



# 2012 South Carolina Hurricane Guide

[South Carolina Emergency Management Division](http://www.scemd.org)

[www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org) / 737-8500

## What is a Hurricane?

**A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, the general term for all circulating weather systems over tropical waters (counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere). Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:**

**Tropical Depression:** An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.

**Tropical Storm:** An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots).

**Hurricane:** An intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher. In the western Pacific, hurricanes are called "typhoons," and similar storms in the Indian Ocean are called "cyclones."

Hurricanes are products of a tropical ocean and atmosphere. Powered by heat from the sea, they are steered by the easterly trade winds and the temperate westerlies as well as by their own ferocious energy. Around their core, winds grow with great velocity, generating violent seas. Moving ashore, they sweep the ocean inward while spawning tornadoes and producing torrential rains and floods. Each year, on average, 10 tropical storms, of which six become hurricanes, develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico. Many of these remain over the ocean; however, about five hurricanes strike the United States coastline every three years. Of these five, two will be major hurricanes, category 3 or greater on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale.

## Hurricane Watches and Warnings

**Tropical Storm Watch:** Tropical Storm conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 48 hours.

**Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical Storm conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 36 hours.

**Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 48 hours. During a Hurricane Watch, prepare to take immediate action to protect your family and property in case a Hurricane Warning is issued.

**Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 36 hours. Complete all storm preparations and evacuate if directed by local officials.

## Mitigation

***There are things that you can do now that can help you avoid loss of life and property and may reduce your risk of becoming a disaster victim. Those things are called mitigation. There are many low-cost actions you can take to protect yourself, your home, or your business from losses.***

### Protection From Wind:

- Analyze structural strengths and weaknesses of your home or business.
- Retrofit your existing roof with hurricane straps and gable end braces.
- If you are building a new home or business, consider a hip roof with a pitch of 30 degrees or less.
- Secure all outdoor furniture to prevent it from blowing away.
- Install plywood at least 1/2" thick or build storm shutters to protect windows.
- Install braces to give additional support to garage doors.

### Protection From Flooding:

- Buy flood insurance. To obtain information on flood insurance, contact your local insurance agent, or call FEMA at 1-800-427-4661.
- Make sure that any flood-proofing efforts are in compliance with minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements, and with State and local building codes.
- Move valuables and appliances out of the basement.
- Have the main breaker or fuse box and utility meters elevated above expected flood levels.
- Consider elevating your home/business above the 100-year floodplain or estimated surge inundation level.
- Heed flood warnings by leaving early and removing belongings that may be damaged in the event of a flood.

**Insurance Review - Don't wait until after a disaster to check your insurance policy—now is the time to prepare. The South Carolina Insurance News Service recommends the following items for your hurricane preparation list:**

- **Review** insurance coverage with your agent or insurance company. Know your policy's deductibles and procedures when property is damaged or destroyed.
- **Ask** your agent about ways to reduce chances of loss or damage, such as installing hurricane shutters.
- **Keep** your household inventory up to date and store it in a safe place away your home. (To access free software for making a home inventory, go to [www.scinsnews.com](http://www.scinsnews.com))
- **Coastal residents may need several insurance policies** to protect their homes and property from all types of damage.
- **Purchase wind/hail coverage** if not included with your policy. There is a 15-day waiting period for coverage to take effect.
- **Purchase flood insurance.** Flood insurance is not part of most homeowner, mobile home or renter's insurance policies. There is a 30-day waiting period for coverage to take effect.
- **You cannot buy** homeowner or renter's insurance after a hurricane watch or warning has been issued.

- **If you evacuate**, carry your agent or company’s name and phone number, your policy number and insurance company’s claims phone number with you.
- **When a Hurricane is imminent**, cover windows with plywood or storm shutters, bring in outdoor furniture and garbage cans and turn off utilities and propane tanks.

**Here are some ways to help save on insurance and damage costs:**

- **Catastrophe Savings Accounts** can be set up by homeowners—state income tax-free—to pay for qualified expenses such as insurance deductibles or uninsured costs associated with a hurricane, flooding or windstorm event.
- **Insurance Premium Discounts** up to about 25 percent are available if you have made your home more storm resistant. Discounts are available for storm shutters, roof tie-downs or clips, impact-resistant windows and doors, reinforced garage doors and S.C. Safe Home improvements.
- **State Income Tax Credits** are available for property owners who purchase building supplies to make their homes more storm resistant and for low-income property owners who pay more than 5 percent of their incomes toward insurance premiums.

For information on preparing for hurricane season, taking a home inventory or settling claims following a disaster, check out the South Carolina Insurance News Service Web site at [www.scinsnews.org](http://www.scinsnews.org).

## South Carolina Emergency Alert System Stations

The following radio and television stations are key participants in the Emergency Alert System and the ETV Radio Network. They broadcast emergency information throughout the state, as do numerous other radio and television stations.

**Charleston**  
 WIWF 96.9 FM  
 WEZL 103.5 FM

**Grand Strand**  
 WYAV 104.1 FM  
 WLFF 106.5 FM

**Florence**  
 WJMX 103.3 FM  
 WYNN 106.3 FM

**Upstate**  
 WFBC 93.7 FM  
 WESC 92.5 FM

**Aiken/Augusta**  
 WBBQ 104.3 FM  
 WEKL 105.7 FM

**Columbia**  
 WCOS 97.5 FM  
 WTCB 106.7 FM  
 WQVA 1170 AM (Spanish)

**York**  
 WRHI 1340 AM  
 WRHM 107.1 FM  
 WNSC 88.9 FM

**ETV Radio Network**  
 WLTR 91.3 FM  
 (Columbia)

WSCI 89.3 FM  
 (Charleston)

WRJA 88.1 FM  
 (Sumter/Columbia)

WNSC 88.9 FM  
 (Rock Hill)

WJWJ 89.9 FM  
 (Beaufort/Hilton Head)

WEPR 90.1 FM  
 (Greenville/Spartanburg)

WHMC 90.1 FM  
 (Conway/Myrtle Beach)

WLJK 89.1 FM  
 (Aiken)

## National Weather Service Radio (NOAA)

COUNTY	FREQUENCY	COUNTY	FREQUENCY	COUNTY	FREQUENCY
<b>Abbeville</b>	162.550	<b>Darlington</b>	162.550	<b>Marion</b>	162.400
	162.425	<b>Dillon</b>	162.400		162.550
<b>Aiken</b>	162.450		162.550	<b>Marlboro</b>	162.450
	162.550	<b>Dorchester</b>	162.550		162.400
	162.500		162.525		162.550
<b>Allendale</b>	162.500		162.475	<b>McCormick</b>	162.550
	162.450		162.450		162.425
<b>Anderson</b>	162.550	<b>Edgefield</b>	162.425	<b>Newberry</b>	162.400
<b>Bamberg</b>	162.500		162.450		162.550
	162.450		162.550		162.425
	162.525	<b>Fairfield</b>	162.400	<b>Oconee</b>	162.450
<b>Barnwell</b>	162.500		162.425		162.550
	162.425	<b>Florence</b>	162.400		162.425
<b>Beaufort</b>	162.450		162.550	<b>Orangeburg</b>	162.500
	162.400	<b>Georgetown</b>	162.400		162.400
<b>Berkeley</b>	162.550		162.550		162.475
	162.475		162.500		162.525
<b>Calhoun</b>	162.400	<b>Greenville</b>	162.550	<b>Pickens</b>	162.550
	162.525	<b>Greenwood</b>	162.550	<b>Richland</b>	162.400
<b>Charleston</b>	162.550		162.425		162.425
	162.450	<b>Hampton</b>	162.500	<b>Saluda</b>	162.400
<b>Cherokee</b>	162.550		162.450		162.425
	162.425	<b>Horry</b>	162.400	<b>Spartanburg</b>	162.550
	162.475	<b>Jasper</b>	162.450	<b>Sumter</b>	162.400
<b>Chester</b>	162.425		162.400		162.550
<b>Chesterfield</b>	162.450	<b>Kershaw</b>	162.400		162.525
	162.400		162.550		162.425
	162.550	<b>Lancaster</b>	162.475	<b>Union</b>	162.550
<b>Clarendon</b>	162.475		162.425		162.425
	162.550	<b>Laurens</b>	162.550	<b>Williamsburg</b>	162.400
	162.525		162.425		162.550
	162.425	<b>Lee</b>	162.450		162.475
<b>Colleton</b>	162.500		162.400		162.550
	162.450		162.550	<b>York</b>	162.475
	162.550		162.425		162.550
<b>Darlington</b>	162.450	<b>Lexington</b>	162.400		162.425

# PREPARE

**Storm Surge:** The greatest potential for loss of life in coastal areas related to a hurricane is from the storm surge, which historically has claimed nine of ten victims. Storm surge may vary depending on intensity of storm and other weather geographical effects.

Storm surge is simply water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the mean water level 15 feet or more. In addition, wind-driven waves are superimposed on the storm tide. This rise in water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, particularly when the storm tide coincides with the normal high tides. Because much of the United States' densely populated Atlantic and Gulf Coast coastlines lie less than 10 feet above mean sea level, the danger from storm tides is tremendous.

The level of surge in a particular area is also determined by the slope of the continental shelf. A shallow slope off the coast will allow a greater surge to inundate coastal communities. Communities with a steeper continental shelf will not see as much surge inundation, although large breaking waves can still present major problems. Storm tides, waves, and currents in confined harbors severely damage ships, marinas, and pleasure boats.

## The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

**Based on the category of storm potential damage from wind and water.**

### **Category 1: Minimal Damage, Winds: 74-95 mph**

No real damage to building structure. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage.

### **Category 2: Moderate Damage, Winds: 96-110 mph**

Some roofing material, door, and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to shrubbery and trees with some trees blown down. Considerable damage to mobile homes, poorly constructed signs, and piers. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings.

### **Category 3: Extensive Damage, Winds: 111-129 mph**

Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtainwall failure. Damage to shrubbery and trees with foliage blown off trees and large trees blown down. Mobile homes and poorly constructed signs are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by battering of floating debris.

### **Category 4: Extreme Damage, Winds: 130-156 mph**

More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failures on small residences. Shrubs, trees and most signs are blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Extensive damage to doors and windows. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore.

### **Category 5: Catastrophic Damage, Winds: More than 157 mph**

Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Most shrubs, trees, and

signs blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Severe and extensive window and door damage. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground may be required.

## Citizens with Functional Needs

**In addition to gathering your medications**, make a complete list of all the medicines you take and the doctor prescribing them. Include all these items in your kit that you will take with you when you must evacuate. You should be prepared to survive for at least three days if an emergency occurs. Plan for the care and housing of your pets. See pet information below.

**Plan your evacuation.** Know where you are going and how you will get there. Make your plans known to those in your support network. Have a point of contact outside your area that you can contact with your evacuation information. Implement your plan immediately upon notification. Allow adequate time to ensure you reach safety well ahead of the storm.

**Stay informed** about what is happening and what public officials are asking citizens to do. Be prepared to follow their instructions.

**If you know of friends, neighbors or family with disabilities or functional needs**, talk to them about their plans and ensure that they are safe in case of a natural or man-made disaster.

**Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.** Contact your local emergency management office. Some offices maintain a registry of people who need assistance so they can be located or assisted quickly in a disaster. If this type of assistance is not available in your area, this information will help you in knowing what you need to do to be prepared.

**Additional information** on preparedness is available at [www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org) or [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). Whether you are told to shelter-in-place or evacuate, having a plan and being ready are the keys to safety.

**Citizens with disabilities and functional needs** should be especially vigilant as they plan for emergencies and evacuations. Planning ahead is the key. Early evacuation can lessen the stress on the individual and their support network and ensure safety.

**Talk to neighbors, family or caregivers** about how to protect your home and belongings from wind and water damage. Buy flood insurance, if appropriate. If you have a serious medical condition, talk to your doctor about your plans for dealing with an emergency and seek medical advice on a recommended course of action.

**Review the Hurricane Preparation Checklists in this guide** and consider any additional needs you may have i.e., batteries for hearing aids and similar devices, extra oxygen tanks, electrical backups for medical equipment and special dietary requirements.

# Important Phone Numbers

## **Public Information Phone System (PIPS)**

**1-866-246-0133**

(Only activated when needed. Spanish interpreters available.)

## **Department of Transportation (Traffic Information)**

**511**

## **SC Commission for Minority Affairs**

**803-333-9621**

## **Hispanic Outreach of South Carolina**

**1-803-419-5112**

## **S.C. Insurance News Service**

**1-803-252-3455**

## Important Web Sites

The information provided in the following web sites may be useful, although not all of the listed sites are official government sites and may not be completely up-to-date or accurate.

### **Situation Reports and News Releases**

**S.C. Emergency Management Division**

**scemd.org**

### **National Hurricane Center**

**nhc.noaa.gov**

### **National Weather Service**

**weather.gov**

### **Traffic Information**

**Department of Public Safety/Traffic**

**sctrffic.org**

### **Traffic Cameras**

**Department of Transportation**

**scdot.org**

### **Other Useful Sites**

**American Red Cross**

**redcross.org**

**S.C. Educational TV and Radio**

**myetv.org**

**etvradio.org**

**S.C. Insurance News Service**

**scinsnews.com**

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**

**fema.gov**

**Animal Emergencies**

**clemson.edu/lph**

**scav.org**

## 2012 Atlantic Storm Names

Alberto	Leslie
Beryl	Michael
Chris	Nadine
Debby	Oscar
Ernesto	Patty
Florence	Rafael
Gordon	Sandy
Helene	Tony
Isaac	Valerie
Joyce	William
Kirk	



# Preparing for Pets

## ***Before***

**Your veterinarian is an excellent resource to help you prepare. Here are some important points:**

**Include your pet in your family disaster plan** – you’re responsible for the care of your pet!

**Evacuate (with your pet) outside the expected storm area.** Resources in these areas will be limited, and an emergency temporary shelter should be a last resort.

**Have a cage/carrier for each pet** – a means of containment will be needed anywhere you go.

**Many counties are planning temporary emergency animal shelter facilities** but not all are in place.

**The following are the best options for potential refuge sites:** Boarding facilities, veterinary clinics, pet-friendly hotels, stables, homes of friends and relatives. Maintain a list of these and share locations and phone numbers with family and neighbors.

**If you must leave your pet at home,** provide access to someone in advance so they can check in.

**Choose and use an ID method for each animal.** This is extremely important if your animals become lost. Examples: micro-chipping, ID tags on collar, photos of you with your animal.

**Keep your animals' immunizations** - especially rabies – current and maintain proof of same.

**Maintain a disaster 'go kit' for each pet in a quickly accessible site:** cage/carrier large enough to stand and turn around in, leash, harness, bowls, 3-days' water and food, medications, health records/care instructions, microchip numbers, litter box/litter, clean-up supplies.

**Contact your county emergency manager if they need to be aware of special needs you may have,** such as assistance with evacuation if you possess a guide dog or other service animal. Service animals are allowed on all means of public transportation and in all human shelters.

## ***During***

**In the immediate post-landfall period there may be areas of extreme damage from winds or flooding.** The immediate focus for emergency workers during this time will be human safety.

**When circumstances allow,** there will be personnel trained in animal emergencies integrated into the local incident management structure to assist emergency workers and citizens with animal needs. These may include "rescue" (capture and transport to safety) of displaced animals, ID, treatment, temporary shelter and care, and reunification with owners.

**Be on the lookout** - public information about options for assistance with animals will be provided as soon as possible from SCEMD by way of news briefings and telephone hotlines.

## ***After***

**When you return home,** check your yard for downed power lines, debris, and displaced wildlife.

**If your pet is lost,** contact your veterinarian, animal care/control organization, and/or county and state emergency managers who can help you search lists and databases of animals that have been found and sheltered during the event.

**\*Other resources:** Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health (803-788-2260); SC Department of Agriculture (803-734-2200); SC Association of Veterinarians (1-800-441-7228 or 803-254-1027); SC Animal Care and Control (803-776-7387)

**Web sites:** [www.clemson.edu/LPH/emergencypreparedness](http://www.clemson.edu/LPH/emergencypreparedness); [www.scav.org](http://www.scav.org); [www.scacca.org](http://www.scacca.org); [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org).

\*These resources include information for equine stabling sites, pet-friendly hotels and livestock needs.

## **FREE SERVICE OFFERS WAY TO CONTACT NEXT OF KIN**

The American Red Cross Safe and Well Web Site ([www.redcross.org/safeandwell](http://www.redcross.org/safeandwell)) is a free, easy-to-use tool that can be incorporated into any family's disaster communications plan. During a disaster, phone lines and other normal communications methods can fail. If you are affected by a disaster, a quick registration on Safe and Well can help provide peace of mind to many of your family and friends at once. The site is always available, and during large disasters, the Red Cross helps people register on the site and promotes it in the national media. People who search the site see only the registrant's name, the time at which the registration was completed, and the standard messages the registrant chose to share—no personal information is given, and client privacy is maintained. Discuss the site with your family and friends today, and make plans to use it should a disaster strike. If you are concerned about someone in a disaster-affected area with a serious, pre-existing health or mental health condition, you can contact your local Red Cross Chapter to initiate an Emergency Welfare Information Request. Welfare Information volunteers will search for these individuals, get them the help they need, and facilitate communication with their loved ones.

# Evacuation Routes and Lane Reversals

## Grand Strand Area

### North Myrtle Beach and northward

- Use SC 9 to proceed to I-95.

### Myrtle Beach

- 10th Avenue North and northward to Briarcliff Acres use SC 22 (Conway Bypass) to US 501.
- Motorists using SC 31 (Carolina Bays Parkway) or the Grissom Parkway will be directed north to SC 22.
- South of 10th Avenue North southward to the Myrtle Beach Airport use US 501 toward Marion and beyond.
- Under certain conditions, US 501 will be converted to four lanes northbound from SC 22 to SC 576.
- Myrtle Beach Airport southward through Surfside Beach use SC 544 to US 501.
- Under certain conditions, US 501 will be converted to four lanes northbound from SC 544 to US 378.
- The reversed lanes will carry SC 544 traffic onto US 378 where it will travel westbound to I-95 or Columbia.

### Garden City Beach south to Winyah Bay, Georgetown

- Take US 17 south through Georgetown, then take US 521 to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia. Under certain conditions, an alternate route from Georgetown will be Black River Road to US 701 to SC 51 to SC 41 to US 378 at Kingsburg.

## Charleston Area

### Edisto Island, Adams Run...

Evacuees will take SC 174 to US 17.

- They will then take US 17 south to SC 64. This will take them to Walterboro, and then to Aiken and I-20.

### Yonges Island, Meggett, Hollywood, Ravenel

- Use SC 165 to US 17, then US 17 south to SC 64 where they will go to Walterboro, then to Aiken and I-20.

### Johns Island, Kiawah Island and Seabrook

- Evacuees will use SC 700 to Road S-20 (Bohicket Road) to US 17. Evacuees will take US 17 south to SC 64 where they will go to Walterboro, then to Aiken and I-20.

### James Island and Folly Beach

- Use SC 171 to US 17.  
Evacuees should then travel south on US 17 to I-526 to the reversed lanes of I-26.

### **City of Charleston**

- The west side of the city (West Ashley) will use SC 61 to US 78, US 321, SC 389 to I-20. Downtown will use normal lanes of I-26.

### **North Charleston**

- Evacuees will take US 52 (Rivers Avenue) to US 78 to US 178 to Orangeburg then to I-20 or continue on US 52 to US 176 or continue north on US 52.
- The right lanes of US 52 at Goose Creek will continue on to Moncks Corner. In Moncks Corner, evacuees will be directed onto SC 6, where SC 6 will take them toward Columbia.
- The left lane of US 52 at Goose Creek will go onto US 176 to Columbia.
- Evacuees using SC 642 will travel west toward Summerville and take road S-22 (Old Orangeburg Road) to US 78 west.

### **East Cooper**

- Evacuees leaving Mount Pleasant will take I-526 or US 17 south to I-26.
- Those leaving Sullivan's Island will use SC 703 to I-526 Business to access I-526, then I-26.
- Evacuees from the Isle of Palms will use the Isle of Palms connector (SC 517) to go to US 17, where the right lane will turn north on US 17, then proceed to SC 41, to SC 402, then to US 52 to SC 375, then to US 521, to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia.
- Evacuees using the left lanes of the Isle of Palms connector will turn left to go to I-526 and then on to I-26.
- Evacuees on I-526 approaching I-26 from East Cooper will be directed to the normal lanes of I-26 if in the right lane of I-526.
- Those in the left lane of I-526 will be directed into the reversed lanes of I-26.

### **Awendaw and McClellanville**

- Evacuees will take SC 45 to US 52 where they will be directed right onto US 52 to SC 375 to US 521 to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia.

## **Hilton Head Island and Beaufort Areas**

### **Hilton Head Island**

- Hilton Head Island evacuees will use both the William Hilton Parkway (US 278 Business) and the Cross Island Parkway toll facility (US 278).
- As these two roads merge, a third lane will be formed by reversing flow on the inside eastbound lane of US 278. This lane will carry the traffic from the toll facility.
- Lane assignments will be as follows:

1. The right lane in US 278 westbound will exit at SC 170, proceed to SC 462, then be directed to I-95 northbound at I-95 exit 28.
  2. The left lane on US 278 westbound will be directed to I-95 northbound at I-95 exit 8.
  3. The reversed lane on US 278 westbound will continue on US 278 to Hampton and eventually to North Augusta.
- Should a third lane not be necessary, then both lanes on US 278 will be routed to I-95 with the right lane to I-95 north, and the left lane continuing on US 278.

## **Beaufort**

- Two Lane Evacuation: Evacuees will use the two present northbound lanes on US 21 to US 17. Upon reaching US 17, the right lane will be directed to US 17 north to SC 303 to Walterboro. The left lane will be directed to US 17 South, then to US 17 Alt/US 21 to Yemassee and then ultimately to North Augusta.
- Three Lane Evacuation: Under certain conditions, a third northbound lane will be formed by reversing flow on the inside southbound lane of US 21 at US 21 Bus. west of Beaufort. This lane will carry traffic from US 21. This reversed lane will be directed to US 17 southbound and eventually I-95 northbound at Exit 33 (Point South). The remaining two lanes will be used as described above for the two lane evacuation.

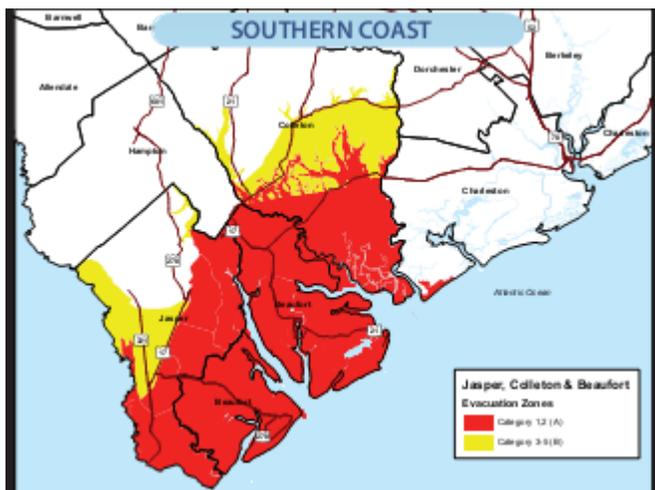


# Coastal Evacuation Zones

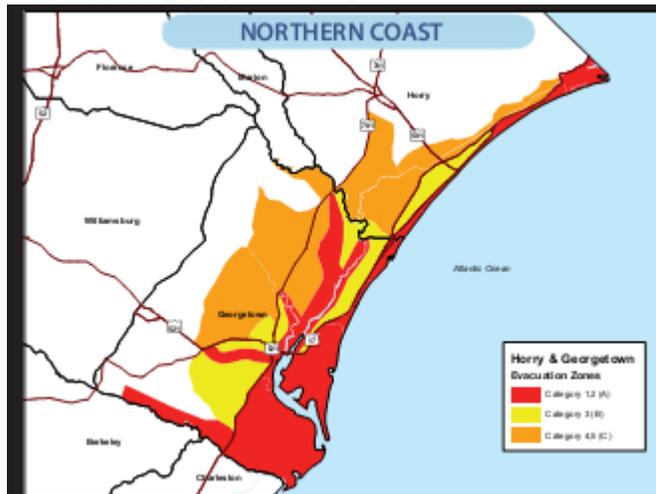
These close-up maps of the South Carolina coast show areas that are subject to possible evacuation based on the category of the hurricane. Hurricanes range in intensity from Category 1 to Category 5.

Actual storm conditions may require changes to the planned evacuation zones. Stay tuned to state and local media for specific emergency management evacuation instructions.

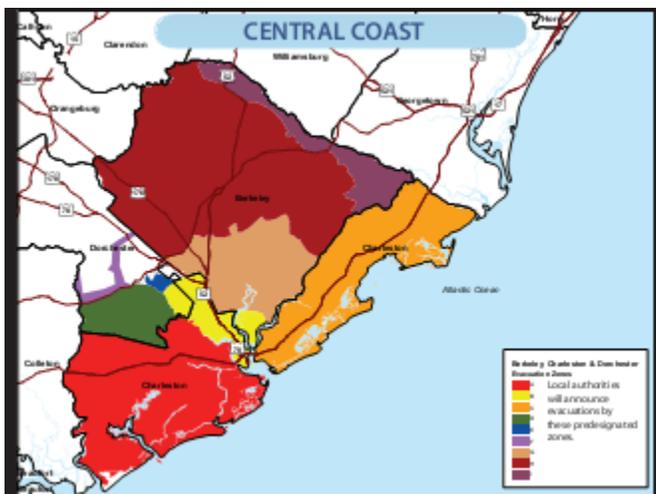
## SOUTHERN COAST



## NORTHERN COAST



## CENTRAL COAST



### Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

Gather disaster supplies and create a basic supplies kit, which you can use at home or take if you evacuate.

Include:

- “2012 South Carolina Hurricane Guide”
- Non-perishable food (including canned goods)
- Drinking water (two quarts per person per day)
- Flashlights, extra batteries, and bulbs
- First-aid kit and manual
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines, including prescriptions
- Sturdy shoes
- Baby supplies (including baby food and diapers)
- Games and books
- Fire extinguisher
- Important documents (insurance policies, family records, photo identification, important telephone numbers, tax records, bank information)
- Toiletries and other personal hygiene items
- Cash and credit cards
- Battery-powered AM/FM or hand crank radio and
- NOAA weather radio with extra batteries



# Evacuation Actions

## BEFORE

### Be prepared

Contact your local emergency management office to help determine your vulnerability. Storm surge is limited to coastal areas, but hurricanes also bring high winds, tornadoes, heavy rains, and flooding to inland areas.

If you live in a vulnerable area, plan an evacuation route. Consider staying in a motel or with family and friends outside the vulnerable area. Learn safe routes inland and the locations of official shelters. Be ready to drive at least 20 to 50 miles inland to locate a safe place.

### Before You Leave Home

- Make arrangements for pets. Pets are not allowed in official shelters.
- Fuel up family vehicles and service them.
- Turn off gas, electricity, and water.
- Stay tuned to your local television and radio stations for emergency information.

### On The Road

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division has been working in partnership with the petroleum industry in an attempt to make extra fuel available at certain filling stations along major evacuation routes; once you're on the road, tune to your radio to find out which filling stations are participating. Rest areas along I-26 will be enhanced with additional facilities to accommodate motorists efficiently. Department of Public Safety weigh stations will also be available as comfort stations. In addition to the items listed above in your Basic Disaster Supplies Kit, ALSO CARRY:

- Road Maps
- Jumper Cables
- Tire Repair Kit

### At The Public Shelter

Before heading to a public shelter, first consider staying with family and friends or in a motel out of the area. If those are not available, the American Red Cross will provide a safe place to stay when you have no other place to go. Cots and blankets will not be provided in the public shelter, and although food will be provided, specialty items for infants and individuals on restricted diets may not be available.

If you plan to evacuate to a shelter, you will want to carry the supplies listed above in your Basic Disaster Supplies Kit, PLUS:

- Blankets, sleeping bags, pillows and cots,
- Special foods, if you are on a restricted diet

## **DURING: Protect Yourself**

- Stay tuned to your local television and radio stations for emergency information.
- Stay inside a well-constructed building away from windows and doors, even if they are covered. Go to an interior first-floor room, basement, closet, or under the stairs.
- Be alert. Tornadoes are often spawned during hurricanes.
- If the “eye” of the storm passes over your area, be aware that severe conditions will return with winds from the other direction in a very short time.

## **AFTER : Returning Home**

- Wait until an area is declared safe before entering. Roads may be closed for your protection. Do not drive in flooded areas.
- Check gas, water, electrical lines and appliances for damage.
- Avoid using candles and other open flames indoors. Use a flashlight to inspect damage.
- Report life-threatening emergencies only.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

SCEMD is now using Facebook, Twitter and YouTube as added tools to reach people interested in learning about the Division, disaster preparedness and emergency information. The most widely used SCEMD social media are all available through our website, [scemd.org](http://scemd.org). By joining one or all of our online communities you will receive emergency information through news releases, video and even short text messages via Twitter.



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program trains citizens how to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations. CERT members can give critical support to first responders and provide immediate assistance to victims at a disaster site. CERT training includes disaster preparedness, basic fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue operations. More than 3,000 CERT members have been trained in South Carolina. To find out more about how you can become involved in CERT, please contact your County Emergency Management Director.

Another tool to keep your family and community prepared is the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program. MYN unites communities and develops neighborhood skills and resource inventories during disaster. Contact your local County Emergency Management Director for more information on Map Your Neighborhood. For more information on CERT, check out the links below.

- National Citizen Corps Website  
[www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)
- State CERT Website  
[www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org)
- State CERT Facebook Page  
[www.facebook.com/SouthCarolinaCert](http://www.facebook.com/SouthCarolinaCert)
- State CERT Twitter Page  
[www.twitter.com/sc\\_cert](http://www.twitter.com/sc_cert)
- Map Your Neighborhood Website  
[www.BeReadyCounty.org](http://www.BeReadyCounty.org)

## Seeking Shelter

Emergency shelters may be opened should a hurricane approach South Carolina. Shelters are generally the place of last resort. Individuals and families are encouraged to have emergency plans in place. These plans should include relatives or friends with whom you can stay or locations to which you will travel. In the event that you must use a shelter, there are two types: American Red Cross and Special Medical Needs shelters (SMNS). Only individuals with special medical needs will be admitted to SMNS. In the event of a major disaster, monitor local media and during an evacuation pay attention to emergency alerts via radio and road signs for information about the nearest open shelter in case you need it.

For live evacuation assistance and shelter information during a hurricane, call the SCEMD Public Information Phone System, or PIPS, at 1-866-246-0133. PIPS is only activated when needed and Spanish interpreters will be available.

## Preparing Your Business

According to the Institute for Business and Home Safety, an estimated 25 percent of businesses do not reopen following a major disaster. Businesses located along the South Carolina coast are not the only ones that could be affected by a hurricane or any other tropical storm system. Inland businesses could be affected by these storms if coastal businesses and suppliers have to stop production or temporarily close. You can protect your business by identifying the risks associated with natural and man-made disasters, and by creating a plan for action should a disaster strike. By keeping those plans updated, you can help ensure the survival of your business. For information on how business and industry can prepare for major disasters, visit the "Plan & Prepare" section of SCEMD's website, [www.scmd.org](http://www.scmd.org).

## Emergency Contact List

Fill out the following important contact information and keep this guide in a safe place.

- Fire Department

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- Police Department

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- Family Check-In Contact

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- Phone Number

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- Family Meeting Place

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- Family Physician

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- Veterinarian

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- Local Emergency Manager

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- Other

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