

HURRICANE ~ TORNADO ~ FIRE

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ~ WILDFIRE

EARTHQUAKE ~ TROPICAL STORM



# CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

EVACUATION ~ FLOODING

# HURRICANES, TORNADOS, FLOODS, EARTHQUAKES, WILDFIRES

Things we all prefer not to think about, and hope never to confront. Things which impact thousands of citizens across the country annually, frequently with tragic results.

But not always.



## THE DIFFERENCE IS PREPAREDNESS...

Community, Family and Individual. Through preparedness, local governments can be better positioned to fulfill their obligation to respond to disasters in a timely and effective manner, to protect lives and to preserve property. Equally important is that you, as a citizen, can take steps to help ensure the health and safety of yourself and your family.

## AND IT ONLY TAKES THREE STEPS:

- 1) Learn what threats face your community, what to anticipate from each and what plans your local government has in place.**
- 2) Know what actions and precautions you should take before, during and after an emergency.**
- 3) Use common sense, follow instructions and keep informed during events.**

## A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

has been developed by the Town of Hilton Head Island to help our residents, businesses and guests prepare to safely face a variety of emergencies. We hope that you will find the information provided helpful, and that you will not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

**THE KEY IS KNOWLEDGE.  
THE DIFFERENCE IS PREPAREDNESS.**

# EVACUATION AND SHELTER IN PLACE

## OVERVIEW

During an emergency and depending on the type of incident, you may be asked to shelter-in-place or evacuate. Plan for both possibilities and be prepared to listen to instructions from the Mayor and Hilton Head Island Emergency Management officials.

## EVACUATION

The Town of Hilton Head Island Mayor may authorize a partial evacuation of any parts of the Island or authorize a voluntary evacuation for the entire Island. The Governor of South Carolina may require a mandatory evacuation. You are encouraged to evacuate when instructed. For example, during a hurricane, emergency services may be unavailable for an undetermined amount of time and you will be on your own without access to essential items such as food, water, electricity, medical services or fuel for your vehicle. Evacuations of specific areas occur because authorities determine that there is an immediate threat to your life and safety. Please review the back cover of this folder for emergency supplies and other information that you should have on hand for evacuation. **PREPARE NOW.** Know where you will go if evacuated. Anticipate roads on and off the island will be congested and difficult to maneuver. Leave early if possible.

If you intend to go to a shelter and have a pet, please make alternate plans for the safety and survival of your pet. Most, if not all, shelters do not accommodate pets and leaving them unattended during an evacuation often leads to the animal being homeless, injured or killed.

## EVACUATION PLANNING STEPS

- **Where would you go?** To get out of harm's way, you should be prepared to go north, south, or west. Pick a destination in each direction. Your primary destination could be with family or friends. In determining your destination, factor in stop-and-go driving which will greatly increase the amount of time you are on the road and gas use. Please ensure that you are far enough away to ensure your safety.
- **Where would you stay?** If you end up in a shelter, only very basic needs will be provided (see back of folder for an evacuation supply kit), and could be in short supply - but being safe is your first concern.
- **What would you take with you?** Food, water, clothes, cash, important documents and prescription medications are good examples. It is recommended that you plan to be self-sustaining for at least three days.

If you don't have reliable transportation of your own, you need to know in advance about what options are available from your neighbors or local government. Please contact Hilton Head Island's Emergency Management Office in advance at (843) 682-5156 or (843) 682-5119 if you do not have transportation off the Island so we can assist you. For major evacuations a shuttle will be provided from various locations on the Island to the Hilton Head Island Airport where residents and visitors will be transported to a public shelter.

The following are pick-up points to be transported to the Hilton Head Island Airport:

- 151 Gumtree Rd. (in front of the Boys and Girls Club)
- 173 Marshland Rd. (in front of the Elks Lodge)

## EVACUATION (CONTINUED)

Additional pick-up points:

- 450 Spanish Wells Rd. (in front of Grace Community Church)
- 430 William Hilton Parkway (in front of Pineland Station)
- 24 Pope Ave. (in front of Holy Family Catholic Church)
- 663 William Hilton Parkway (in front of Hilton Head Resort)

For partial evacuations, please listen for transportation instructions from Town of Hilton Head Island Emergency Management officials.

If you have a medical condition that requires special attention or care, please contact the Hilton Head Emergency Management Office in order to provide you assistance; preferably before an event.

### Develop a Family Communications Plan

- **Scale the plan:** Is your neighborhood being evacuated or the entire Island?
- **Share the plan with family members.** Discuss what to do if kids are in school, if a parent is far from home, etc.
- **Be sure you have all phone numbers:** Work, school, cell phones and land lines, host family, friends, your local emergency management office and / or community evacuation resources.
- Notify others when you are leaving and where you plan to go.
- **Keep your car fueled if evacuation seems likely.** Gas stations may be closed during an emergency, out of fuel or unable to pump gas during power outages. Check your oil and other fluids, tire pressure, spare tire, jack and other tools.

## SHELTER IN PLACE

The Town of Hilton Head Island may ask residents to Shelter in Place during an emergency that has more risk to you if you should try to evacuate (such as a Hazardous Materials spill). Sheltering in Place during a tropical storm or hurricane when a voluntary or mandatory evacuation has been recommended or ordered IS NOT AN OPTION!

Sheltering in place offers you and your family immediate protection for a short time in your home, school, business or other facility. If you are told to shelter in place, get everyone indoors immediately to a central room.

If your children are at school, do not leave your house to go get them. Going outside could expose you to the Hazardous Material or other hazard. Check with your child's school to ensure that they have plans in place to protect your children during an emergency.

- Turn on a radio or television to a local station that broadcasts emergency information. Stay tuned until the "all clear" message is broadcast.
- Follow instructions provided by local officials who may provide specific instructions.
- Be prepared to evacuate if ordered to do so by public safety officials.

Please see the back cover of this folder for additional information.

# RETURN AND RE-ENTRY

SEE BACK OF FOLDER FOR IMPORTANT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

## RETURN AND RE-ENTRY FROM A FULL OR PARTIAL EVACUATION

You may hear varying or conflicting reports from media about being able to return to the Island. Even if you hear that the Governor has rescinded the evacuation order, the final authority for allowing residents to return to the Island is the Mayor of the Town of Hilton Head Island and you should not attempt to return until the Mayor's approval has been given. Once the evacuation order has been lifted, all details about returning to the Island, including transportation assistance information, will be announced. The same would hold true for a partial evacuation with details being announced as soon as it is safe to return to the impacted area.

While local officials will make every attempt to make the Island as safe as possible, dangers always exist during disasters and residents should use caution when re-entering impacted areas.

## IS YOUR HOME SAFE TO ENTER?

Professional Building Inspectors will conduct a neighborhood by neighborhood survey to assess the safety of homes and commercial buildings for any potential hazard. They will leave behind a placard displayed on the building or at the building site to communicate the results of their inspection. The color of the placard will tell the owner the condition of the building and provide guidance on how to proceed with repairs. This information will also be relayed to the Town of Hilton Head Island.

The green placard tells the owner that the damage to the building appears to be minor and superficial and that there is no structural damage. The building can be entered safely and occupied without danger. Measures to secure the building to protect it from additional damage may proceed without further delay. Actions such as replacing broken glass, repairing garage doors or replacing roof shingles that have come loose will not require any additional permits or approvals from the Town.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE.

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND**  
**INSPECTED**  
**LAWFUL OCCUPANCY PERMITTED**

This structure has been inspected (as indicated below) and no apparent structural hazard has been found.

Inspected Exterior Only  
 Inspected Exterior and Interior

Report any unsafe condition to local authorities; reinspection may be required.

Inspector Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Site Inspected: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions.

Inspector ID / Agency \_\_\_\_\_

**Do Not Remove, Alter, or Cover this Placard until Authorized by Governing Authority**

If utility services have been disabled, a blue placard will also be posted. This notifies the electrical utility that it is safe to restore power to the structure.

For homes and commercial buildings that have more than minor damage the Inspectors will leave a yellow placard on the building or at the site. This color placard alerts the owner that the building has suffered significant damage and only partial entry or occupancy are considered safe until repairs are made. Building Permits will be required before rebuilding begins. The owner should contact the Emergency Permitting Office of the Town of Hilton Head Island for additional assistance. The office will be staffed to expedite the procedures.

**Any building that has a red placard is unsafe!** It is seriously damaged and should not be entered or occupied under any circumstances. Entry could result in death or injury. The building may be rebuilt and repaired or the owner may choose to demolish the building because of its age and/or the extent of the damage. In either case, the appropriate permits will be required before any work begins and the owner should contact the Emergency Permitting Office of the Town of Hilton Head Island for additional assistance. The office will be staffed to expedite the procedures and will be able to answer questions.

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
ELECTRICAL INSPECTION  
OK FOR POWER**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspector ID \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Do Not Remove, Alter, or Cover this Placard  
until Authorized by Governing Authority

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
RESTRICTED USE**

**Caution:** This structure has been inspected and found to be damaged as described below: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry, occupancy, and lawful use are restricted as indicated below:**  
 Do not enter the following areas: \_\_\_\_\_ This facility was inspected under emergency conditions.  
 Brief entry allowed for access to contents: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspector ID / Agency \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address of Site Inspected: \_\_\_\_\_

Do Not Remove, Alter, or Cover this Placard  
until Authorized by Governing Authority

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
UNSAFE**  
DO NOT ENTER OR OCCUPY  
(THIS PLACARD IS NOT A DEMOLITION ORDER)

This structure has been inspected, found to be seriously damaged and is unsafe to occupy, as described below: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Do not enter, except as specifically authorized in writing by jurisdiction. Entry may result in death or injury.**  
 Address of Site Inspected: \_\_\_\_\_ This facility was inspected under emergency conditions.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Inspector ID / Agency \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Do Not Remove, Alter, or Cover this Placard  
until Authorized by Governing Authority

# HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS

SEE BACK OF FOLDER FOR IMPORTANT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES  
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. PREPARE YOUR FAMILY  
EMERGENCY PLAN AND DISASTER KIT!

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE TERMS THAT ARE USED TO IDENTIFY A HURRICANE.

- **HURRICANE WATCH:** An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible. The hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.
- **HURRICANE WARNING:** An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected. The hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.
- **TROPICAL STORM WATCH:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible within the specified coastal area within 48 hours.
- **TROPICAL STORM WARNING:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected somewhere within the specified coastal area within 36 hours.
- **STORM SURGE:** 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 water level to heights impacting roads, homes and other critical infrastructure. In addition, wind driven waves are superimposed on the storm tide. This rise in water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, particularly when the storm tide coincides with the normal high tides.
- Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure, and damage potential. Category Three or higher hurricanes are considered major hurricanes, though Tropical Storms, Categories One and Two are still extremely dangerous and warrant your full attention.
- A tropical storm has all the characteristics of a hurricane, including storm surge, with winds being 39 to 73 mph.
- Hurricanes can produce widespread torrential rains. Floods are the deadly and destructive result. Slow moving storms tend to produce especially heavy rain. Flash flooding can occur due to intense rainfall. Flooding in creeks, drainage channels, rivers and streams may persist for several days or more after the storm.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.

Scale Number (Category)	Sustained Winds (MPH)	Damage
1	74-95	Minimal: Unanchored mobile homes, vegetation and signs.
2	96-110	Moderate: All mobile homes, roofs, small crafts, flooding.
3	111-130	Extensive: Small buildings, low-lying roads cut off.
4	131-155	Extreme: Roofs destroyed, trees down, roads cut off, mobile homes destroyed. Beach homes flooded.
5	More than 155	Catastrophic: Most buildings destroyed. Vegetation destroyed. Major roads cut off. Homes flooded.

### PREPARE YOUR HOME

- Cover all of your home's windows with pre-cut ply wood or hurricane shutters to protect your windows from high winds.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Turn off utilities and propane tank.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.
- Document, photograph or video tape possessions for insurance purposes.
- Close interior doors.

### PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS

- Carefully assess how your company functions, both internally and externally, to determine which staff, materials, procedures and equipment are absolutely necessary to keep the business operating.
- Identify operations critical to survival and recovery.
- Plan what you will do if your building or store is not accessible.
- Consider if you can run the business from a different location or from your home.
- Develop relationships with other companies to use their facilities in case a disaster makes your location unusable.
- Document, photograph or video tape possessions for insurance purposes.

# EARTHQUAKES

SEE BACK OF FOLDER FOR IMPORTANT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. PREPARE YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN AND DISASTER KIT!

## EARTHQUAKES STRIKE WITHOUT WARNING!

While South Carolina is usually not known for earthquakes, ten to thirty earthquakes are recorded annually and two to five earthquakes are felt each year. These earthquakes tend to be less than magnitude 3.0 on the Richter scale and cause little damage. Recent seismic activity (November 2002; M=4.2 & 3.5) occurred in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of South Carolina and in 1989 a 2.8 earthquake occurred in Beaufort County. In South Carolina, the entire state is considered to have a moderate to high risk for earthquakes.

The most significant earthquake in South Carolina was the 1886 Charleston earthquake which struck in the Summerville/Charleston area. It is the largest event to have occurred in the southeastern U.S. and the most destructive, killing 60 people. The initial shock lasted nearly one minute. The earthquake had a magnitude of 7.3 (source: Johnson, 1996) and was felt over 2.5 million square miles, from Cuba to New York, and Bermuda to the Mississippi River. Structural damage extended several hundreds of miles to cities in Alabama, Ohio, and Kentucky. After the 1886 earthquake, 300 aftershocks were recorded in that area for a 2 ½ year period.

The impacts felt from an earthquake in South Carolina may be greater compared to those felt in other areas of the United States due to varying factors including soil type.

### RICHTER SCALE MAGNITUDE CLASS

Magnitude Class	Magnitude Range ML = Magnitude	Earthquake Effects
Great	ML > 8	Total damage; surface waves seen and objects thrown in air.
Major	7 to 7.9	Great damage; most buildings collapse and bridges fail or twist.
Strong	6 to 6.9	Major damage; chimneys fall and houses move from foundation.
Moderate	5 to 5.9	Dishes break, doors swing open, bricks fall off buildings.
Light	4 to 4.9	Windows rattle
Minor	3 to 3.9	Noticeable; felt indoors
Micro	ML < 3	Not felt

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.

### **PREPARE YOUR HOME**

- Fasten shelves securely to walls.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass, and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.
- Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches and anywhere people sit.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks.
- Secure water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and/or bolting it to the floor.
- Repair any deep cracks in ceilings and foundations. Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects.
- Store weed killers, pesticides and flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches and/or on bottom shelves.
- Identify safe places, for example, under sturdy furniture or against an inside wall.

### **PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS**

Go to [www.QuakeSmart.org](http://www.QuakeSmart.org) for detailed information on how you can prepare your business for an Earthquake.

### **HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF**

- If you are not near a strong table or desk, drop to the floor against an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Avoid windows, hanging objects, mirrors, tall furniture, large appliances and cabinets filled with heavy objects.
- Do not try to run out of the structure during strong shaking.
- If you are outdoors, move to a clear area. Avoid power lines, buildings and trees.
- If you're driving, pull to the side of the road and stop. Avoid stopping under overhead hazards.
- Once the shaking has stopped, be aware of possible hazards such as fires, gas leaks, downed wires and damaged buildings.

### **LISTEN TO LOCAL OFFICIALS**

Learn about emergency plans that have been established. Listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.

# FLOODING

## FLOODING CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE!

The average U.S. flood losses are more than \$2.5 billion a year. One third of all claims paid by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) are for policies in low risk areas.

Each hurricane season, June 1st - November 30th, the Island's risk from a tropical storm increases bringing with it the potential danger of flooding from rising sea levels with wind driven waves and strong currents. For more information see the section on Hurricanes and Tropical Storms.

As a coastal barrier island it is important that Hilton Head Island preserve and maintain the natural resources which protect the land when storms occur. Dunes and sandy beaches buffer inland areas from high tides and wind driven storm surges. When a dune is breached flood waters spread far inland damaging property. Re-nourishment projects help to prevent this by replacing the sand that nature has scoured away. The Island's wetlands and marshes also serve a vital function in protecting the land from flooding. They absorb great quantities of water allowing potentially damaging waters to disperse over many acres.

On Hilton Head Island flooding can result not only from hurricanes or tropical storms but more often from rain storms at any time of the year.

The Island's drainage system is a network of man-made and natural water carrying channels forming eleven separate watersheds. Just as with the natural resources which protect the Island, the drainage system is of particular importance in times of severe rain storms. Destructive flooding can result from a failure in the storm water runoff system which drains the developed areas of the Island finally discharging stormwater to the surrounding salt waters.

Localized drainage systems can be inadequate for heavy rains falling in a short period of time. Saturated soil can result in damage to septic systems. Standing water can weaken tree roots. Even an inch of water can be a danger to you and your family and result in costly damage to your property.

Go to [www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov), the official web site of the Town of Hilton Head Island, for more information on flooding and Hilton Head Island's flood risk.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PROPERTY?

Remember, avoid contact with flood water. Never walk through flood water or drive on flooded roads. Avoid dangling electrical wires and downed power lines. Most flood water is contaminated. Thoroughly disinfect anything that becomes wet. For more information see the section on Evacuation and Shelter in Place.

## **THE SUREST WAY TO PROTECT PROPERTY AND MINIMIZE DAMAGE IS TO BUILD ABOVE THE LEVEL OF POSSIBLE FLOODING.**

The Town of Hilton Head Island has adopted Flood Insurance Rate Maps that show the areas of the Island that have a 1% annual chance of flooding with corresponding predicted flood depths. When building a new structure it is important to strictly follow all building codes that apply to construction in a Special Flood Hazard Zone. To prevent shallow flooding from heavy rain storms the land should be graded away from the structure for positive drainage to the local storm water system. Make sure your local drainage is well maintained and free from debris and vegetation.

Older properties, while elevated, may be below the current predicted level of flooding due to changing federal regulations. In this case, the best way to minimize damage is to eliminate any enclosed habitable spaces at ground level, provide watertight closures at windows and doors, remove any materials that are not water resistant below the predicted flood level, move any mechanical and electrical equipment to a higher location in the building and structurally reinforce the foundation. In the extreme case, existing structures built on a concrete slab at grade can best be protected by raising the entire structure to base flood elevation and building a new foundation to meet current codes.

## **PURCHASING FLOOD INSURANCE IS ANOTHER WAY TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY.**

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created by Congress in 1968 to provide homeowners flood insurance at a reasonable cost. Since standard homeowners policies do not cover flooding, separate policies are available on almost any enclosed building and its contents including single family homes, condominiums, mobile homes on foundations and commercial buildings. On single family homes the maximum coverage is \$250,000 on the building and \$100,000 on contents. Policies are written for one year. Flood insurance is required by law for federally financed loans when buying, building or improving structures. But you must act in advance. There is a thirty day waiting period on new policies. Check with your local insurance agent for specific rates and coverage.

For more information on flooding and flood insurance go to [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov) , the official web site of the National Flood Insurance Program.

# TORNADOS

**SEE BACK OF FOLDER FOR IMPORTANT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. PREPARE YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN AND DISASTER KIT!**

## **TORNADOS CAN STRIKE WITH LITTLE OR NO WARNING!**

From 1950 to 2002, there were nineteen tornados in Beaufort County, seven of which occurred on Hilton Head Island; three caused \$775,000 in damage. The three on the Island that caused damage were an F0 and two F1's (equivalent to a Category 2 Hurricane).

## **FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE TERMS THAT ARE USED TO IDENTIFY A TORNADO HAZARD.**

- A **TORNADO WATCH** means a tornado is possible in your area.
- A **TORNADO WARNING** means a tornado is imminent or occurring, take shelter immediately.

## **PREPARE YOUR FAMILY**

- Determine in advance where you will take shelter in case of a tornado warning.
- Storm cellars or basements provide the best protection.
- Since underground shelters are not typically available here, go into an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls.
- **DO NOT** stay inside a vehicle, trailer or mobile home. If possible, go quickly to a building with a strong foundation or
- If shelter is not available, lie flat in a ditch or other low-lying area. Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.

## **LISTEN TO LOCAL OFFICIALS**

Learn about the emergency plans that have been established. Listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.**

## FUJITA TORNADO SCALE

Scale Value	Wind Speed Range (MPH)	Type of Damage
F0	40-72	Light – May be some damage to poorly maintained roofs. Unsecured lightweight objects, such as trash cans, are displaced.
F1	73-112	Moderate – Minor damage to roofs occurs, and windows are broken. Larger heavier objects become displaced. Minor damage to trees and landscaping can be observed.
F2	113-157	Considerable – Roofs are damaged. Manufactured homes, on nonpermanent foundations, can be shifted off their foundations. Trees and landscaping either snap or are blown over. Medium-sized debris becomes airborne, damaging other structures.
F3	158-206	Severe – Roofs and some walls, especially un-reinforced masonry, are torn from structures. Small ancillary buildings are often destroyed. Manufactured homes on nonpermanent foundations can be overturned. Some trees are uprooted.
F4	207-260	Devastating – Well constructed homes, as well as manufactured homes, are destroyed. Some structures are lifted off their foundations. Automobile-sized debris is displaced and often tumbles. Trees are often uprooted and blow over.
F5	261-318	Incredible – Strong frame houses and engineered buildings are lifted from their foundations or are significantly damaged or destroyed. Automobile-sized debris is moved significant distances. Trees are uprooted and splintered.

# FIRES, WILDFIRES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

## FIRES

- Review escape routes with your family. Practice escaping from each room.
- Make sure windows are not nailed or painted shut. Consider escape ladders if your residence has more than one level.
- Make sure security gratings on windows have a fire safety opening feature so they can be easily opened from the inside. Ensure that burglar bars and other antitheft mechanisms that block outside window entry are easily opened from the inside.
- Teach family members to stay low to the floor (where the air is safer) when escaping from a fire.
- Clean out storage areas. Do not let trash, such as old newspapers and magazines, accumulate.

### Install Smoke Alarms

- Properly working smoking alarms decrease your chances of dying in a fire by 50%.
- Place smoke alarms on every level of your residence; outside bedrooms, at the top of stairways, at the bottom of enclosed stairs and near (but not in) the kitchen.
- Test and clean smoke alarms once a month and replace batteries twice a year.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

## WILDFIRES

### Prepare Your Home

- Protect your property from wildfires by designing and landscaping your home with wildfire safety in mind.
- Select materials and plants that can help contain fire rather than fuel it.
- Plant fire resistant shrubs and trees (hardwood trees are less flammable than evergreens).
- Regularly clean roof and gutters.
- Inspect chimneys at least twice a year. Clean them at least once a year.
- Keep a ladder that will reach the roof.
- Consider installing protective shutters or heavy fire resistant drapes.
- Create a 30 to 100 foot Safety Zone around Your Home (rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs, clear flammable vegetation).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

### POSSIBLE SIGNS OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASE

People suffering from watery eyes, twitching, choking, having trouble breathing or losing coordination.

### IF YOU SEE SIGNS OF A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASE, FIND CLEAN AIR QUICKLY

- If the chemical is inside a building where you are, get out of the building without passing through the contaminated area.
- If you can't get out of the building or find clean air without passing through the area where you see signs of a chemical release, it may be better to move as far away as possible and shelter in place.
- If you are outside, quickly decide what is the fastest way to find clean air. Consider if you can get out of the area or if you should go inside the closest building and shelter in place.
- Call 911

### IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO A HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

- After getting to a safe location, remove all clothing and wash with soap and water being sure not to scrub the chemical into your skin.
- Call 911

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

**For Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies Call 911**

## IMPORTANT HILTON HEAD ISLAND INFORMATION

Town of Hilton Head Island: 843-341-4600

Hilton Head Island/Beaufort County Hurricane Re-Entry Hotline: 800-963-5023

SC Insurance News Service: 803-252-3455

SC Department of Transportation (traffic information): 888-877-9151

Hispanic Outreach of SC: 803-419-5112

SC Evacuation and Shelter Information: 866-246-0133

(Spanish Interpreters available. Phone number is active only when needed.)

**Note: In a Category 2 or higher Hurricane, there will be no shelters open in Beaufort County due to storm surge in the Lowcountry. This phone number will provide shelter options outside the county.**

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce: 843-785-3673

Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce: 843-525-8500

United Way of the Lowcountry Volunteer Coordination Hotline: 843-524-4357

Beaufort County Animal Control Office: 843-846-3905

SC Animal Care and Control: 803-736-7387

Primary information radio stations: WGCO 98.3 FM, WYKZ 98.7, WWVV 106.9 FM

For Disaster Updates and to sign up for emergency alerts (E-Subscriptions) go to  
The Town of Hilton Head Island Website: [www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov)

OVER

## OTHER IMPORTANT OR HELPFUL INFORMATION

Beaufort County Emergency Management:  
[www.bcgov.net/Emerg\\_mgt/emerg\\_mgt.php](http://www.bcgov.net/Emerg_mgt/emerg_mgt.php)  
(843) 470-3100

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

South Carolina Emergency Traffic Network: [www.sctraffic.org](http://www.sctraffic.org)  
888-877-9151

Note: Phone number is active after the storm only.

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

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

Ready America: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

American Red Cross: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or for the local chapter go to  
[www.lowcountryredcross.org](http://www.lowcountryredcross.org)

Rely on local television stations; cable and satellite stations are not reliable for emergency information unless they are all-news or all-weather stations.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

### Out of State Contact

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

### Local Contact

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

### Nearest Relative

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

### Reunion Locations

1. Right outside your home \_\_\_\_\_

2. Away from the neighborhood, in case you cannot return home \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Family Work/School Phone Numbers

Father \_\_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

### Family Physicians

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Veterinarian

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## ADDITIONAL HELPFUL INFORMATION

### SHELTER IN PLACE EMERGENCY KIT

Prepare a Shelter-in-Place Kit containing the following:

- A battery-operated AM/FM radio with spare batteries
- Flashlights with spare batteries
- Food and bottled water for three days (one gallon per person per day)
- Blankets, pillows, towels; toys for children
- First-aid kit and medications
- Other items essential for your family's survival
- Include food and water for your pets
- Consider sanitary arrangements for your family and pets

*Check the kits every six months to make sure all the supplies are still there and that they are fresh.*

### EVACUATION SUPPLY KIT

Assemble an Evacuation Supply Kit containing the following:

- Food and bottled water for three days (one gallon per person per day)
- Toilet articles (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)
- Prescription medicines, medical equipment and important medical records
- Clothing for several days
- Blankets, pillows, and towels (particularly if you may stay at a public shelter)
- Identification and important papers
- Checkbook, credit card and cash
- Flashlights with extra batteries, phone chargers and extra phone batteries
- Baby and/or pet supplies including special food, sanitary items and play items

### OTHER IMPORTANT EVACUATION TIPS

- Have a good road map. Evacuation routes may take you on unfamiliar roads.
- Know how to safely shut off your electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves.
- Secure all loose yard items like lawn furniture, BBQ grills, bird baths, trash cans, planters, awnings, etc.
- Move valuable items to inner rooms or upper floors.
- Remove perishable items from your refrigerator and freezer. Power may be off for an extended time.
- Unplugging major appliances and electronics is recommended to avoid damage from lightning strikes or power surges.
- Consider obtaining storm shutters or preparing plywood to board up windows of your home.
- Close and lock windows and doors. Close curtains and shades.
- Check with neighbors to see if they need assistance. Offer to share transportation.
- Load your Evacuation Supply kit and all who are traveling together and leave.

**Do not call 9-1-1 for general information or questions about a disaster/emergency. If you need information or have questions that do not involve a criminal, medical or fire emergency that is immediately threatening your life call Hilton Head Island Emergency Management.**