

Hurricane evacuation additional information

In the event of a major disaster, your POA wants to do everything in its power to expedite a safe evacuation and return for all residents. This document has been prepared to assist residents before, during, and after evacuation. We encourage you to review the material thoroughly and take time now to prepare yourself and your family for **any emergency event**. Dedicating a few hours now to get ready can save you days, weeks, or months in the recovery period following a natural disaster. **THE EFFORT TO GET READY IS YOUR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY** and will benefit you, but also, your neighbors and all residents of your POA.

Once summer arrives, we officially enter the hurricane season. Although hurricanes present the largest danger to coastal areas (the Low Country), their danger extends inland for hundreds of miles in the form of flood waters, tornadoes, and high winds.

Fortunately, hurricanes are the only natural disasters which provide sufficient warning to execute your emergency plans to protect your families, homes, and other possessions.

In addition to hurricanes, we also see an increase in other severe weather events which often do not give us the same lead-time warning as hurricanes; namely violent thunderstorms with accompanying heavy rainfall, high winds, and sometimes hail storms. Additionally, there is also the threat of tornado activity.

Every resident needs to understand the impact of hurricanes and prepare properly for evacuation and reentry. Residents are encouraged to have a plan for evacuation, including a predetermined route and destination. If possible, it is advisable to leave the area before an evacuation order is announced. Once the governor orders an evacuation, **GO!** There will be thousands of others competing for movement on toward safety.

If you are unable to drive or make emergency preparations for yourself, it is imperative that **YOU** coordinate this with someone to assist you in evacuating such as family members, neighbors, your church or local authorities.

Hurricane Announcements: Know the difference

- Hurricane Watch – hurricane possible within 48 hours (might be a good time to leave)
- Hurricane Warning – hurricane expected within 36 hours (window to leave is narrowing)
- Mandatory Evacuation – S.C. governor has ordered evacuation for the area (leave ASAP)

The SC Emergency Management Division publishes and distributes its annual Hurricane Guide in June. It offers a comprehensive review of what you need to know in the event of a hurricane. This guide is available in local newspapers, including the Island Packet.

Storm Categories: Wind speeds

- Category 1: 74-95 MPH, minimal damage
- Category 2: 96-110 MPH, moderate damage
- Category 3: 111-129 MPH, extensive damage
- Category 4: 130-156 MPH, extreme damage
- Category 5: Over 157 MPH, catastrophic damage

COMPLEX DECISION THAT CAN BE A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH.

Evacuate ... When local officials deem it necessary. **NEVER** ignore it!

Evacuate... If your home is vulnerable to storm, surge, flooding or wind damage.

Evacuate... If you do not have a “safe” room, such as a room without windows, large interior closet, hallway, bathroom or stairwell.

Evacuate... If you live near a coast, on a floodplain, or on an island.

Evacuate... If you live in a high-rise building.

Evacuate... If you have children, elderly or special needs that rely on electrical medical equipment
These are suggestions only, please use common sense when making this very important decision!

EVACUATION GUIDELINES

There will be conditions under which you will decide to evacuate or there may be situations when you are ordered to evacuate. Follow these guidelines for evacuation:

- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood.
- If you have a car, keep a full tank of gas in it.
- Become familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. NEVER drive in standing water!
- If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to. MAKE ARRANGEMENTS!
- Take your emergency supply kit unless you have reason to believe it is contaminated.
- Listen to battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.
- Take your pets with you!
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a cap.
- Check with your neighbors who may need a ride.

Please ensure that you keep family members advised of your contact information and travel plans prior to and following any emergencies. Phone numbers and email addresses are critical as well as communicating your destinations if you are leaving the area and when you expect to return.

Severe Weather apps:

- The Weather Channel
- NOAA Radar Pro
- Emergency (American Red Cross)

General and Traffic apps:

- Emergency (American Red Cross)
- Beaufort County Emergency Management
- WTOC News or WSAV News
- WAZE

It is recommended that you leave your contact information attached to you refrigerator door, that is where the Fire Department will look if they are in need of contacting you.

(This Overview has been reviewed by BCEMD)

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Beaufort County Emergency Management	800-963-5023
	http://www.bcsso.net/Emergency%20Management/index.php
Beaufort County Sheriff	www.bcsso.net
Beaufort County Hurricane Hotline	800-963-5023
Beaufort County Disaster Recovery	Beaufortcountydisasterrecovery.net
NIXLE.US	Register using zip code. Receive alerts from local agencies.

TWITTER for Beaufort County Information	@BCSO Traffic Follow on Twitter – It will notify you to situations reported by Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office. Can be used at any time for current information about roads and what is happening in the area.
SC Department of Transportation	888-877-9151
SC Emergency Traffic Network	www.sctraffic.org
FEMA Answer to questions FEMA	www.fema.gov
National Flood Insurance Program	www.floodsmart.gov
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	http://www.noaa.gov/
National Weather Service	www.nws.npaa.gov
Weather Channel	www.weather.com
American Red Cross	www.redcross.org
The Island Packet	www.islandpacket.com
	There is a link on this website to the Sheriff’s office
Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority	843-706-8223 OR 866-706-8223 or www.bjwsa.org
Palmetto Electric	https://www.palmetto.coop
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security	www.ready.gov

THINGS TO PREPARE FOR

Proof of Residency	Driver’s License, copy of your tax bill or other document with your name and address as proof of ownership
Insurance documents	Name of Insurance Company, Policy Numbers, details and contact phone numbers. Review all documents to ascertain what you are covered for regarding flooding and wind damage
Photos for Insurance Purposes	Use photos to document the contents of your home and your property including your “As Build” Plat
Bring CASH	ATMs may not work and stores may not have electricity. Supermarkets and restaurants may not be open. Be prepared to feed yourselves.
Camera	To document any damage to the inside/outside of your home before you clean up
Bring Cleaning supplies	An emergency supply of cleaning products and bleach
Critters	Inspect your home and yard for unwanted wildlife
Utilities procedures	Inspect your property before turning on your utilities. Check for damage to the main connection to your house. (Located near the meter). Flip the main breaker to the ON position first and then proceed with the major appliances like air conditioning, refrigerator and lights
Pets	Insure you are prepared to care for your pet with food, water and a protected environment
Radio	Have a battery or solar powered radio to check on changing conditions
Disposal of debris	Verify with county officials where and how to dispose of any debris or damaged items.

RECOMMENDED EVACUATION CHECK LIST

PRE EVACUATION	LEAVING	RETURNING	MISC NOTES
Decide Where to Go & Routes to get There			
If a Hotel - Get Phone Number and Make Reservations			
Notify other Family members where you are planning to go			
Fill ALL Autos with Gas - Pack Jumper Cables			
Get Cash (ATM's run on Electricity)			
Cover Windows			
Brace All Doors Including Garage Doors			
Fill Tubs with Water			
Charge All Cell Phones, iPads & Laptops			
Make sure the GPS is in the car - have maps as backup			
Flashlights with Extra Batteries			
Emergency Radio with Extra Batteries			
Emergency Service Phone Numbers			
Emergency Service Apps on Cell Phone			
Back Up All Computer Data			
Store All Lawn Furniture and Grills in a Secure Location			

PACK - FOR A MINIMUM OF 3 DAYS

Medicines and Medical Devices - Check Expiration Dates			
Copies of Insurance Policies & Property Deeds			
All Necessary ID's and Passports			
Pack Valuables Securely			
Clothing for Several Days			
Shoes & Boots			
Drinking Water			
Food - non perishable			
Cell Phone, iPad & Laptop Chargers			
First Aid Supplies Including Scissors & Knife			
Toiletries			
Towels, Blankets & Sleeping Bags			

EVACUATING

Shut Off Water at Main Valve			
Unplug All Electronic Devices - see footnote (1)			
Shut Off All Circuit Breakers Except Refrigerator & Freezer (2)			
Turn Off Main Gas Valve Including in ground Propane Tanks			
Make Sure ALL Doors and Windows are locked			
Throw Out Perishables from Refrigerators			

PETS

Pet Food, Water & their Dishes			
Carriers or Crates for each			
Collars, Harness & Leashes			
Current Photo of all Pets			
Vets Phone Numbers			