

SOUTH CAROLINA
HURRICANE GUIDE






HURRICANE.SC

2026

KNOW

WATCHES & WARNINGS...

The National Hurricane Center issues watches and warnings for specific areas of danger. Local National Weather Service offices may issue additional watches and warnings to provide detailed information on specific risks like flash floods and tornadoes. The best way to receive this and any National Weather Service products is through NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts and other media sources.

<p>STORM SURGE: </p> <p><i>Life-threatening water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds.</i></p>	<p>ISSUED 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF ANTICIPATED ONSET</p>	<p>ISSUED 36 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF PREDICTED ONSET</p>
<p>TROPICAL STORM: </p> <p><i>An organized storm system with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph.</i></p>	<p>WATCHES</p> <p>STORM SURGE WATCH <i>danger is possible</i></p>	<p>WARNINGS</p> <p>STORM SURGE WARNING <i>danger is expected</i></p>
<p>HURRICANE: </p> <p><i>Winds that have reached a constant speed of 74 mph or above and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center known as the “eye”.</i></p>	<p>TROPICAL STORM WATCH <i>conditions are possible</i></p> <p>HURRICANE WATCH <i>conditions are possible</i></p>	<p>TROPICAL STORM WARNING <i>conditions are expected</i></p> <p>HURRICANE WARNING <i>conditions are expected</i></p>
<p>HAZARDS</p> <p>Hurricanes and tropical storms can impact every part of South Carolina, even areas far inland. ALL South Carolinians should be prepared for hurricane season.</p>	<p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation in case an evacuation order is issued. 	<p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If directed by state or local officials, finish storm preparations and leave the threatened area immediately.



- **HURRICANES** and tropical storms often bring heavy, widespread rain that can cause deadly and destructive flooding. Flooding is one of the most serious hazards from tropical cyclones.
- **WINDS** from a hurricane can destroy buildings and manufactured homes, turn outdoor objects into dangerous projectiles, and snap or uproot trees.
- **TORNADOES** can accompany hurricanes and tropical storms. In South Carolina, Hurricane Frances (2004) spawned a record 46 tornadoes. Notable others include Tropical Storm Beryl (1994) with 23 tornadoes, including an F-3 that injured 40, and Hurricane Helene (2024) with 21 tornadoes.

EXTREME WIND WARNING

***Extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane, usually associated with the eyewall, are expected to begin within an hour.**

ACTION:

- Take immediate shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.

HOME PREPARATIONS BEFORE A STORM

Nearly any object can become a dangerous projectile during high winds from a hurricane or tornado, including patio furniture, decorations, and plants. Inspect your property and secure or store anything you can pick up. Clean gutters and downspouts to prevent water buildup and reduce the risk of damage from heavy rain and debris.

Evaluate Your Trees

Check around your house for weakened trees that could fall or loose limbs.

Look for:

- **Cracks in the trunk or major limbs.**
- **Trees that lean or look one-sided.**
- **Branches that hang over the house or near the roof.**
- **Tree limbs that touch power lines.**
- **Obvious decay or insect infestations.**



Regular, proper pruning improves the health and vitality of your trees. Remove dead, diseased, or damaged branches to prevent the spread of disease and harmful insects. Learn more from the South Carolina Forestry Commission at scfc.gov.

EMERGENCY ALERTS

Staying informed during emergencies is crucial for protecting yourself and your loved ones, which is why it's important to have multiple ways to receive alerts. Reliable sources for emergency alerts include Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on mobile devices, NOAA Weather Radios, and local TV or radio broadcasts.

For additional notifications, consider signing up for subscription-based services. County emergency managers in the state of South Carolina utilize emergency alerting software services to provide timely updates about severe weather, public safety, and other hazards in your area, helping you make informed decisions quickly. These systems allow you to customize the types of alerts you receive and choose how you want to be contacted, via text messages, voice calls, or emails.

Visit your county emergency management website to sign up for localized emergency notifications from your county!

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

S.C. Emergency Management Division (SCEMD)
scemd.org

Public Information Phone System (PIPS)
1-866-246-0133 *FOR ALL INFORMATION
Only activated as needed.

S.C. Department of Public Health (DPH):
Care Line (general questions), 1-855-472-3432
Medical Equipment Power Shelters, 833-351-9990

S.C. Department of Public Safety
scdps.sc.gov

S.C. Department of Transportation
scdot.org ▪ 855-GO-SCDOT ▪ 855-467-2368

National Hurricane Center (NHC)
hurricanes.gov

The Official Website of the State of S.C.
sc.gov

S.C. Department of Insurance
doi.sc.gov ▪ 803-737-6160

S.C. Department of Environmental Services
Des.sc.gov 803-898-3432

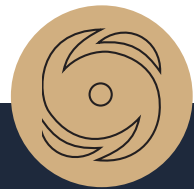
American Red Cross
redcross.org ▪ 1-866-438-4636

S.C. Salvation Army
salvationarmy.org ▪ 704-522-4970

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
fema.gov ▪ ready.gov

PREPARE

PREPARE FOR THE WIND: The **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale** estimates the potential property damage caused by a hurricane's sustained wind speeds. Category 3 and higher hurricanes are major, with the potential for significant loss of life and property damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are also dangerous and require preventative measures. The scale does not address the potential for other hurricane-related impacts, such as storm surge, rainfall-induced floods and tornadoes.



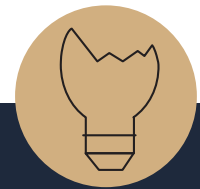
STORM LEVEL



DAMAGE



WINDS

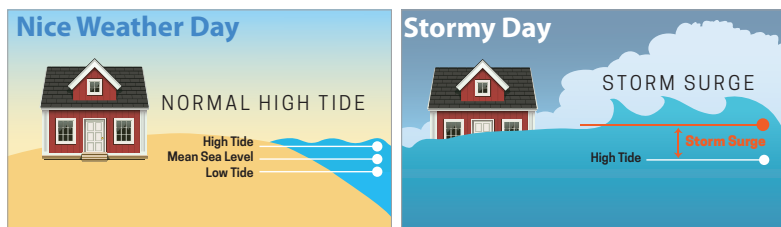
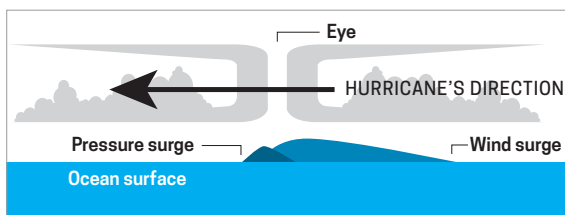


POWER OUTAGES

STORM LEVEL	DAMAGE	WINDS	POWER OUTAGES
CATEGORY 1	SOME DAMAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some damage to roofs, siding, gutters, and trees. 	74–95 MPH	Could last several days .
CATEGORY 2	EXTENSIVE DAMAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material damage to buildings. Trees with shallow roots will be snapped or uprooted. 	96–110 MPH	Near total power loss that could last several days to weeks .
CATEGORY 3	DEVASTATING DAMAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive structural damage to houses. Trees will be snapped and uprooted. 	111–129 MPH	Outages can last for several days to weeks .
CATEGORY 4	CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings will sustain major structural damage. Affected areas will be uninhabitable for weeks or months. 	130–156 MPH	Outages could last for weeks to possibly months .
CATEGORY 5	CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months. 	157+ MPH	Outages will last for weeks to possibly months .

RUN FROM THE WATER

Storm surge inundation is an abnormal rise of water above predicted tide levels. It is produced by storm winds and pressure pushing the water onto normally dry ground and is expressed in terms of feet above ground level. *During a hurricane, storm surge flooding poses a greater threat to life and property than high winds.*



Storm surge 1-3 ft. above ground level:

- Could knock you off your feet
- Can cause cars to stall or be swept away
- Not passable to light vehicles

Storm surge 4-6 ft. above ground level:

- Evacuate if ordered
- Move to higher ground
- Can enter homes
- Floating cars and debris

Storm surge 7-9 ft. above ground level:

- Evacuate
- Fills first floors of homes and businesses
- Can't see what's in the water

Storm surge 10 ft. above ground level:

- Evacuate
- Deadly and destructive
- Can overwhelm whole coastal cities and towns
- Covers one-story homes

POWER POINTERS

- Start preparing for power outages.
- **Downed Power Lines:** Never touch a downed power line or any objects, such as tree limbs, that are in contact with it.
- **Utilities:** Know how and when to turn off water and gas at the main switch. If you detect the smell of gas, evacuate immediately and call 911 and your gas provider.
- **Generator Safety:** Only use generators with professional installation when connecting them to your home's electrical system. Improper use can pose risks. For safety, plug appliances directly into the generator. Never use a generator indoors or in a garage. Ensure you have working carbon monoxide alarms.
- **Refrigerators and Freezers:** Throw away perishable foods that have not been refrigerated properly due to power outages; also discard foods with an unusual odor, color, or texture. Throw away foods that may have encountered flood or storm water.
- **Cooking Precautions:** If the power goes out while cooking, turn off the stove and remove cookware from the burners and oven to prevent accidents.



START PREPARING FOR A POWER OUTAGE NOW.

VISIT SCEMD.ORG TO FIND A LIST OF ALL POWER UTILITIES SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA, COMPLETE WITH THEIR OUTAGE REPORTING INFORMATION.

HURRICANE NAMES

2026

Arthur (AR-thur)

Bertha (BUR-thuh)

Cristobal (krees-TOH-bahl)

Dolly (DAH-lee)

Edouard (eh-DWARD)

Fay (fay)

Gonzalo (gohn-SAH-loh)

Hanna (HAN-uh)

Isaias (ees-ah-EE-ahs)

Josephine (JOH-seh-feen)

Kyle (KY-ull)

Leah (LEE-ah)

Marco (MAR-koe)

Nana (NA-na)

Omar (OH-mar)

Paulette (pawl-LET)

Rene (re-NAY)

Sally (SAL-ee)

Teddy (TEHD-ee)

Vicky (VIH-kee)

Wilfred (WILL-fred)

If there are more than 21 named storms in the Atlantic Ocean during a hurricane season, additional storms will take names from a supplemental list.

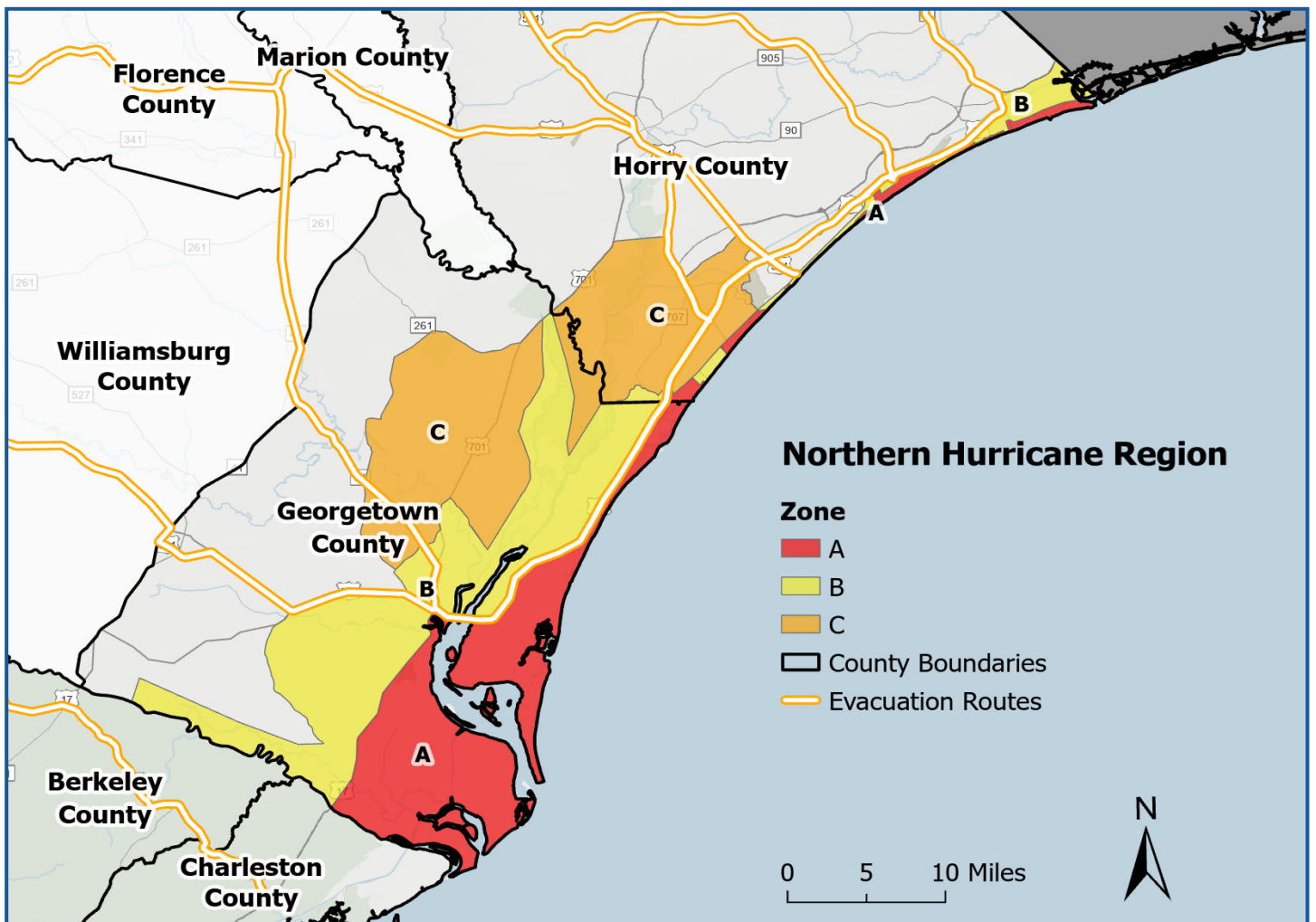
KNOW YOUR ZONE

PLAN • PREPARE • EVACUATE

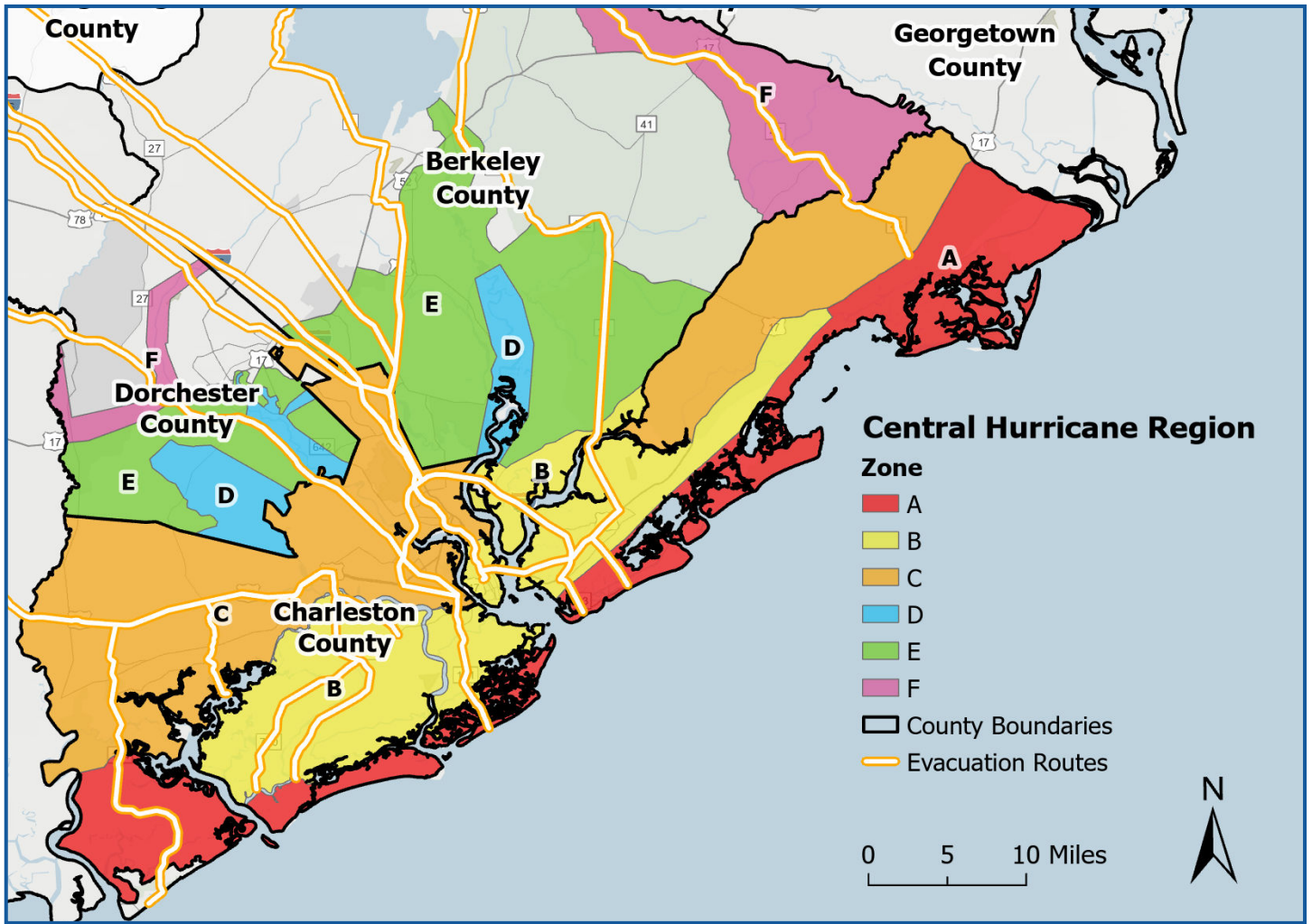
Evacuation zones show areas that are most vulnerable to storm surge. Use the maps available on the KNOW YOUR ZONE page at hurricane.sc to identify your designated zone and build it into your evacuation plan.

Some areas may be inaccessible even after the official evacuation order is lifted. Stay tuned to your local TV and radio stations and continue to monitor social media for recovery information.

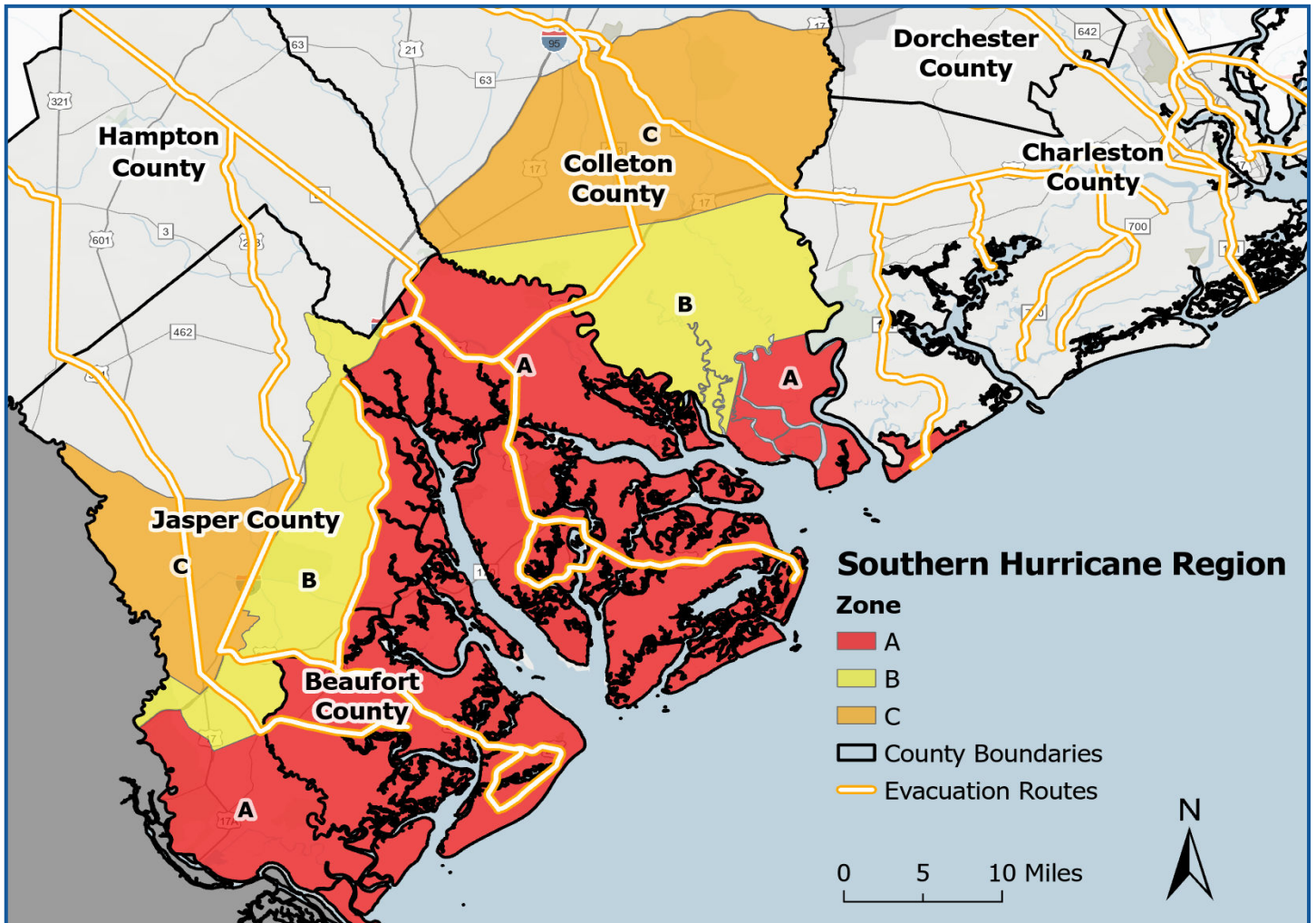
NORTHERN COAST



CENTRAL COAST

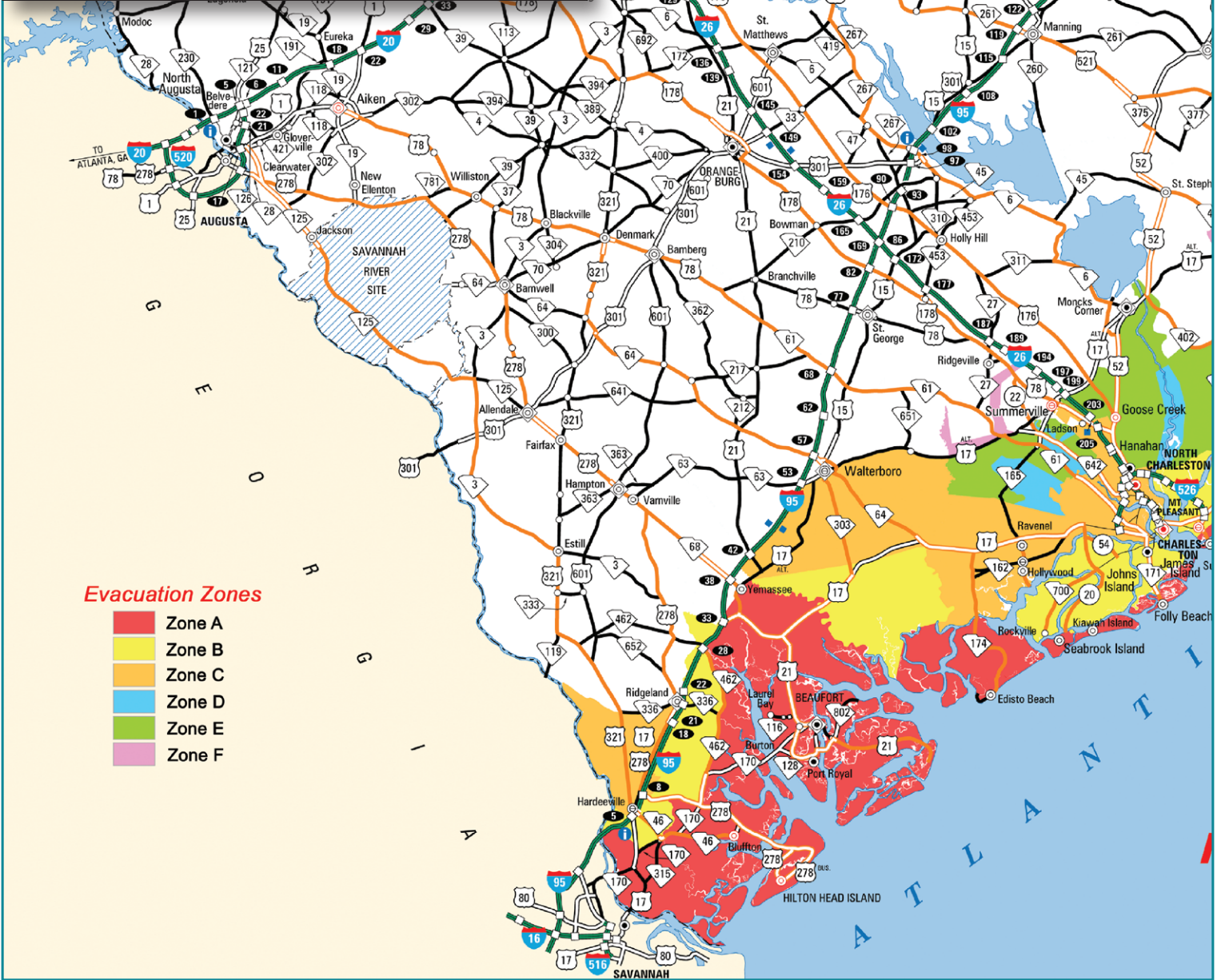
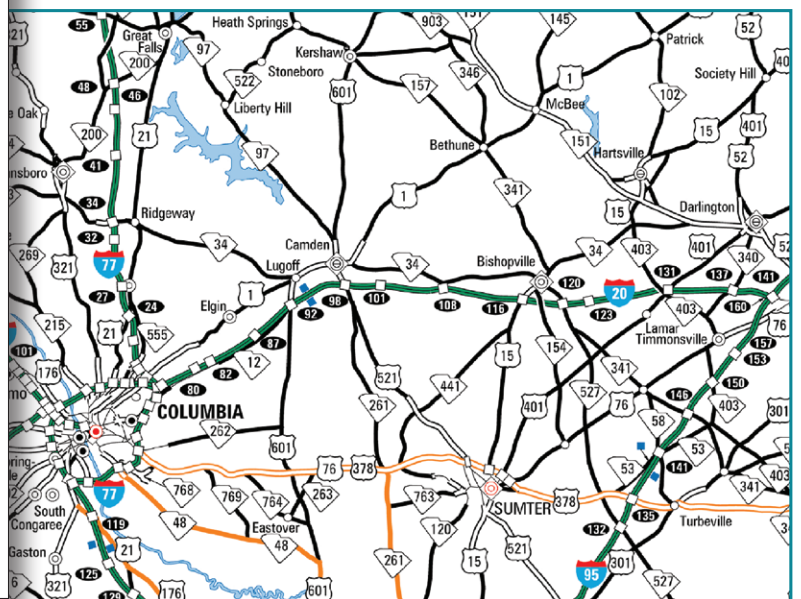
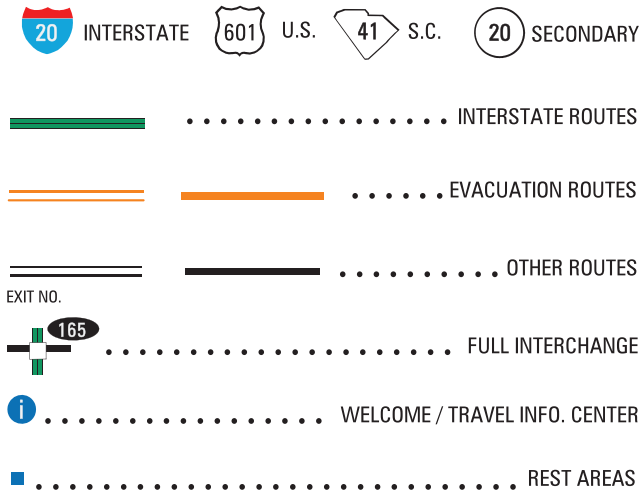


SOUTHERN COAST



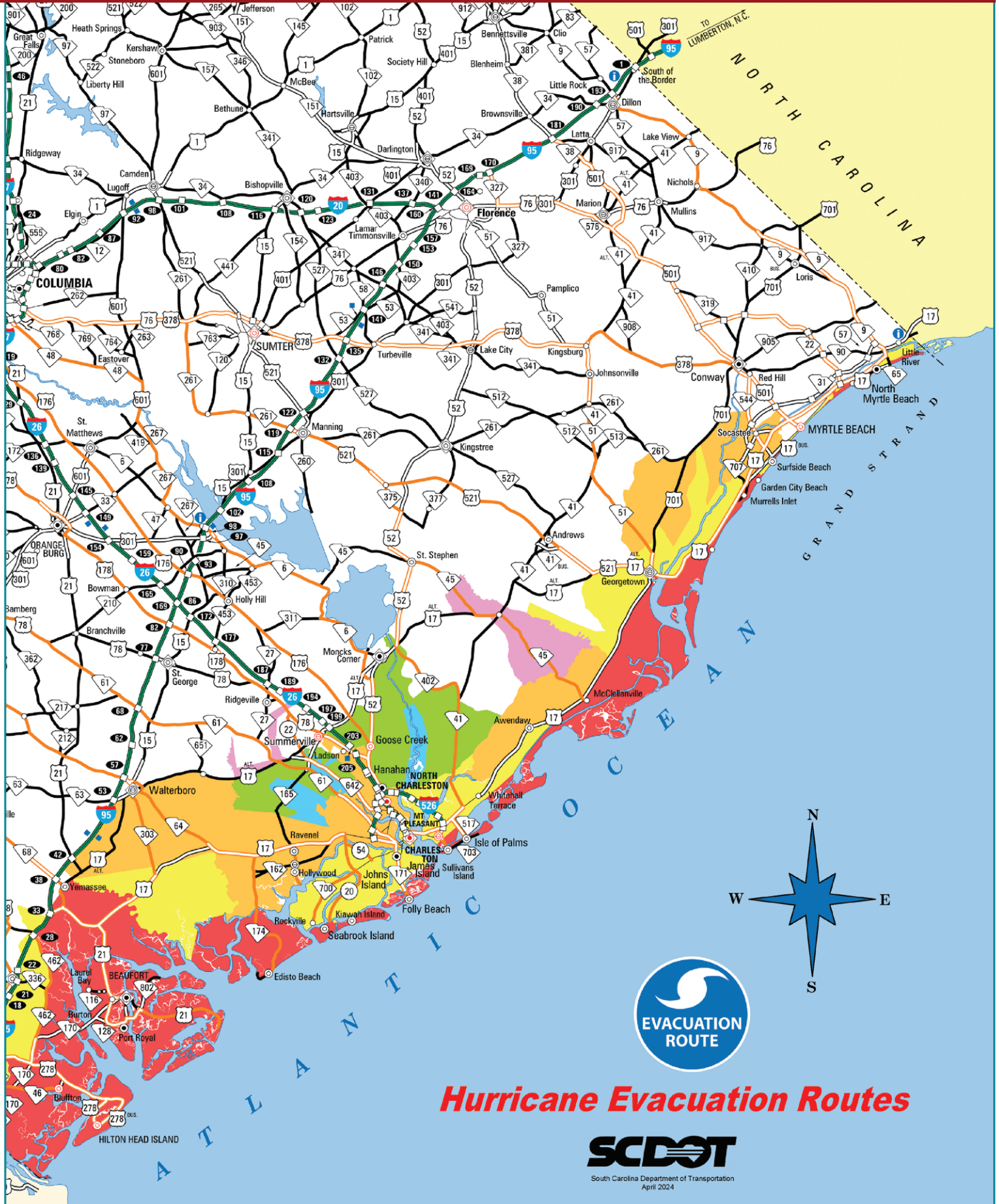
EVACUATE

LEGEND



Evacuation Zones

- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C
- Zone D
- Zone E
- Zone F



Hurricane Evacuation Routes

EVACUATION ROUTES & LANE REVERSALS

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 & Seabrook

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

James Island & Folly Beach

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

Awendaw & 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.

City of Charleston

- The west side of the city (West Ashley) will use **SC 61** to **US 78**, and continue towards Aiken.
- Downtown will use the 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 lanes 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**.

Daniel Island

- Use **I-526** or Clements Ferry Road as conditions warrant.

EVACUATION ROUTES & LANE REVERSALS

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, BLUFFTON & BEAUFORT AREAS GRAND STRAND AREA

Hilton Head Island

- Hilton Head Island evacuees will use both the William Hilton Parkway (**US 278 Business**) and the Cross Island Parkway (**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 traffic to the three-lane section beginning on the mainland.
- **LANE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**
 1. The right lane on **US 278** westbound will exit onto **SC 170**, proceed to **SC 462**, then be directed to **I-95** northbound at **I-95 exit 28**.
 2. The center lane on **US 278** westbound will become the right lane at **SC 170** which will be directed to **I-95** northbound at **exit 8**.
 3. The left lane on **US 278** westbound at **SC 170** will continue on **US 278** to Hampton and eventually to North Augusta.

Bluffton (SC 46):

- Take **SC 46** toward Hardeeville.
- Turn right onto Plantation Drive (**SC 46**), then right onto **US 321**.
- Follow **US 321** to Estill and turn left onto **SC 3**.
- Take **SC 3** to **SC 125**, turning left.
- Continue on **SC 125** toward North Augusta, merging with Hilton Head and Beaufort traffic at **US 278** in Beech Island.
- Follow **SC 125/US 278** to North Augusta.

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 in the inside southbound lane of **US 21** at **US 21 Business** west of Beaufort, accommodating 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.

North Myrtle Beach & 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.

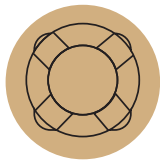
Garden City Beach South to Winyah Bay, & Georgetown

- 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.

ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEEDS



Label Your Belongings: Add your name and contact information to your items in case they are misplaced during evacuation, sheltering, or consolidation.



Seek Help If Needed: Some of your local emergency management offices may have a list of community members who require additional assistance.



Form a Personal Support Network: Involve family, friends, caregivers, neighbors, and coworkers in your emergency plan. Have at least three people you can call on for help, not just one. Know your plan, share it with others, and leave early to reach your destination safely ahead of storms.



Prepare for Specific Needs: Review the hurricane preparation list in this guide and account for additional necessities such as medical equipment backups, hearing aid batteries, oxygen tanks, and special dietary items.



Complete a Personal Assessment: Make a list of your personal needs and resources for a disaster, noting what you can do yourself and what help you'll need before, during, and after. Include daily living needs, mobility challenges, and evacuation plans.

INSURANCE

FROM THE SC DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE



FOR QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE SC DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE WEBSITE DOI.SC.GOV OR CALL THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES (TOLL-FREE): **1-800-768-3467**

Insurance Preparation:

- **Review Your Policy:** Make sure your coverage meets your needs, and know the difference between **replacement cost** and **cash value**. To learn more, visit doi.sc.gov or speak with your insurance agent or company representative.
- **Know Your Deductibles:** Know your policy's deductibles and the steps to take if your property is damaged. If your property is damaged, contact your insurer right away to review your deductible and out-of-pocket costs before filing a claim. In many instances, damages may fall below the policy deductible or otherwise not be covered by the policy.
- **Flood Insurance:** *Flood damage is not covered by standard homeowners' or renters' policies. You must purchase a separate flood insurance policy to protect against flood risks.* Visit floodsmart.gov for more information.
- **Document Your Belongings:** Create an inventory list of valuables, including furniture and electronics. Take photos for a visual record of your property. Save these items in a secure and waterproof location.

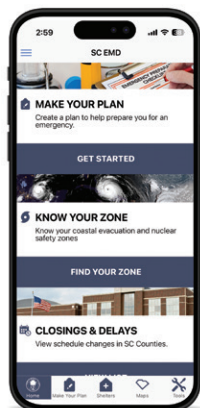
Ways to Save on Insurance Costs:

- **Catastrophe Savings Account:** Open a state income tax-free savings account to cover qualified expenses like deductibles.
- **Premium Discounts:** Homes with storm-resistant upgrades may qualify for insurance premium discounts.
- **Tax Credits:** You **may** qualify for state income tax credits if you have purchased materials and retrofitted your home, making it stronger and more resilient to hurricanes and severe windstorms.

DOWNLOAD THE APP

Use the South Carolina Emergency Management Division's official app to prepare for emergencies.

The SC Emergency Manager App is available for download in the Apple App Store and on Google Play. (iPhone and Android compatible).



- **View Know Your Zone** evacuation maps
- **Customize and build a personal** emergency plan
- **Share your locations with emergency** contacts
- **Keep track of your disaster supplies kit**
- **Use the emergency alert whistle and** strobe light
- **Document storm damage**

PETS

If you are a pet owner, it is important that you consider their needs when developing your disaster plan. Your veterinarian can assist you in preparing for emergencies to ensure their safety and well-being. If you evacuate your home, **Do Not Leave Your Pets Behind.**

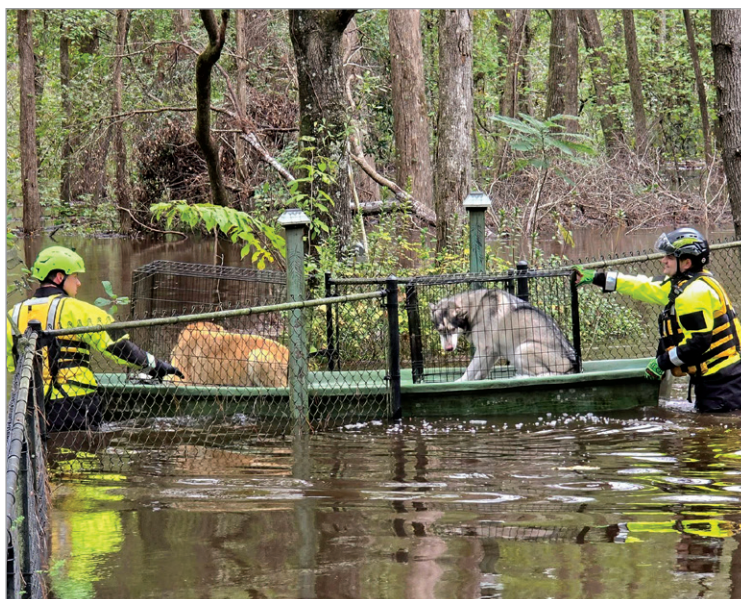
IMPORTANT TIPS:

> BEFORE

- Create an emergency kit for each of your pets and store it in an accessible location. The kit should contain food and water bowls, enough food and water for 3 days, a cage or carrier that is large enough for your pet to stand and turn around in, a leash and harness, medications, health records and care instructions, microchip numbers, and a litter box with litter and clean-up supplies.
- Keep pets' vaccinations, especially rabies, up to date, and store copies of medical records in a waterproof container.
- Choose identification methods like microchipping or ID tags on your pet's collar. **Take photos of yourself with your pets to prove ownership in case you become separated.**
- Evacuate with your pets outside of the evacuation zone whenever possible. Avoid relying on emergency shelters for pets unless necessary. Consider boarding facilities, veterinary clinics, pet-friendly hotels, or the homes of friends and family as alternatives.
- Counties may have temporary shelters for pets. Open shelters will be listed on scemd.org and the SC Emergency Manager mobile app.

> DURING

- In the immediate post-landfall period, emergency workers prioritize human safety amid winds and flooding.
- When circumstances allow, there may be personnel trained in animal emergencies to assist emergency workers and citizens with animal needs. These may include rescue, care, and reunification with owners.
- Information about options for assistance with animals will be provided as soon as possible from SCEMD through news briefings and telephone hotlines.



ANIMAL RESCUE MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY AFTER A STORM.

> AFTER

- If your pet is lost, contact your veterinarian, animal control organization, or county and state emergency managers for assistance searching lists and databases of found and sheltered animals during the hurricane.
- Familiar landmarks and scents may be unrecognizable after a hurricane, causing your pet to become lost and confused.
- Monitor your pets closely after an emergency. Even pets that are usually calm and friendly may become defensive or aggressive. Always keep dogs on a leash and ensure they are in a secure, fenced yard with access to water and shelter.

OTHER RESOURCES:

Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health:
803-788-2260
clemson.edu/LPH

S.C. Association of Veterinarians:
1-800-441-7228
scav.orgg

South Carolina Department of Agriculture:
803-734-2210
agriculture.sc.gov

EVACUATION ACTIONS

> BEFORE

BE PREPARED

Hurricanes bring high winds, tornadoes, heavy rains, and flooding to inland areas, in addition to storm surge. Contact your county emergency management office to assess your vulnerability to hurricanes.

Be sure to map out your evacuation route if you live in a vulnerable area. Consider staying with family and friends or in a hotel outside the vulnerable area. Learn safe routes inland. Be ready to drive at least 20 to 50 miles inland to locate a safe place.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- **KNOW** where you will go. Follow official hurricane evacuation routes, not your GPS navigation.
- **STAY** tuned to your local TV or radio stations for emergency information.
- **CHARGE** your mobile devices and bring extra chargers.
- **ENSURE** that electricity and gas are shut off at your property.
- **MAKE** arrangements for pets. They may not be allowed to stay with you in all shelters.
- **FUEL** up and service family vehicles.



IN ADDITION TO THE ITEMS LISTED IN YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT, ALSO CARRY ROAD MAPS, JUMPER CABLES, AND A TIRE REPAIR KIT.

> ON THE ROAD

LEAVE EARLY. TAKE YOUR TIME.

The South Carolina Emergency Response Team is working with the petroleum industry to boost fuel availability at select stations along major evacuation routes. I-26 rest areas will have extra facilities for drivers, and the SC Department of Public Safety weigh stations will serve as comfort stops. Follow official evacuation routes and be cautious of GPS navigation, which may direct you to closed roads.



A GPS may misdirect you to closed roads. Stay on official evacuation routes.

> DURING

PROTECT YOURSELF

- If the “eye” of the storm passes over your area, be ready for dangerous conditions to return quickly, with wind coming from the opposite direction.
- Stay indoors in a sturdy structure, away from windows and doors, even if they are covered. Seek shelter in an interior room, closet, or under the stairs on the first floor.
- During a power outage, it’s important to stay informed by listening to local radio or watching TV using a battery-powered, solar, or hand-crank device.
- After an emergency, turn your cell phone off and back on to reset it and restore normal operation.
- Limit non-emergency calls to reduce network congestion. Keep calls short, wait 10 seconds before redialing, and use text messages for non-urgent communication.

SEEKING SAFETY

When evacuating, plan ahead by staying with family, friends, or booking a hotel inland. If those options aren’t available, emergency shelters will be provided by the SC Department of Social Services and the American Red Cross, as directed by local officials. Keep in mind that these shelters may lack cots, blankets, and other amenities, and may not have food for specialty diets. If you use a shelter, bring essentials from your disaster kit, such as sleeping bags, pillows, and cots.

For those with medical equipment requiring electricity, or who need space for a hospital bed, the SC Department of Public Health (DPH) offers Medical Equipment Power Shelters (MEPS) with generator power and extra space. Staff in these shelters are trained to provide CPR for medical emergencies while calling 911, but they do not provide any other medical care and may not be licensed health care workers. For this reason, a caregiver is generally required to



come with the person seeking shelter. Bring all medications, medical supplies, special foods, and comfort items. Access these shelters by calling 833-351-9990, where transport arrangements can be made if needed.

RETURNING HOME

→ RETURN HOME ONLY AFTER LOCAL AUTHORITIES ADVISE IT IS SAFE TO DO SO. ←



SOME AREAS MAY BE INACCESSIBLE EVEN AFTER THE OFFICIAL EVACUATION ORDER IS LIFTED. STAY INFORMED BY TUNING INTO LOCAL NEWS OUTLETS AND MONITORING SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES.

Stay Away from Power Lines:

- Watch out for fallen power lines that may be hanging overhead. Stay clear of fallen power lines. Call the electric company to report them.

Be Alert for Driving Restrictions

- Avoid flooded or washed-out roads, including bridges. Never drive around barricades and always follow the instructions of local public safety officials.

Enter Your Home Cautiously

- Open doors and windows to ventilate and dry your home.
- Use flashlights to inspect for damage.
- Do not use candles or open flames.
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy and make sure your family knows how to use it.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage.
- Watch out for snakes, insects, and other animals that may seek higher ground after flooding.

Take Photos of Damage

- Photos will help with insurance claims. Contact your insurance agent immediately to report the damage.

Inspect Utilities

▪ Gas Leaks

- > If you smell gas or hear a hissing sound, open a window and leave the building immediately. Call 9-1-1 and call your utility provider from a safe location to report the leak. Only a professional should turn the gas back on.

▪ Electrical Damage

- > If you see sparks, frayed or broken wires, or if you notice a burning smell, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If floodwaters reached electrical outlets, turn power off and contact a licensed electrician.

▪ Water and Sewage Lines

- > Avoid using toilets if sewage lines are damaged, and contact a plumber for help. For damaged water pipes, contact your water provider and do not use tap water.
- > Check with your water provider for the status of drinking water. If you have a private well that was flooded, call the SC Department of Environmental Services private well hotline at 1-888-761-5989. Contact a plumber if water or sewer lines are possibly damaged.

Stay Informed

- **Monitor TV, Radio and Social Media:** Stay updated on official announcements, recovery efforts, and assistance options.
- **Let A Relative Know You Are Home:** Tell family or friends how to contact you, especially if phone service is out.



LOCAL OFFICIALS WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN PROPERLY DISPOSE OF STORM DEBRIS AND DAMAGED PROPERTY.

NEVER TRY TO MOVE OR DRIVE AROUND BARRICADES.

BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT



- **“South Carolina Hurricane Guide”**



- **Bottled water**
(2 gallons per person per day)



- **Non-perishable food**
(for at least 3 days)



- **Portable radio with extra batteries**



- **Plastic dishes, eating utensils**



- **Pet supplies**
(food, leash, carrier, vaccination records)



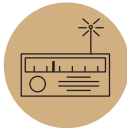
- **First Aid Kit**
(including prescription medications)



- **Bedding & clothing for each family member**



- **Soap, shampoo, other personal hygiene items**



- **NOAA Weather Radio**



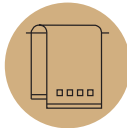
- **Rain jackets, pants, boots**



- **Sunglasses, mosquito repellent, sunscreen**



- **Flashlight(s) with extra batteries**



- **Blankets, towels**



- **Important documents**
(driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, medical records, family pictures, etc.)



- **Cash**
(enough to fill up a vehicle with gas)



- **Baby supplies**
(food, diapers, medication)



- **Important documents**
(driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, medical records, family pictures, etc.)



- **Mobile device chargers**



- **Hand sanitizer**



- **Toothbrush, toothpaste**

2026 S.C. HURRICANE GUIDE

The SC Hurricane Guide was created by the South Carolina Emergency Management Division in partnership with state, county, federal, and volunteer agencies, including the SC Department of Public Safety, SC Department of Transportation, SC Department of Environmental Services, SC Department of Public Health, National Weather Service, SC Department of Insurance, Clemson University Extension, SC Commission for Community Advancement and Engagement, FEMA, and the American Red Cross.

Special thanks to the organizations below for their generous financial support, which made this printing possible.



Visit **Hurricane.sc** to find your updated evacuation zone and begin your hurricane safety plan. The South Carolina Hurricane Guide and additional resources are available online at **Hurricane.sc**, your trusted source for hurricane preparedness.

For up-to-date information, rely on verified sources like **scemd.org** and **Hurricane.sc** to make informed decisions and avoid rumors or misinformation.