaded networks can impede access to critical information and coordination during evacuations.
- 5. Limited Access for Vulnerable Populations: Individuals with disabilities, the elderly, or those without transportation may face challenges evacuating safely.

## **STATS**

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that storm surge is historically the leading cause of hurricane-related deaths in the United States.
- In 2021, the United States experienced 97 natural disasters, including hurricanes, highlighting the importance of effective evacuation planning.
- Historical data indicates that hurricanes can cause significant fatalities, with Hurricane Maria in 2017 resulting in 2,981 deaths, underscoring the critical need for effective evacuation strategies.
- In 2022, there were 15 catastrophic weather events, including hurricanes, resulting in \$3.4 billion in insured losses, mainly due to water-related damages.
- The Canadian Disaster Database contains detailed information on over 1,000 natural and man-made disasters since 1900,

including hurricanes that have directly affected Canadians.

•On average, Canada experiences about six hurricanes annually, with regions such as Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Québec being the most affected.