

# SOUTH CAROLINA HURRICANE GUIDE

## Inside

- Know Your Zone
- Emergency Alert Information
- Coastal Evacuation Maps
- Important Phone Numbers
- How to Stay #Connected

This Guide is Valid from June 1st through November 30.



[scemd.org](http://scemd.org)



# KNOW

## What is a Hurricane?

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone with winds that have reached a constant speed of 74 miles per hour or higher. Hurricane winds blow in a large spiral around a relative calm center known as the "eye." As a hurricane nears land, it can bring torrential rains, high winds, and storm surges. The storm surge and heavy rains can lead to flooding. 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 the interaction between tropical oceans and the 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.

## Watches and Warnings

### Tropical Storm Watch:

An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are *possible* within the specified area.

### Hurricane Watch:

An announcement that hurricane conditions are *possible* within the specified area.

Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, **watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.**

*Action:* During a watch, prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation in case a Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning is issued. Listen closely to instructions from local officials.

### Tropical Storm Warning:

An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are *expected* within the specified area.

### Hurricane Warning:

An announcement that hurricane conditions are *expected* within the specified area.

Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, **warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.**

*Action:* During a warning, complete storm preparations and immediately leave the threatened area if directed by local officials.

### Extreme Wind Warning:

Extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane (115 mph or greater), 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.

Additional Watches and Warnings may be issued to provide detailed information on specific threats such as floods and tornadoes. Local National Weather Service offices issue Flash Flood/Flood Watches and Warnings as well as Tornado Warnings.

## 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.



scemd.org

Get all this information and more online.



# EMERGENCY ALERT

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	Aiken/Augusta	SC Public Radio
WIWF 96.9 FM	WBBQ 104.3 FM	WLTR 91.3 FM (Columbia)
WEZL 103.5 FM	WEKL 105.7 FM	WSCI 89.3 FM (Charleston)
Grand Strand	Columbia	WRJA 88.1 FM (Sumter/Columbia)
WYAV 104.1 FM	WCOS 97.5 FM	WNSC 88.9 FM (Rock Hill)
WLFF 106.5 FM	WTCB 106.7 FM	WJWJ 89.9 FM (Beaufort/Hilton Head)
Florence	York	WEPR 90.1 FM (Greenville/Spartanburg)
WJMX 103.3 FM	WRHI 1340 AM	WHMC 90.1 FM (Conway/Myrtle Beach)
WYNN 106.3 FM	WRHM 107.1 FM	WLJK 89.1 FM (Aiken)
Upstate	WNSC 88.9 FM	
WFBC 93.7 FM		
WESC 92.5 FM		



# INSURANCE

From the S.C. Department of Insurance:

1. Review your insurance policy so that you know if you have adequate coverage.
2. Be sure to understand the difference between replacement cost and actual cash value.
3. Know your policy's deductibles and the procedures to take when property is damaged or destroyed.
4. A standard homeowners or renters policy does not cover damage from flood; you will need to purchase a separate flood insurance policy. Please visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) for additional information.
5. Take an inventory of your property. Make a list of valuables, furniture, electronics, etc. Take pictures of your property with your mobile device so you can have a visual inventory.
6. Develop an emergency plan that will prepare you in case you need to evacuate your home or take shelter.
7. If you do evacuate, carry your important documents with you. These should include a copy of your insurance policies and the contact information for your insurance agent and company.
8. When a hurricane or severe storm is imminent, remove objects that may be blown by the wind. These include lawn furniture, garbage cans and other items. Protect window openings with storm shutters and turn off utilities.
9. Should you experience damage or loss due to a severe weather event, contact your insurance agent or company as soon as possible.
10. Secure your property and make temporary repairs to protect it from further damage. Be careful when inspecting your property as fallen debris can be hazardous. Be sure to keep all receipts for materials used for repairs.



# NOAA WEATHER RADIO

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

Ways to Save on Insurance Costs:

Catastrophe Savings Accounts are state income tax free-savings accounts that allow the homeowner to set aside funds to pay for qualified expenses such as deductibles. Insurance premium discounts for homes that have been made more storm resistant. Retrofits include storm shutters, roof tie-downs, and reinforced garage doors among others. State income tax credits are available for property owners who purchase supplies to retrofit and make their homes more resistant to hurricanes and severe storms.

For additional information, please visit, [www.doi.sc.gov](http://www.doi.sc.gov). You may also call the Department's Office of Consumer Services toll-free number, 1-800-768-3467.



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## PREPARE

## Hide from the wind...

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale estimates potential property damage based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major because of their potential for significant loss of life and property damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous, and require preventative measures.

## Category 1


**Category 1: Very Dangerous Winds will Produce Some Damage**

**Winds:** 74-95 mph

Buildings could have damage to roof, siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles can result in power outages that could last for several days.

## Category 2


**Category 2: Extremely Dangerous Winds will Cause Extensive Damage**

**Winds:** 96-110 mph

Buildings could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.

## Category 3


**Category 3: Devastating Damage will Occur**

**Winds:** 111-129 mph

Buildings may sustain major damage, including loss of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.

## Category 4


**Category 4: Catastrophic Damage**

**Winds:** 130-156 mph

Buildings can sustain severe damage with loss of roof structure and some exterior walls. Trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed, isolating residential areas.

**Catastrophic Damage:** Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area may be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

## Category 5


**Category 5: Catastrophic Damage**

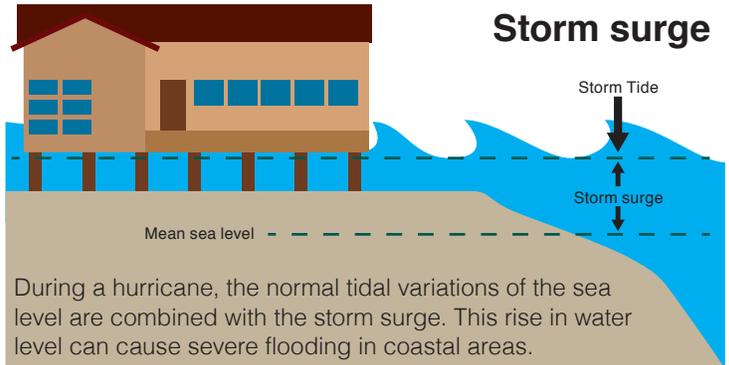
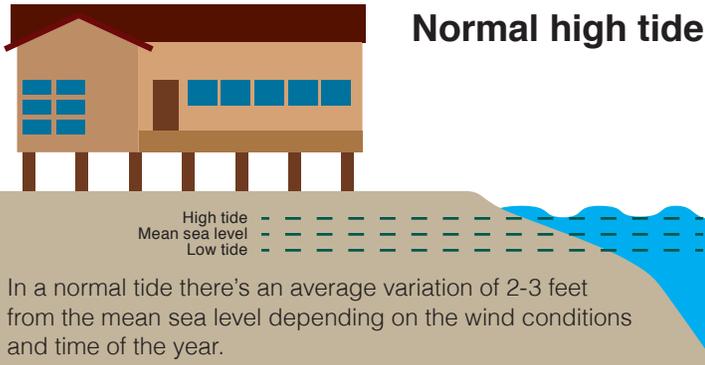
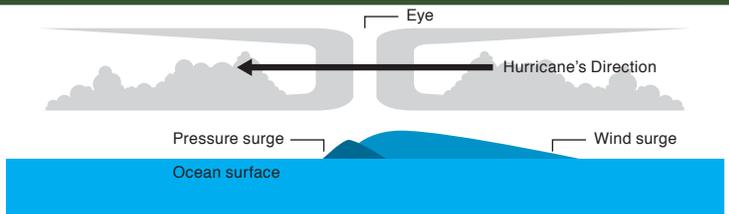
**Winds:** More than 157 mph

A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas.

**Catastrophic Damage:** Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area may be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

## ...and run from the water.

Storm surge is a dome of 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.



## HURRICANE NAMES

2 0 1 6	Alex	Hermine	Otto
	Bonnie	Ian	Paula
	Colin	Julia	Richard
	Danielle	Karl	Shary
	Earl	Lisa	Tobias
	Fiona	Matthew	Virginie
Gaston	Nicole	Walter	
2 0 1 7	Arlene	Harvey	Ophelia
	Bret	Irene	Philippe
	Cindy	Jose	Rina
	Don	Katia	Sean
	Emily	Lee	Tammy
	Franklin	Maria	Vince
	Gert	Nate	Whitney

In the event that more than 21 named hurricanes occur in the Atlantic in a season, additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, etc.

## PHONE NUMBERS

Public Information Phone System (PIPS)  
1-866-246-0133  
(Only activated when needed. Spanish interpreters available.)

American Red Cross  
1-866-438-4636

Dept. of Transportation (Traffic Information)  
1-888-877-9151

S.C. 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

In the event of a hurricane, go to [scemd.org](http://scemd.org) for up-to-date information.

## POWER POINTERS

- If you see a downed power line, do not touch it. Do not touch tree limbs or other objects touching a power line.
- Do not attempt to tie generators into the house circuit. This can be dangerous to you, your neighbors and to linemen. Plug appliances directly into the generator.
- Should the power go out while you are cooking, remember to turn the stove off and remove any cookware from the cooking surfaces and oven.
- Don't open refrigerators or freezers during an outage unless absolutely necessary. Repeated openings cause the cold air to escape and food to thaw more quickly.
- If you smell gas, leave your home immediately. Then call the power company.

Start preparing for a power outage now. Visit [scemd.org](http://scemd.org) to find a list of all power utilities serving South Carolina complete with their outage reporting information.





# 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 all 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.



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



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



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 [scemd.org](http://scemd.org) or [fema.gov](http://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/or 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.

## Start planning today. Stay alert. Stay alive.



# WEBSITES

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](http://scemd.org)

### Traffic Information

Department of Public Safety/Traffic  
[sctrffic.org](http://sctrffic.org)

### Traffic Cameras

Department of Transportation  
[scdot.org](http://scdot.org)

National Hurricane Center  
[nhc.noaa.gov](http://nhc.noaa.gov)

### Other Useful Sites

American Red Cross  
[redcross.org](http://redcross.org)

American Red Cross Safe and Well  
[redcross.org/safeandwell](http://redcross.org/safeandwell)

S.C. Web Site  
[sc.gov](http://sc.gov)

S.C. Salvation Army  
[doingthemostgood.org](http://doingthemostgood.org)

S.C. Educational TV and Radio  
[myetv.org](http://myetv.org)  
[etvradio.org](http://etvradio.org)

S.C. Insurance News Service  
[scinsnews.com](http://scinsnews.com)

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
[fema.gov](http://fema.gov)

Animal Emergencies  
[clemson.edu/lph](http://clemson.edu/lph)  
[scav.org](http://scav.org)



# PREPARING 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 evacuation zone. 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.
- Counties may have a temporary emergency shelter for pets, but not all are in place.
- The following are the best options for potential refuge sites: Boarding facilities, veterinary clinics, pet-friendly hotels, stables for horses or small livestock, 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 and ID tags on collar. It may be helpful to have photos of yourself with your animals to prove ownership if you become separated.
- 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  
S.C. Department of Agriculture  
803-734-2200

S.C. Association of Veterinarians  
1-800-441-7228 or 803-254-1027  
S.C. Animal Care and Control  
803-776-7387

## Websites

clemson.edu/LPH/emergencypreparedness  
scav.org  
scacca.org  
avma.org



# SAFE AND WELL

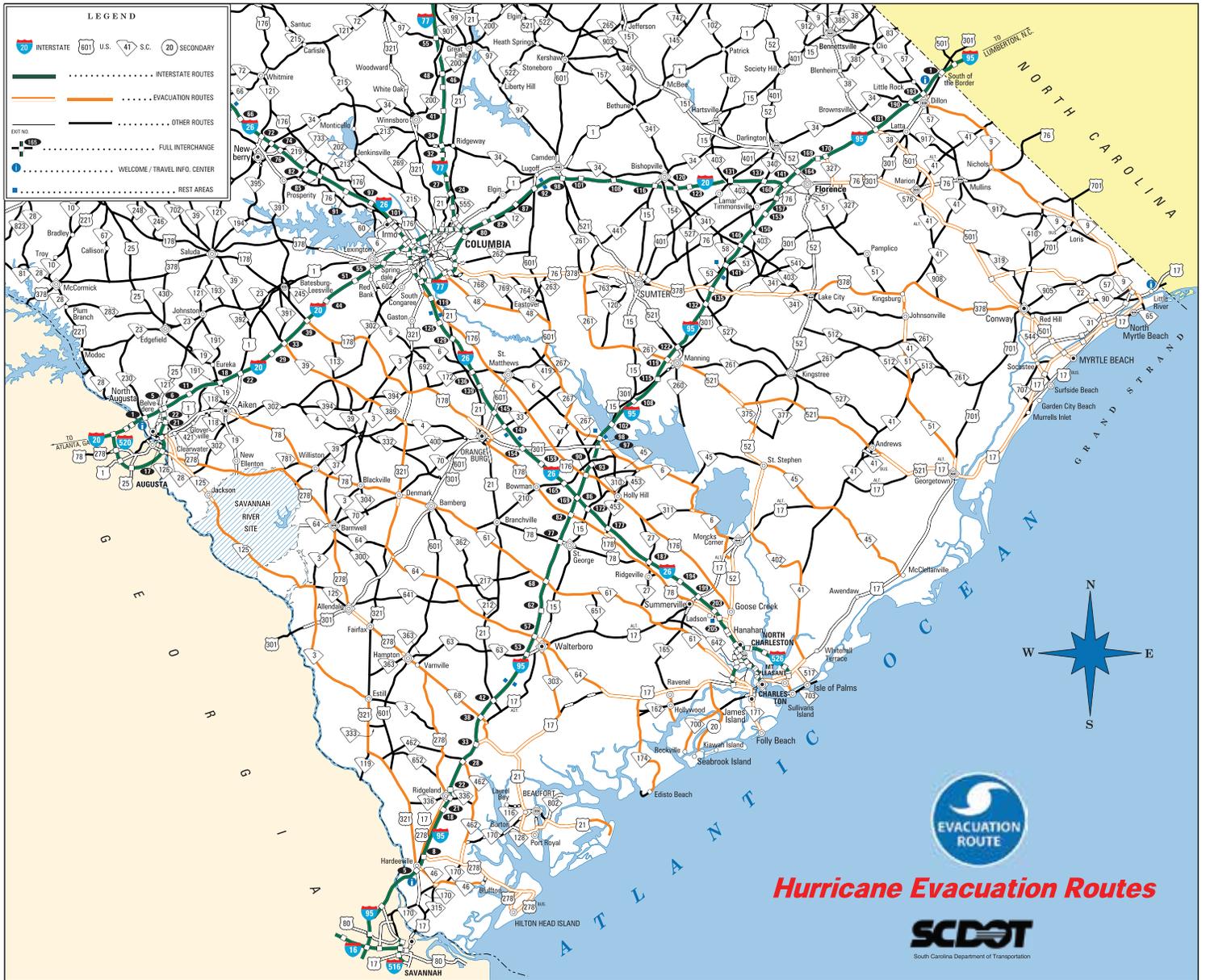
## Free Service Offers Way to Contact Next of Kin



The American Red Cross Safe and Well website ([redcross.org/safeandwell](http://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 worried loved ones.

# 6 EVACUATE





# EVACUATION ROUTES & 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

- Use SC 700 to Main Road (S-20) 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, and SC 389 to I-20.
- 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 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.

### Daniel Island

- Evacuees will use I-526 or Clements Ferry Road as conditions warrant.

## 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 traffic from the toll facility 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.

### 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.



# COMMUNICATING DURING AN EMERGENCY

Know what type of landline phone service you have. Some newer forms of telephone service, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP), will not work without electric power.

- If you have a newer phone service that works with battery backup equipment during outages, test the battery periodically.
- If you have traditional telephone service, it may work during power outages, but you may need to use a 'corded' phone. Many cordless home phones rely on electricity.

Charge your cell phone, laptop and mobile devices if a storm is approaching South Carolina. If electricity goes out but secure WiFi is available in your community, you may be able to use your mobile devices to access online information and send emails. You may also be able to use the battery power in these devices to recharge your cell phone.

Broadcasters are an important source of news during emergencies. Keep a battery-operated, solar-powered or hand-crank-operated radio or television for use during power outages.

Limit non-emergency phone calls. Keep calls brief to minimize network congestion during a large-scale emergency. Wait at least 10 seconds before redialing a call.

For non-emergencies, try text messaging from your cell phone. Text messages may go through when your call won't.

Adjust your mobile device settings to conserve battery power. Check the brightness of your display screen and disable certain applications.

Call 911 only for emergencies.

If you are asked to evacuate, consider forwarding your home landline calls to your cell phone.

If you are using your car to charge your mobile devices or listen to the radio, be careful about carbon monoxide emissions which can be deadly.

For more information visit [fcc.gov](http://fcc.gov).

Mobile applications on your devices can help you record emergency information, search for available shelters and stay connected to life-safety information. Visit [scemd.org](http://scemd.org) for an updated list of free mobile apps for emergency use.





## SEEKING SHELTER



## PREPARING YOUR BUSINESS

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: General Population and Special Medical Needs shelters (SMNS).



Only individuals with special medical needs and their caregivers will be admitted to SMNS. In the event of a major disaster, monitor local media. 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.

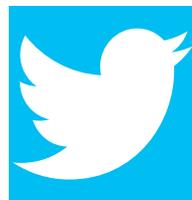
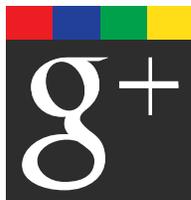
According to the Institute for Business and Home Safety, an estimated 25 percent of businesses do not reopen following a major disaster. Businesses located along the South Carolina coast are not the only ones that could be affected by a hurricane or any other tropical storm system. Inland businesses 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, [scemd.org](http://scemd.org).



## STAY CONNECTED DURING AN #EMERGENCY

You can stay connected with us through your favorite social media pages! SCEMD will send out emergency alerts, disaster preparedness tips and other useful information through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other sites. We are always examining different social media outlets as new potential ways of reaching as many people as possible during an emergency. You can find links to all of SCEMD's social media feeds by visiting our website, [scemd.org](http://scemd.org) or by an online search for "@SCEMD".

@SCEMD

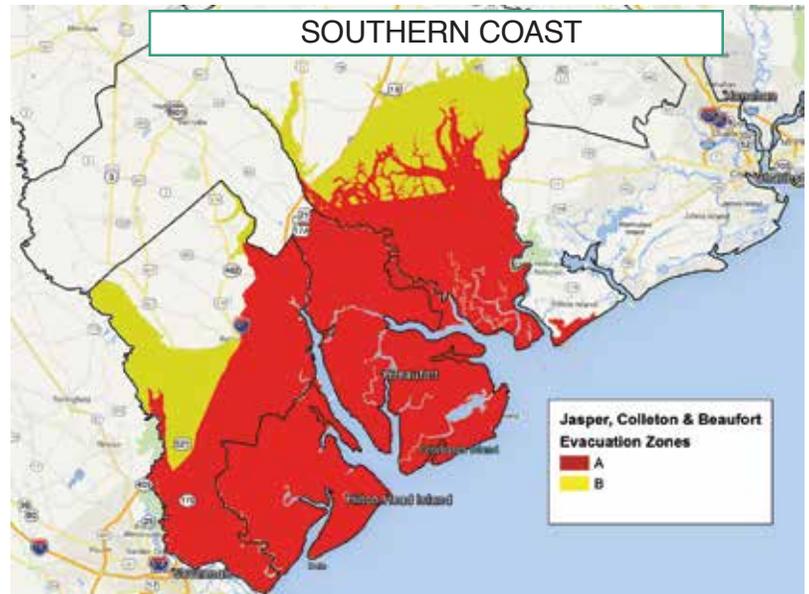
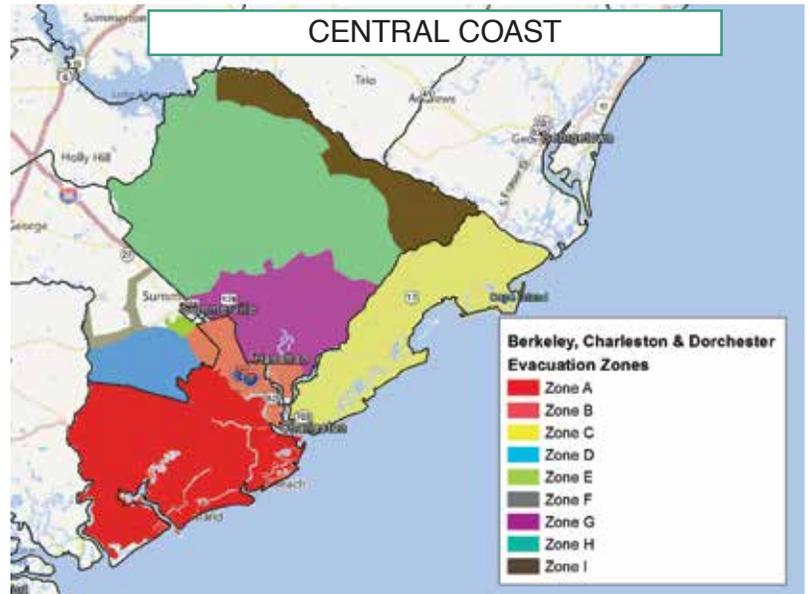
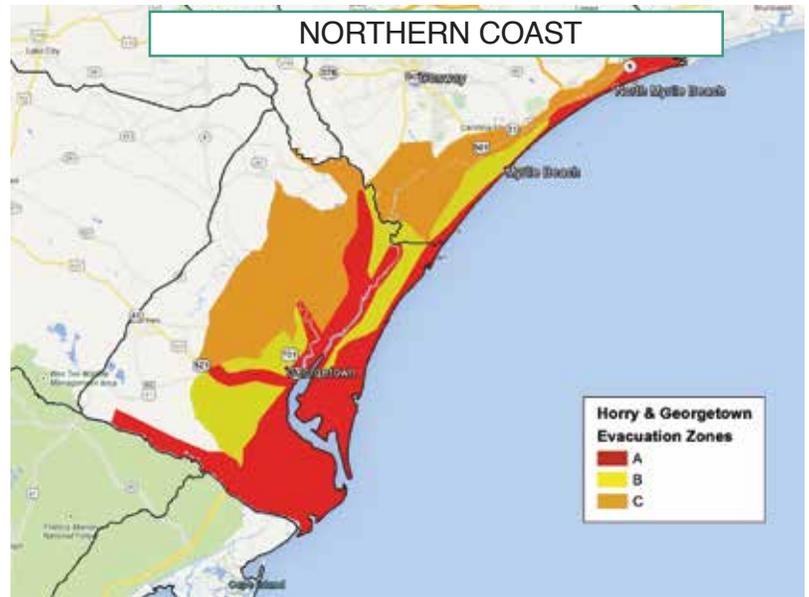


Local authorities will announce evacuations by these designated zones.

For more information visit the “Know Your Zone” page at [scemd.org](http://scemd.org).

Approximately 35 percent of residents are unaware of the evacuation zone they live in and many dismiss the threat posed by storm surge entirely, according to a recent study by the University of South Carolina Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute. Use these maps to help you identify the correct evacuation zone and make plans to evacuate prior to landfall of a hurricane.

These close-up maps of the South Carolina coast show areas that are subject to possible evacuation based on factors including 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.



## BEFORE

### Be prepared

Contact your local emergency management office to help determine your vulnerability. Storm surge may extend beyond 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 most 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.

### 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:

- "South Carolina Hurricane Guide"
- Non-perishable food (including canned goods)
- Drinking water (two gallons 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

### 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 may 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 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. Do not drive around barriers
- Check gas, water, and appliances. Visually inspect electrical lines for damage.
- Avoid using candles and other open flames indoors. Use a flashlight to inspect damage.
- Report life-threatening emergencies only.



# 6 SOUTH CAROLINA HURRICANE GUIDE

This Hurricane Guide was compiled and produced by the S.C. Emergency Management Division as a public service in coordination with state, federal, local and volunteer agencies, including the S.C. Department of Public Safety, the S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs, Clemson University Extension Service, the S.C. Department of Insurance, the National Weather Service, the S.C. Broadcasters Association, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross, the S.C. Department of Transportation, and others.

Special appreciation goes to the agencies and organizations listed below that provided monetary contributions in support of this printing.



**In the event of a hurricane, log on to [scemd.org](http://scemd.org) for up-to-date information.**

All information contained in this guide is subject to change depending on storm conditions.