

2017

# SOUTH CAROLINA HURRICANE GUIDE

## Inside

- Hurricane Preparation Tips
- Know Your Zone
- Coastal Evacuation Maps
- Emergency Information
- Returning Home



SCEMD

**SAVE:** This guide is valid from June 1 until November 30, 2017.



## The Terms

Terms and definitions to be better prepared for Hurricane Season.

### Hurricane

An intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.

### Tropical Storm

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

### Tropical Depression

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

### Storm Surge

This large dome of water often 50 to 100 miles wide sweeps ashore near where a hurricane strikes land and typically accounts for nine of ten storm deaths. A surge of up to 15 feet or more can cause severe flooding and damage along the coast, particularly when the storm surge coincides with normal high tides.

### Tornadoes

Even though a hurricane or tropical storm weakens as it moves inland, it can produce deadly and damaging tornadoes.

### Flooding

Typically, hurricanes bring heavy rains which can compound drainage problems in areas experiencing storm surge flooding. Rainfall totals of 10 inches or more are not uncommon when a tropical storm or hurricane moves across a coastal location. Over land, torrential rain may continue even after the wind has diminished which could easily result in destructive flash flooding and river flooding.

## WATCHES AND WARNINGS



Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the National Hurricane Center issues watches 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. The NHC issues warnings 36 hours in advance of the predicted onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

### Storm Surge Watch

The possibility of life-threatening rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 48 hours and in association with a tropical storm. The watch may be issued earlier when other conditions, such as the onset of tropical-storm-force winds, are expected to limit the time available to take protective actions for surge (e.g., evacuations). The watch may also be issued for locations not expected to receive life threatening inundation, but which could potentially be isolated by inundation in adjacent areas.

### 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.

**Action:** 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.

### Storm Surge Warning

The actual danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 36 hours, in association with a tropical, subtropical or post-tropical cyclone.

### 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.

**Action:** During a warning, finish storm preparations and immediately leave the threatened area if directed by local officials. Have a plan for where you will stay such as a hotel, shelter or loved ones.

### 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.

# EMERGENCY ALERT



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

Charleston	Aiken/Augusta	SC Public Radio
WJWF 96.9 FM	WBBQ 104.3 FM	WLTR 91.3 FM (Columbia)
WEZL 103.5 FM	WLUB 105.7 FM	WSCI 89.3 FM (Charleston)
<b>Grand Strand</b>	<b>Columbia</b>	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)
<b>Florence</b>	<b>York</b>	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)
<b>Upstate</b>	WNSC 88.9 FM	
WFBC 93.7 FM		
WESC 92.5 FM		

# 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	162.400 162.550 162.500 162.550	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	162.475 162.550 162.475
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		

# 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. Visit [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov) for more information.
5. Make a property inventory list of valuables, furniture, electronics, etc. Take pictures of your property with your mobile device so you can have a visual record of your belongings.
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.
8. When a hurricane or severe storm is imminent, remove outdoor objects like lawn furniture and garbage cans that may be blown by the wind. Protect window openings with storm shutters.
9. If your home is damaged in a severe storm, contact your insurance 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.

## 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 are available 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 questions and additional information, please visit [doi.sc.gov](http://doi.sc.gov) or call the department's Office of Consumer Services toll-free number, 1-800-768-3467.

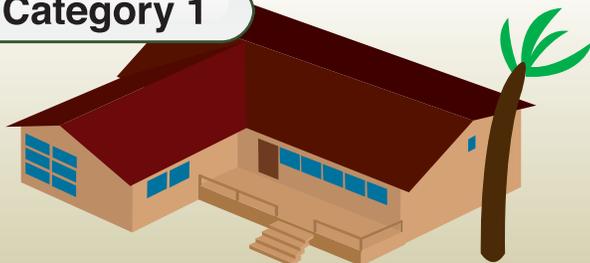
# PREPARE



## 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.

# 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.



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 like batteries for hearing aids and similar devices, extra oxygen tanks, electrical backups for medical equipment and special dietary requirements.

# 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)

**Storm Information**  
National Hurricane Center  
[hurricanes.gov](http://hurricanes.gov)

## Other Useful Sites

South Carolina's Official Homepage  
[sc.gov](http://sc.gov)

S.C. Department of Education (NEW)  
[ed.sc.gov](http://ed.sc.gov)

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

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

S.C. Educational TV  
[scetv.org](http://scetv.org)

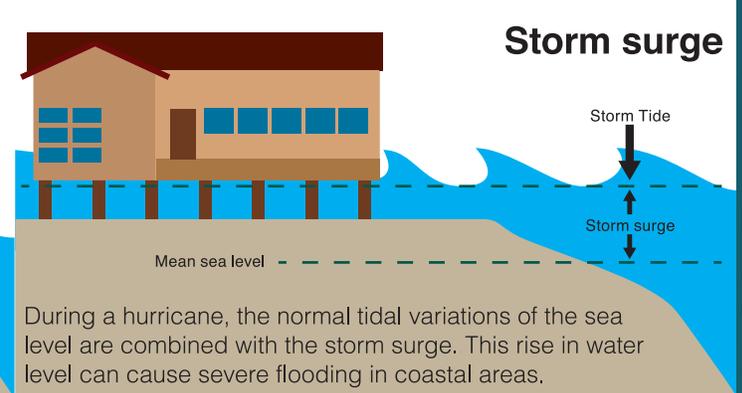
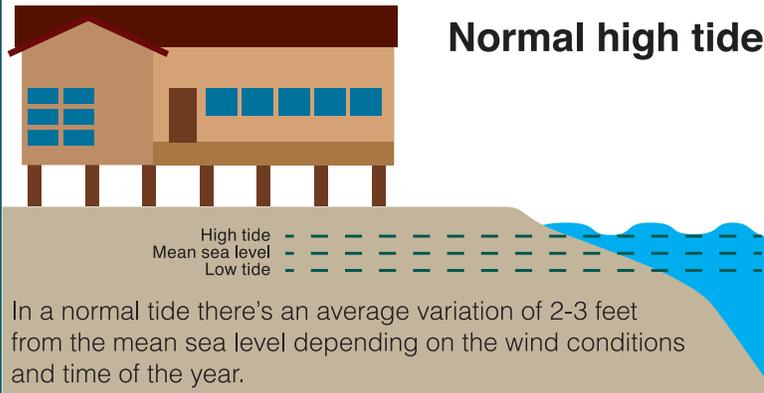
SC Public Radio  
[scpublicradio.org](http://scpublicradio.org)

Department of Insurance  
[doi.sc.gov](http://doi.sc.gov)

FEMA  
[fema.gov](http://fema.gov)  
[ready.gov](http://ready.gov)

## ...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

2017	Arlene	Harvey	Ophelia
	Bret	Irene	Philippe
	Cindy	Jose	Rina
	Don	Katia	Sean
	Emily	Lee	Tammy
	Franklin	Maria	Vince
	Gert	Nate	Whitney
2018	Alberto	Helene	Oscar
	Beryl	Isaac	Patty
	Chris	Joyce	Rafael
	Debby	Kirk	Sara
	Ernesto	Leslie	Tony
	Florence	Michael	Valerie
	Gordon	Nadine	William

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
  - SC Department of Insurance  
1-803-768-3467
- 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.**



# 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.**

- Evacuate (with your pet) outside of the evacuation zone. Resources in these areas will be limited, 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, treatment, temporary shelter and care, and reunification.



**Animal rescue may not be possible immediately after a hurricane.**



**Have photos of you and your pet in case you are separated during a storm.**

## AFTER

- When returning home, check 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.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet may become confused and lost. Watch your animals closely. The behavior of pets may change after an emergency. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard with shelter and water.

## OTHER RESOURCES

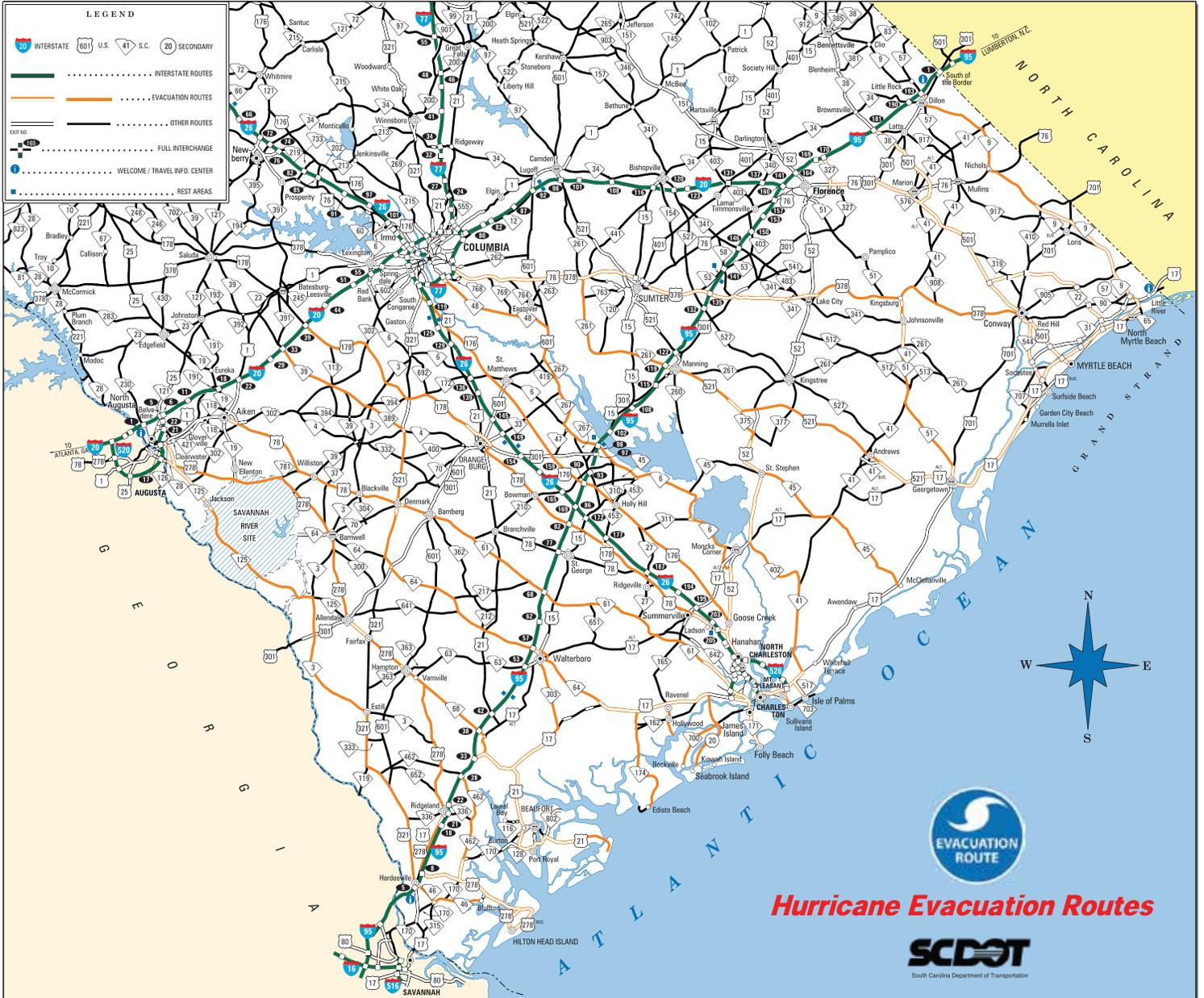
Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health  
803-788-2260 | [clemson.edu/LPH/emergencypreparedness](http://clemson.edu/LPH/emergencypreparedness)

S.C. Department of Agriculture  
803-734-2200 | [agriculture.sc.org](http://agriculture.sc.org)

S.C. Association of Veterinarians  
1-800-441-7228 | [scav.org](http://scav.org)

S.C. Animal Care and Control  
803-776-7387 | [scacca.org](http://scacca.org)

# 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,

- 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 then 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

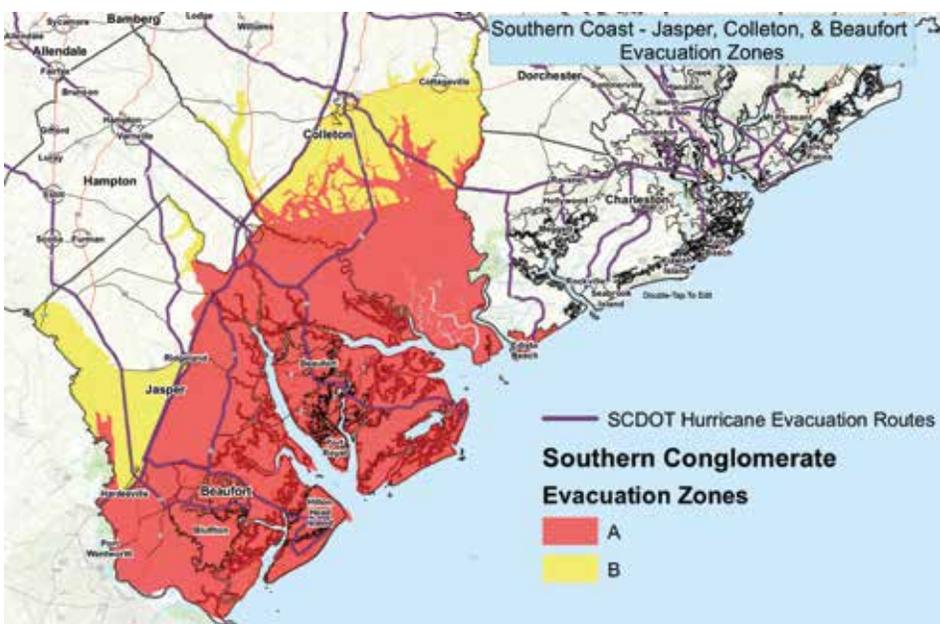
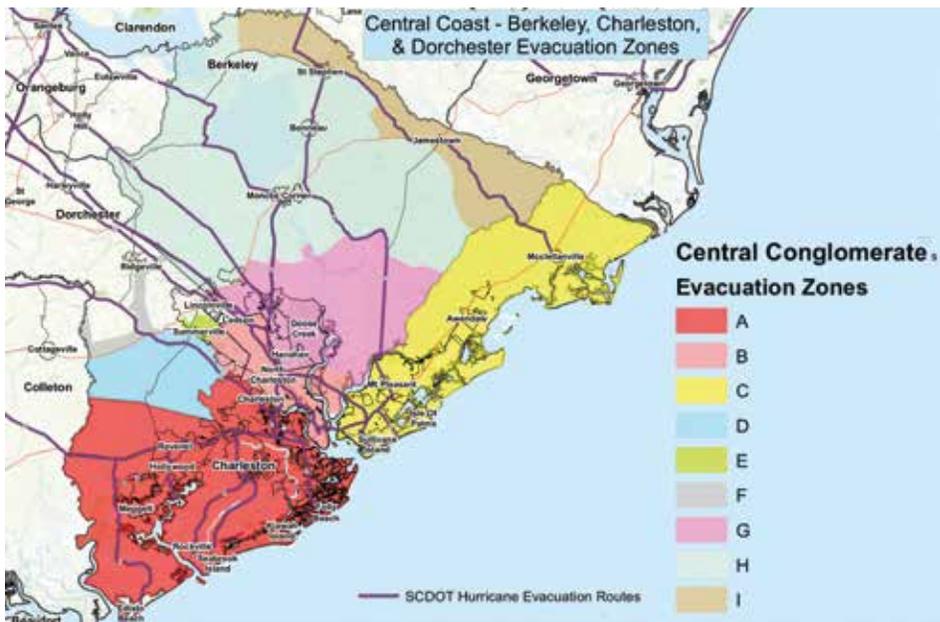
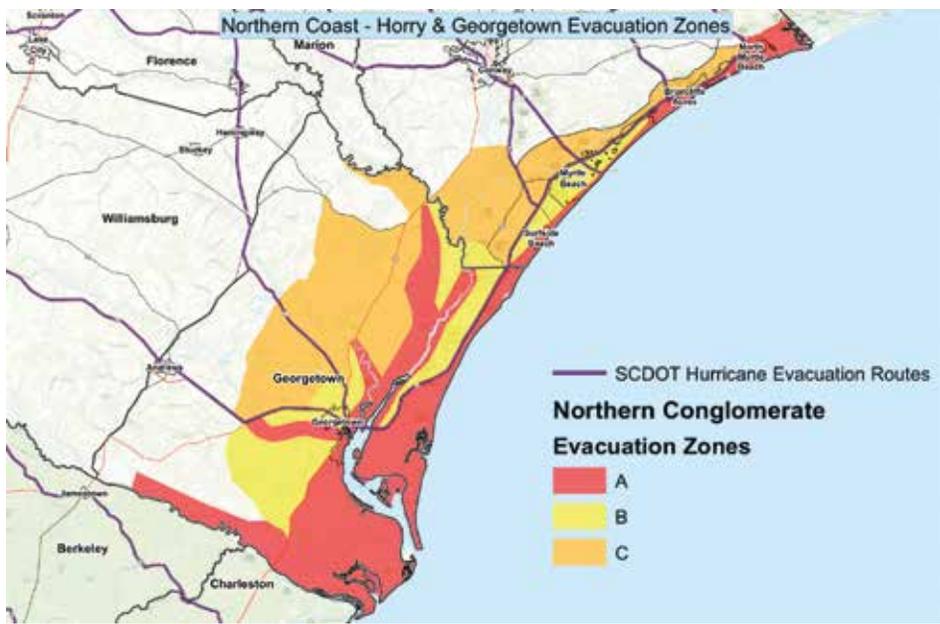
- Evacuees leaving Mount Pleasant will take I-526 or US 17 south to I-26.
- Those leaving Sullivan's Island will use SC 703 to I-526 Business to access I-526, then I-26.
- Evacuees from the Isle of Palms will use the Isle of Palms connector (SC 517) to go to US 17, where the right lane will turn north 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 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.



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.

**Local authorities will announce evacuations by these designated zones. For more information visit the “Know Your Zone” page at [scemd.org](http://scemd.org).**



# EVACUATION ACTIONS



## BEFORE

### *Be Prepared*

Contact your local emergency management office to help determine your vulnerability to a hurricane. 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 hotel or with family and friends 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.
- 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.
- Charge your cell phone and mobile devices. (Have an extra charger for your phone, etc.)



In addition to the items listed in your Basic Disaster Supplies Kit, also carry road maps, jumper cables and a tire repair kit.

## ON THE ROAD

### *Leave early. Take your time.*

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.

## DURING

### *Protect Yourself*

- Stay tuned to your local television and radio stations for emergency information. Keep a battery-operated, solar-powered or hand-crank-operated radio or television for use during power outages.
- Stay inside a well-constructed building away from windows and doors, even if they are covered. Go to an interior first-floor room, 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.
- Limit non-emergency calls. Keep calls brief to minimize network congestion. Wait at least 10 seconds before redialing a call. For non-emergencies, try text messaging from your mobile device.
- Once the storm passes, be patient. You will most likely not be able to return home right away.

## BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT CHECKLIST

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

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> "South Carolina Hurricane Guide"             | <input type="checkbox"/> Bedding and clothing for each family member               | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush, toothpaste   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight(s) with extra batteries.          | <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets and towels                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap, shampoo and personal hygiene items   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portable radio with extra batteries          | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic dishes/eating utensils                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of important documents  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra charger for your mobile devices        | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Jackets/pants  | <input type="checkbox"/> Driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, medical records, family pictures, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOAA Weather Radio                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen/sunglasses/mosquito repellent                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash, enough to fill up your vehicle with gas  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable food for at least 3 days      | <input type="checkbox"/> Baby supplies (food, diapers, medication)                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled water (2 gallons per person per day) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet supplies (food, leash & carrier, vaccination records) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit with prescription medications  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary supplies   |   |

## SEEKING SHELTER



**Emergency shelters are the place of last resort. Cots and blankets may not be provided in the shelter before the storm.**

Emergency shelters may be opened should a hurricane approach South Carolina. Before heading to a public shelter, first consider staying with family and friends or in a hotel out of the evacuated area. If those options are unavailable, the American Red Cross will provide a safe place to stay when you have no other place to go. Cots and blankets will only be provided in the public shelter after hurricane conditions subside. 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 Disaster Supplies Kit, PLUS:

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

During an evacuation, pay attention to emergency alerts via media and road signs for information about the nearest open shelter in case you need it.

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



**Certify your business to assist with post-disaster reentry before the next storm. The process is free and simple. Go to the business and industry section at SCEMD's website at [scemd.org](http://scemd.org) to register your business today. Email us at [businessreentry@emd.sc.gov](mailto:businessreentry@emd.sc.gov) if you have questions.**

## STAY CONNECTED DURING A #HURRICANE VIA @SCEMD



During a major disaster, there will be a lot of online information. Some information will be accurate while other sources can be misleading. You may check your local town or county's website or official, verified social media channels to find resources such as advisories on shelters, routes, detours and road closures, ways to return home and storm clean-up information. You can use social media from your mobile device to post your status to let family and friends know you are safe. In addition to Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and others, you can use resources such as the American Red Cross's Safe and Well Program ([safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php](http://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php)).



SCEMD offers statewide updates on Twitter by following [@SCEMD](https://twitter.com/SCEMD) and [facebook.com/SCEMD](https://facebook.com/SCEMD) on Facebook. Be sure to frequently check SCEMD's main website, [scemd.org](http://scemd.org), and other official sites to stay alert and informed.



But remember, while social media is a great tool to stay informed, you should always **call 9-1-1 if you find yourself in a life-threatening emergency.**

# RETURNING HOME



If you have evacuated, some areas may be inaccessible even after the official evacuation order is rescinded. **Return home only after local authorities advise it is safe to do so.** Keep tuned to your local radio and TV stations and monitor social media for recovery information.

## Avoid downed and sagging power lines.

- Report them immediately to the power company, police or fire department.

## Be alert for driving restrictions.

- Avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges and roadways.
- Follow directions provided by public safety officials.

## Enter your home with caution.

- Beware of snakes, insects and other animals driven to higher ground by floodwater.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- Do not use candles or open flames indoors. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

## Inspect the utilities in your home.

- **Check for gas leaks.** If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can. Call the gas company from a neighbor's home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.
- **Look for electrical system damage.** If you see sparks, or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.
- **Check for sewage and water line damage.** If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid water from the tap.



**Never try to move or drive around barricades.**



**Local officials will provide information about how you can properly dispose of storm debris and damaged property.**

## Take pictures.

Photos of the damage will help in filing insurance claims. Contact your insurance claims agent as soon as possible.

## Let a relative know you are home.

Tell them how to get in touch with you, especially if phone service is out.

## Monitor the radio, TV and social media.

Learn how to apply for possible assistance and how to receive further official information.



# 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 S.C. Department of Natural Resources, 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.