

2021

# HURRICANE GUIDE

## SOUTH CAROLINA




*visit [hurricane.sc](http://hurricane.sc)*



# KNOW

## WATCHES & WARNINGS...

Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the **National Hurricane Center** issues watches and warnings for specific areas of danger. Additional watches and warnings may be issued by local **National Weather Service** offices to provide detailed information on specific threats such as flash floods, floods, and tornadoes.

<p><b>STORM SURGE:</b> </p> <p><i>life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline</i></p>	<p>ISSUED <b>48</b> HOURS IN ADVANCE OF <b>ANTICIPATED ONSET</b></p>	<p>ISSUED <b>36</b> HOURS IN ADVANCE OF <b>PREDICTED ONSET</b></p>
	<b>WATCHES</b>	<b>WARNINGS</b>
	STORM SURGE WATCH <i>danger is possible</i>	STORM SURGE WARNING <i>danger is expected</i>
<p><b>TROPICAL STORM:</b> </p> <p><i>an organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph</i></p>	TROPICAL STORM WATCH <i>conditions are possible</i>	TROPICAL STORM WARNING <i>conditions are expected</i>
<p><b>HURRICANE:</b> </p> <p><i>winds that have reached a constant speed of 74 mph or higher and blow in a large spiral around a relative calm center known as the "eye"</i></p>	HURRICANE WATCH <i>conditions are possible</i>	HURRICANE WARNING <i>conditions are expected</i>

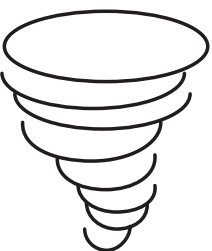
**HURRICANE HAZARDS**

Hurricanes and tropical storms not only threaten South Carolina's coast but **ALL areas of our state**. It's important for **ALL South Carolinians** to prepare for hurricane season.

- 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.
- ACTION:**
- Finish storm preparations and immediately leave the threatened area if directed by local officials.
  - Have a plan for where you will stay such as with family or friends, at a hotel or at a shelter.



- HURRICANES and tropical storms often produce widespread, torrential rains in excess of 6 inches, which may result in deadly and destructive floods. In fact, flooding is the major threat from tropical cyclones for people living inland.



- WINDS from a hurricane can destroy buildings and manufactured homes. Outdoor items and debris can become projectiles in high winds.
- TORNADOES can accompany hurricanes and tropical storms. The most tornadoes spawned by a single tropical cyclone were associated with Hurricane Ivan, which spawned 120 tornadoes in 2004.

**EXTREME WIND WARNING**

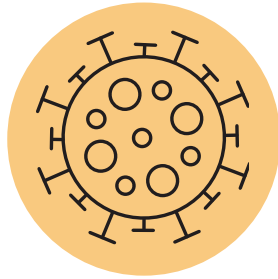
*extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane (115 mph or greater), usually associated with the eyewall, are expected to begin within an hour*

**ACTION:**

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

# COVID-19

COVID-19 is a contagious respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus. People with COVID-19 have had symptoms that range from mild to severe illness. **Get a COVID-19 vaccine to protect yourself.**



Update your emergency plans to reduce your risk of COVID-19 during storms. During a hurricane, first protect yourself from the storm. Make plans for a safe place to stay if a storm will likely impact you or your home. Stay with friends or family or at a hotel not in the storm's path. Once you are in a safe place, do what you can to prevent COVID-19. Add face masks, soap and hand sanitizer, and tissues to your emergency kit. Wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet from people who don't live with you.

The danger of a hurricane can be a life-threatening situation. Follow guidance from emergency officials and take COVID-19 health precautions.

# SCETV WEATHER

Residents in South Carolina can now use a new emergency information service launched by South Carolina ETV and Public Radio.

Called **SCETVwx**, this new, story-telling based service is achieved through a partnership with WUFT and provides heightened hurricane, tropical storm, and other weather-related emergency content to S.C. residents and visitors across the state.

This collaboration builds on SCETV's existing relationships with state emergency agencies and adds to the unique meteorological services of WUFT.

## TRACK UPDATES

online: **SCETV.org/weather**

social **@SCETV**

media: **@SCPpublicRadio**

Twitter &  
Facebook **#SCETVwx**

# EMERGENCY ALERTS

Everyone should have multiple ways to get emergency alerts, ways that can actually tell you what's happening and what you need to do. Those include Wireless Emergency Alerts on your mobile devices, NOAA Weather Radios, and local broadcast TV or radio. Do not rely on just one way to receive emergency information.

If you'd like additional types of public safety notifications delivered to you, sign up for **CodeRED** alerts. You can select what types of alerts to receive and by what method, be it a voice phone call, text message, or email.

**You can register for CodeRED alerts for free through the SCEMD website [scemd.org](https://scemd.org).**



# IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**S.C. Emergency Management Division (SCEMD)**  
[scemd.org](https://scemd.org)

**Public Information Phone System (PIPS)**  
1-866-246-0133  
*Only activated as needed / Spanish interpreters available*

**S.C. Department of Public Safety**  
Emergency Traffic Network | <https://scdps.sc.gov>

**National Hurricane Center (NHC)**  
[hurricanes.gov](https://hurricanes.gov)

**The Official Website of the State of S.C.**  
[sc.gov](https://sc.gov)

**S.C. Department of Insurance**  
[doi.sc.gov](https://doi.sc.gov) ▪ 803-737-6160 ▪ 803-768-3467

**American Red Cross**  
[redcross.org](https://redcross.org) ▪ 1-866-438-4636

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**  
[fema.gov](https://fema.gov) ▪ [ready.gov](https://ready.gov)

**SCDHEC CareLine**  
1-855-472-3432

**S.C. Salvation Army**  
[doingthemoostgood.org](https://doingthemoostgood.org) ▪ 704-522-4970

**S.C. Department of Transportation**  
[scdot.org](https://scdot.org) ▪ 855-GO-SCDOT ▪ 855-467-2368

# 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.



## STORM LEVEL



## DAMAGE



## WINDS



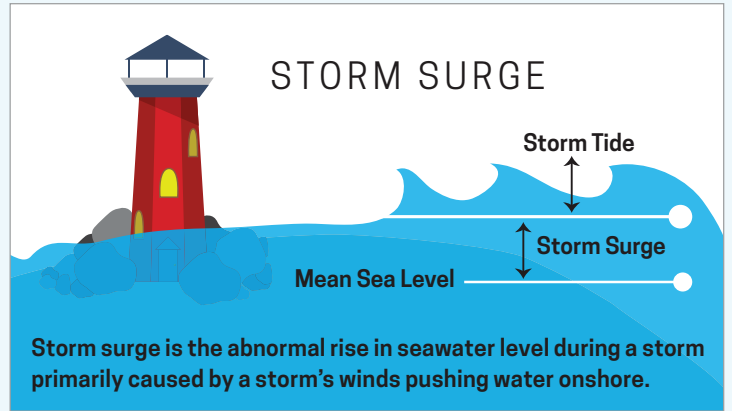
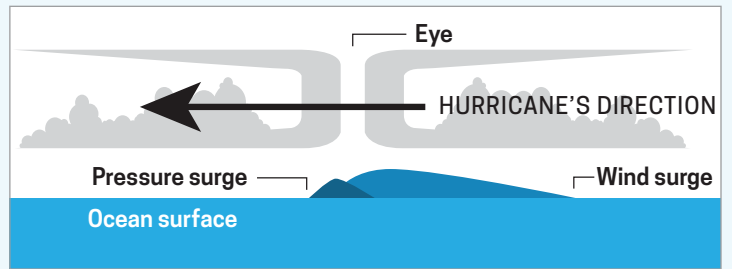
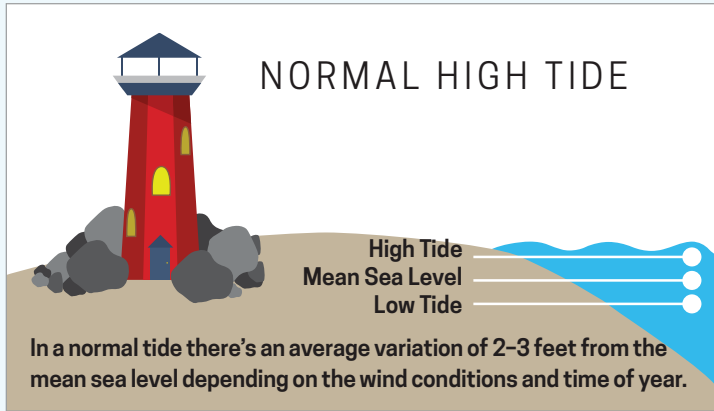
## POWER OUTAGES

STORM LEVEL	DAMAGE	WINDS	POWER OUTAGES
<b>CATEGORY 1</b>	<b>MINIMAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some damage to roofs, siding, gutters and trees.</li> </ul>	<b>74–95</b> MPH	Outages could last <b>several days.</b>
<b>CATEGORY 2</b>	<b>MODERATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extremely dangerous winds could cause major damage to homes and buildings.</li> <li>Shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted.</li> </ul>	<b>96–110</b> MPH	Near total power loss that could last from <b>several days to weeks.</b>
<b>CATEGORY 3</b>	<b>MODERATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devastating damage could occur.</li> <li>Buildings can sustain damage with loss of roof structure and some exterior walls.</li> <li>Trees will be snapped and uprooted.</li> </ul>	<b>111–129</b> MPH	Electricity and water will be unavailable for <b>several days to weeks.</b>
<b>CATEGORY 4</b>	<b>EXTREME</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buildings will sustain severe damage.</li> <li>Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.</li> </ul>	<b>130–156</b> MPH	Outages could last for <b>weeks to possibly months.</b>
<b>CATEGORY 5</b>	<b>CATASTROPHIC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse.</li> <li>Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.</li> </ul>	<b>157+</b> MPH	Outages will last for <b>weeks to possibly months.</b>



## ... AND RUN FROM THE WATER.

Storm surge inundation is the total water level that occurs on normally dry ground as a result of the storm tide, and is expressed in terms of water, in feet, above ground level. *Storm surge flooding causes more deaths than high winds during a hurricane.*



## 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.
- Do not 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**, and 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.

## HURRICANE NAMES

**2021**

ANA	GRACE	MINDY	TERESA
BILL	HENRI	NICHOLAS	VICTOR
CLAUDETTE	IDA	ODETTE	WANDA
DANNY	JULIAN	PETER	
ELSA	KATE	ROSE	
FRED	LARRY	SAM	

**2022**

ALEX	LISA
BONNIE	MARTIN
COLIN	NICOLE
DANIELLE	OWEN
EARL	PAULA
FIONA	RICHARD
GASTON	SHARY
HERMINE	TOBIAS
IAN	VIRGINIE
JULIA	WALTER
KARL	

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.

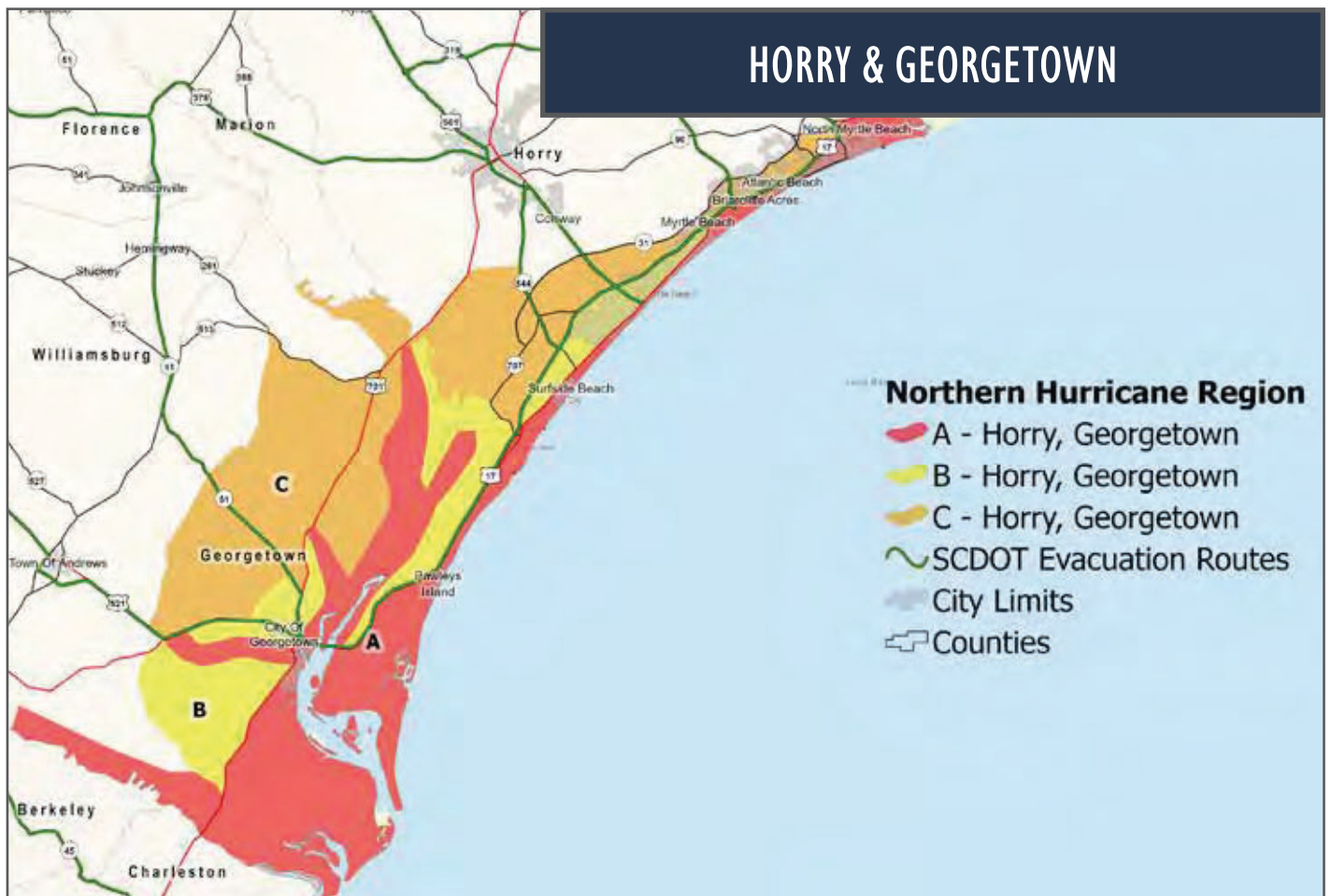
# KNOW YOUR ZONE

## PLAN • PREPARE • EVACUATE

- These maps of the South Carolina coast show areas that are most vulnerable to storm surge.
- State and local authorities will announce evacuations by these designated zones.
- Use these maps to identify your correct hurricane evacuation zone.
- Include your zone information in your plan to evacuate prior to landfall of a hurricane.
- Actual storm conditions may require changes to the planned evacuation zones.
- Monitor local media for specific evacuation instructions.
- For more information, visit the Know Your Zone page at [scemd.org](http://scemd.org).

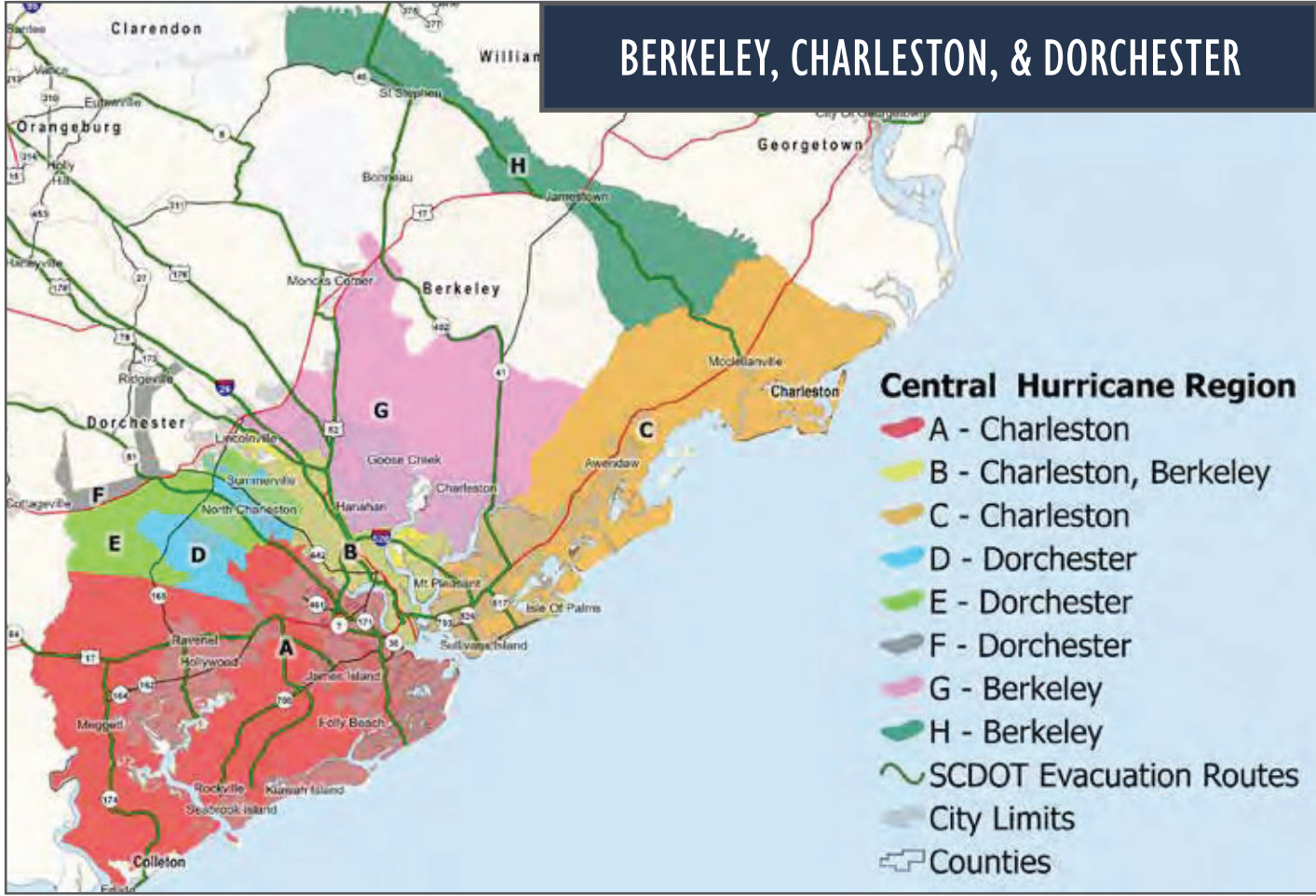


### NORTHERN COAST

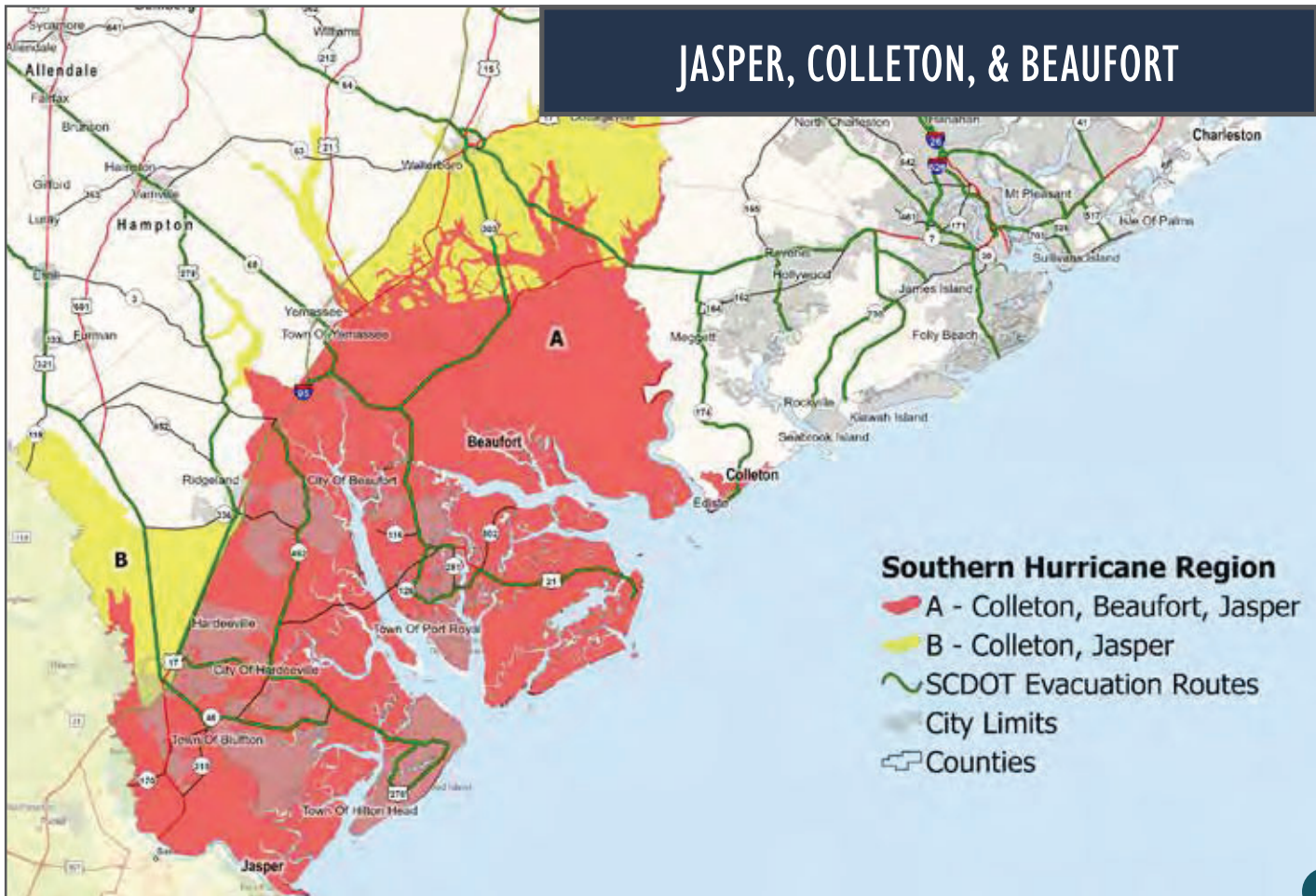




CENTRAL COAST



SOUTHERN COAST



# EVACUATE

 INTERSTATE  
  U.S.  
  S.C.  
  SECONDARY

 ..... INTERSTATE ROUTES

 ..... EVACUATION ROUTES

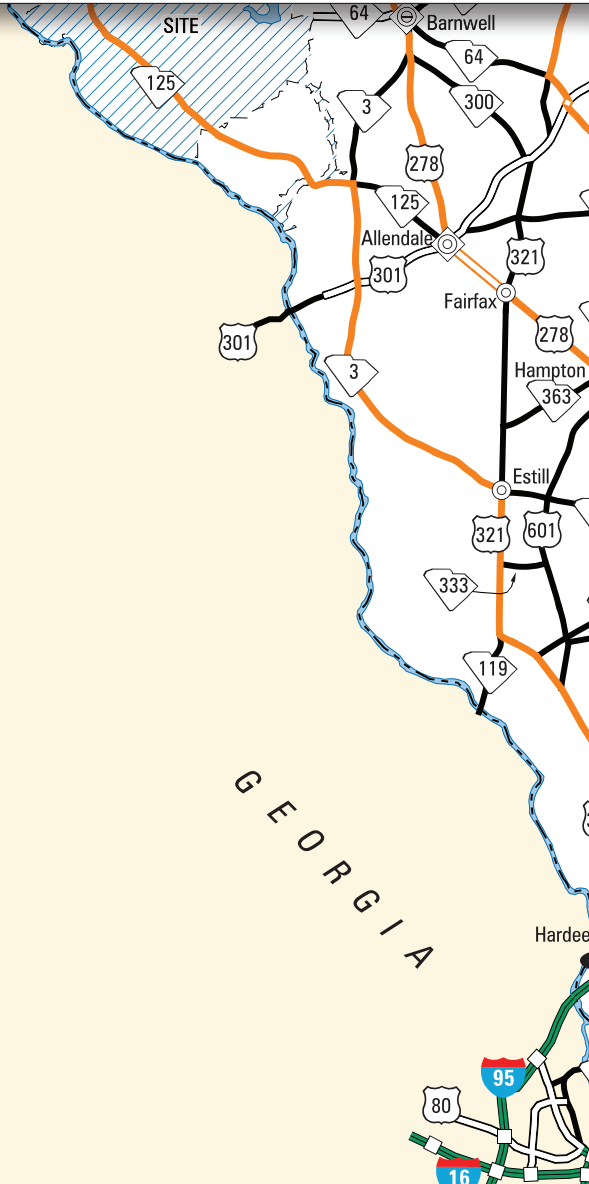
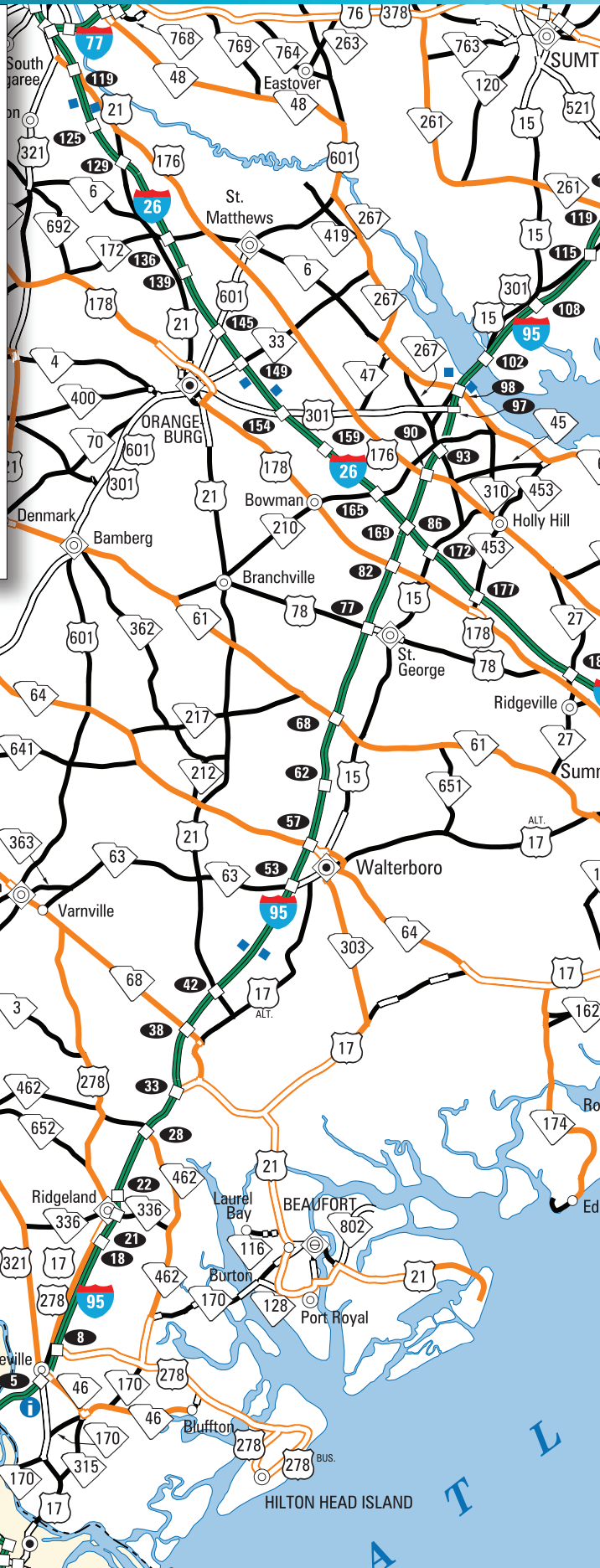
 ..... OTHER ROUTES

EXIT NO.

 ..... FULL INTERCHANGE

 ..... WELCOME / TRAVEL INFO. CENTER

 ..... REST AREAS



G E O R G I A

A T L





# HURRICANE EVACUATION ROUTES



South Carolina Department of Transportation

# 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**, **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 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 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** from East Cooper will be directed to the normal westbound lanes of **I-26**.

### Daniel Island

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

# EVACUATION ROUTES & LANE REVERSALS

## HILTON HEAD ISLAND & BEAUFORT AREAS

### 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.

### 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.

## GRAND STRAND AREA

### 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.



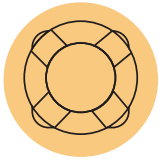
## ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEEDS



Put your most important identification and medical **records into a digital format** for easy safekeeping and quicker movement because paper documents can easily get misplaced or damaged during a significant weather event.



Put your **name and contact information** on your equipment in case it gets misplaced during the excitement of evacuation, sheltering, or shelter consolidation.



**Ask for help** if you need it. Call your local emergency management office. Some offices have a list of people who need extra help during an emergency.



Know yourself and **have your plan ready**. Make sure other people know your plan too. Leave as soon as you can so you can reach your destination safely ahead of a storm.



Review the hurricane preparation checklists in this guide. Think about **any additional items** you may need like batteries for hearing aids and similar devices, extra oxygen tanks, electrical backups for medical equipment, or special food requirements.

## INSURANCE



FOR QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT [DOI.DC.GOV](https://doi.dc.gov) OR CALL THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES (toll-free): **1-800-768-3467**

### From the S.C. Department of Insurance:

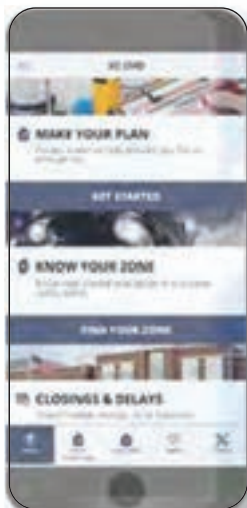
- Review your insurance policy so that you know if you have adequate coverage. Understand the difference between **REPLACEMENT COST** and **CASH VALUE**.
- Know your policy's deductibles as well as the procedures to take when property is damaged or destroyed. Be sure to contact your insurance company ASAP.
- **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](https://floodsmart.gov) for more information.
- Make a **property inventory list** of your valuables, furniture, electronics, etc. Take pictures of your property so you can have a visual record of your belongings.
- If you do evacuate, be sure to carry your important documents with you.
- When a hurricane is imminent, **remove outdoor objects** like lawn furniture and garbage cans that may be blown by the wind. Protect window openings with storm shutters.

### 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.
- **State income tax credits** are available for property owners who purchase supplies to retrofit and make their homes more storm resistant to hurricanes and severe storms.

## S.C. EMERGENCY MANAGER APP

Take advantage of the official app of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD).



Available to download from **Apple App Store** or **Google Play** (iPhone and Android compatible).

- **Build and customize a Personal Emergency Plan**
- **Keep track of your Disaster Supplies Kit**
- **Know Your Zone** evacuation maps
- **Emergency strobe light & alert whistle**
- **Share your location with emergency contacts**
- **Document storm damage**

# PETS

Including your pets in your family emergency plan is essential. Your veterinarian is an excellent resource to help you prepare.

## IMPORTANT TIPS:

### > BEFORE

- Evacuate with your pet outside of the evacuation zone. 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. The **South Carolina Emergency Manager mobile app** and **scemd.org** will list open shelters.
- Instead of shelters, consider boarding facilities, veterinary clinics, pet-friendly hotels, as well as homes of friends and relatives.
- Choose an identification method for each animal. Examples: micro-chipping and ID tags on collar. **Have photos of yourself with your animals to prove ownership if you become separated.**
- Keep your animals' immunizations, (especially rabies) current and be sure to have copies of all important documents.
- 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 of water and food, medications, health records/care instructions, microchip numbers, litter box/litter and clean-up supplies.

### > 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 to assist emergency workers and citizens with animal needs. These may include rescue of displaced animals, ID, treatment, temporary shelter and care, and reunification with owners.
- Information about options for assistance with animals will be provided as soon as possible from SCEMD by way of news briefings and telephone hotlines.



**ANIMAL RESCUE MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY AFTER A HURRICANE.**

### > AFTER

- 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 hurricane.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may be different after a hurricane. Your pet may become confused and lost.
- Watch your animals closely. The behavior of your 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 access to shelter and water.

## OTHER RESOURCES:

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

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

**South Carolina Animal Care & Control:**  
843-329-1574  
scacca.org

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



# EVACUATION ACTIONS

## > BEFORE

### BE PREPARED

Contact your local emergency management office to assist in determining your vulnerability to a hurricane. A 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, be sure to plan an evacuation route. Consider staying in a hotel or with family and friends outside of 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. They are not allowed in most shelters.
- **FUEL** up and service family vehicles.
- **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, and have extra chargers.



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 SC Emergency Response Team 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.

Rest areas along I-26 will be enhanced with additional facilities in order to accommodate motorists efficiently. Department of Public Safety weigh stations will also be available as comfort stations.



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

## > DURING

### PROTECT YOURSELF

- Stay tuned to local television and radio stations for emergency information. Be sure to 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 the windows and the doors, even if they are covered. Go to an interior first-floor room, closet, or under the stairs.
- Be alert. Tornadoes are very 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. Be sure to keep calls brief to minimize any network congestion. Wait at least 10 seconds before redialing a call. For non-emergencies, try sending text messages.
- Once the storm passes, be patient. You will most likely not be able to return home right away.

# SEEKING SAFETY

Have a plan in place for where you will go if an evacuation is issued for where you live. First consider staying with family and friends or a hotel far inland. If those options are unavailable, the S.C. Department of Social Services and the American Red Cross will provide a safe place to stay as the hurricane makes landfall. These emergency shelters may not have cots, blankets and other amenities for every person until well after hurricane conditions subside. Although some food may be provided, specialty foods for infants and for people on restricted diets may not be available. If you plan to go to a shelter for safety, bring all the items in your disaster supplies kit plus sleeping bags, pillows, and cots.



EMERGENCY SHELTERS ARE PLACES OF LAST RESORT. COTS AND BLANKETS MAY NOT BE PROVIDED.

**COVID-19:** Due to the possibility of coronavirus infections, fewer people may be able to stay in each emergency shelter so volunteers can take extra safety precautions such as safe distancing. Additional shelters will open based on need. Each person entering a shelter will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms. Shelter staff will provide additional cleaning stations and set up isolation areas if needed. The SC Emergency Manager mobile app, [scemd.org](http://scemd.org), and road signs will have real-time information on all open shelters nearest to your evacuation route.



# RETURNING HOME

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



**IF YOU HAVE EVACUATED, SOME AREAS MAY BE INACCESSIBLE EVEN AFTER THE OFFICIAL EVACUATION ORDER IS RESCINDED.**  
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.

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

## Take pictures.

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



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

## Inspect the utilities in your home.

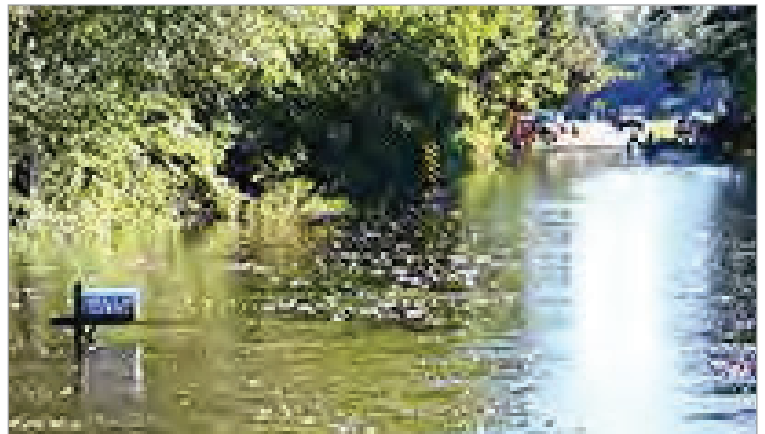
- **Check for gas leaks.**
  - > If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can. From a safe place, call to report a gas leak to your utility provider. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.
- **Look for electrical system damage.**
  - > If you see sparks, broken or frayed wires, or if you smell something burning, 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.

## Monitor radio, TV, and social media.

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

## Let a relative know you are home.

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



**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**



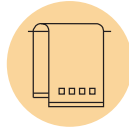
- **Rain jackets, pants, boots**



- **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)



- **Toothbrush, toothpaste**



- **Mobile device chargers**



- **Hand sanitizer**

# 2021 S.C. 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, S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs, Clemson University Extension Service, the S.C. Department of Insurance, National Weather Service, S.C. Broadcasters Association, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Federal Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross, S.C. Department of Transportation, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, and others.*

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



Have a plan. Make it personal.  
**SCEMD**  
scemd.org @SCEMD



South Carolina has a new online home for hurricane preparedness. Visit [hurricane.sc](https://hurricane.sc) to know your hurricane evacuation zone and to get started on your hurricane safety plan. Find all of the information in the South Carolina Hurricane Guide and more at [hurricane.sc](https://hurricane.sc) whenever you need a quick, online resource to prepare for a hurricane in the Palmetto State.

Rely on real, verified information to make decisions about your personal safety. Only trust information provided by verified and reputable sources such as [hurricane.sc](https://hurricane.sc) and [scemd.org](https://scemd.org) to avoid misinformation, rumors, or malicious misinformation.