



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE 2010

WHAT IS A HURRICANE?

A hurricane is a severe tropical storm that forms in the southern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, or in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Hurricanes need warm tropical oceans, moisture, and light winds above them. If the right conditions last long enough, a hurricane can produce violent winds, incredible waves, torrential rains, and floods.

Hurricanes rotate in a counterclockwise direction around an "eye." The most violent activity takes place in the area immediately around the eye, called the eye wall. Hurricanes have winds at least 74 miles per hour. There are on average of six Atlantic hurricanes each year.

As a hurricane approaches, the skies will begin to darken and winds will grow in strength. A single hurricane can last for more than 2 weeks over open waters and can run a path across the entire length of the eastern seaboard. August and September are peak months during the hurricane season that lasts from June 1 through November 30.

Storm Classifications:

Tropical Depression - An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less.

Tropical Storm - An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph.

Hurricane - An intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher. Hurricanes are called "typhoons" in the western Pacific, while similar storms in the Indian Ocean are called "cyclones."

2010 ATLANTIC STORM NAMES

When the winds from storms reach 39 mph, the cyclones are given names.

Alex	Hermine	Otto
Bonnie	Igor	Paula
Colin	Julia	Richard
Danielle	Karl	Shary
Earl	Lisa	Tomas
Fiona	Matthew	Virginie
Gaston	Nicole	Walter

Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions **are possible**, usually within 36 hours. Stay tuned to radio and television for more information. Prepare to take immediate action to protect your family and property.

Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions **are expected**, usually within 24 hours. Complete all storm preparations and evacuate if directed by local officials.

HURRICANE DANGERS

Hurricane hazards come in many forms:

1. **Storm Surge:** The greatest potential for loss of life related to a hurricane is from the storm surge. Storm surge is a massive dome of water, often 50 miles wide, that sweeps across the coast near the area where the eye of the hurricane makes landfall. The storm surge acts like a bulldozer, sweeping away everything in its path. The stronger the hurricane, the higher the storm surge will be. For those who live along the coast, storm surge is one of the most dangerous hazards in a hurricane.
2. **High Winds:** The intensity of a landfalling hurricane is expressed in terms of categories based on the wind speeds and potential to cause damage.

HURRICANE CATEGORIES

Category One	Winds 74-95 mph
Category Two	Winds 96-110 mph
Category Three	Winds 111-130 mph
Category Four	Winds 131-155 mph
Category Five	Winds greater than 155 mph

Hurricane force winds can easily destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Debris such as signs, roofing material, and small items left outside become flying missiles in hurricanes. Extensive damage to trees, towers, water and underground utility lines (from uprooted trees), and fallen poles cause considerable disruption.

High rise buildings are also vulnerable to hurricane force winds, particularly at the higher levels since wind speed tends to increase with height. Recent research suggests you should stay below the tenth floor, but still above any floors at risk for flooding.

3. **Tornadoes:** Hurricanes can also produce tornadoes that add to the storm's destructive power. Most landfalling hurricanes spawn at least one tornado. Hurricanes may spawn tornadoes up to three days after landfall, although most of the tornadoes occur on the day of landfall, or on the next day.
4. **Flooding:** In the last 30 years, more deaths have occurred from a hurricane's freshwater (rain) flooding than any other hurricane hazard. Both hurricanes and tropical storms are capable of creating this type of flooding. At least 23% of U.S. tropical cyclone deaths occur to people who drown in, or attempting to abandon, their cars.

YOU CAN REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF A HURRICANE DISASTER BY BEING PREPARED

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

The most important thing you can do is to be informed and prepared. Disaster preparedness should include:

1. **Developing a family disaster plan:**
 - a. Plan an evacuation route - learn safe routes inland and the location of official shelters.
 - b. Make sure that all family members know how to respond after a hurricane - teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity and water. Teach children how and when to call 911, and what radio station to tune to for emergency information.
 - c. Develop an emergency communication plan - in case family members are separated from one another during a disaster (a real possibility while adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.
2. **Creating a disaster supply kit:** **Be prepared to be self sufficient for at least three days** (water, food and other supplies). It may take at least that long for outside emergency workers to provide aid to you after a major hurricane. Power may be interrupted for weeks. If you and your family choose to stay at home during the hurricane, shop ahead and assemble a disaster supply kit.
 - Flashlight and extra batteries

- Portable, battery operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Non-perishable, packaged or canned food (canned meats, beans, bread, crackers, peanut butter, dried fruits, dry cereals, snack foods, dry milk, canned fruit juices, etc.)
- Bottled drinking water - allow one gallon of water per person per day
- Non-electric can opener
- Paper products - plates, cups, napkins, plastic utensils, toilet paper, garbage bags, etc.
- Have ample supply of medications, at least a two week supply
- Toiletries/hygiene items/moisture wipes
- Charcoal and matches/lighter
- Duct tape/masking tape
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members
- Pet care items - ample supply of food and water, proper identification, immunization records, medications, muzzle, leash, carrier/cage
- Cash/credit cards
- Keep important family documents in a waterproof container (insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.)

3. Having a place to go: One of the most important decisions you will have to make is "should I evacuate?"

- a. If you are asked to evacuate, you should do so without delay. Material possessions are replaceable - your life is not. Leave as soon as possible, as roads and bridges frequently become crowded and traffic moves slow.
- b. Decide where to go if you must evacuate and how to get there. Be familiar with your county's evacuation shelter locations. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets. If you and your family choose to evacuate to a designated shelter location or leave the area, take along items to make your stay as comfortable as possible.
 - Medicines - ensure you have at least a two week supply
 - Identification
 - Bedding: sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, etc.
 - One gallon of water per person per day
 - Prescription glasses or contacts
 - First aid kit
 - Flashlight (one per person) and extra batteries
 - Portable, battery operated radio and extra batteries

- Cash and credit cards
 - Clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes
 - Toiletries
 - Games, books, cards, etc.
 - Valuable papers - insurance papers, birth certificates, etc.
 - Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members
 - Any special dietary requirements
4. **Securing your home:** put shutters and/or plywood on windows and glass doors to keep glass from shattering; close and lock windows and glass doors, lower blinds and close curtains to keep flying rubble out; fill bathtubs and other clean containers with water for later should water become unavailable; do not stay in a mobile home during a hurricane.
 5. **Having a pet plan:** Make arrangements for pets - specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends and relatives are all potential refuges for your pet during a disaster.

TAKING ACTION IS AS EASY AS 1-2-3:

1. **BEFORE:** Before hurricane season starts, you should:
 - a. Assemble your disaster supply kit
 - b. Develop your family disaster plan
2. **WATCH:** When a hurricane watch is issued, you should:
 - a. Check your disaster supply kit - make sure nothing is missing
 - b. Activate your family disaster plan
3. **WARNING:** When a hurricane warning is issued, you should:
 - a. Ready your disaster supply kit - if you need to evacuate, take your supply kit with you.
 - b. Use your family disaster plan

DURING A HURRICANE WATCH (a Hurricane Watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions, usually within 36 hours)

- Listen to radio and/or television for hurricane progress reports.
- Check emergency supplies.
- Fuel car.
- Have money on hand - ATMs may not be operable after a storm.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, trash cans and garden tools; anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.

- Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows. Remove outside antennas.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles and cooking pots.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.
- Review evacuation plan.
- Moor boat securely or move it to a designated safe place. Use rope or chain to secure boat to trailer. Use tie downs to anchor trailer to the ground or house.

DURING A HURRICANE WARNING (A Hurricane Warning is issued when hurricane conditions are expected in 24 hours or less)

- Listen constantly to radio/television for official instructions.
- If in a mobile home, check tie downs and evacuate immediately.
- If officials indicate evacuation is necessary:
 - Leave as soon as possible. Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges.
 - Secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve.
 - Tell someone outside of the storm area where you are going.
 - Take disaster supply kit.
 - If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding or better yet, move it to a higher floor.
 - Lock up home and leave.

DURING HURRICANE

- Listen constantly to radio/television for official instructions.
- Stay inside, away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
- If the "eye" of the storm passes over your area, be aware that weather conditions will return with winds from the other direction in a very short time.

- Keep flashlight and batteries handy. Avoid open flames, candles and kerosene lamps.
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power "surge" when electricity is restored.
- Be alert - tornadoes are often spawned during hurricanes.

AFTER THE STORM

- Stay tuned to local radio/television for information.
 - Return home only after authorities advise that it is safe to do so.
 - Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company, police, or fire department.
 - Enter your home with caution. Beware of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
 - Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
 - Check refrigerated foods for spoilage.
 - Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until the public water system has been declared safe. There are several ways to purify water until the public water system has been declared safe: (1) boil vigorously for at least one minute; (2) use water purification tablets - available at grocery/drug stores; (3) use eight drops of unscented liquid household bleach per gallon of water and let stand for 30 minutes before using.
 - Take pictures of the damage, both to the house and its contents, for insurance claims.
 - Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
 - Use telephone only for emergency calls.
- **INSPECTING UTILITIES IN A DAMAGED 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 and 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. Listen for information about public water and sewage systems and follow instructions from the utility. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water utility and avoid the water from the tap - it may be contaminated.

BERKELEY COUNTY EMERGENCY SHELTERS

When a Voluntary Evacuation is recommended, the following shelters will be opened:

<u>Shelter</u>	<u>Address</u>
Cainhoy Elem/Middle School	2434 Cainhoy Road - Huger
Goose Creek High School	1137 Red Bank Road - Goose Creek
Hanahan Middle School	5815 Murray Drive - Hanahan
Berkeley Intermediate School (special medical needs)	777 Stony Landing Road - Moncks Corner
St Stephen Elementary School	1053 Russellville Road - St. Stephen
Berkeley High School	406 West Main St. Moncks Corner, SC

When a Mandatory Evacuation is ordered by the Governor or as needed to provide additional sheltering space, the following shelters will be opened:

<u>Shelter</u>	<u>Address</u>
Sangaree Elementary School	1460 Royal Road - Summerville
Stratford High School	951 Crowfield Blvd. - Goose Creek
Westview Primary School	98 Westview Blvd. - Goose Creek
Macedonia Middle School	200 Macedonia Foxes Circle - Macedonia
Cross Elementary School	1325 Ranger Drive - Cross
Cainhoy Elem/Middle	2434 Cainhoy Rd, Huger

This list may change - stay tuned to local radio and TV stations for shelter openings, locations, and updates.

Never go to a shelter unless you know it is open.

CURRENT MEDICATIONS

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE NUMBER</u>
EMS/Fire/Police	911
Mental Health Center - Moncks Corner	761-8282 or 1-888-202-1381
_____	_____
Poison Control	1-800-922-1117
Berkeley County Emergency Preparedness Office	719-4166
Red Cross Shelter Information	843-764-2323, ext 373
Pharmacy	_____
Doctor	_____
Insurance Company	_____
Bank	_____
Out of State Family Contact	_____