

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



[Evacuation Transportation Form](#)

[Forma de transporte de evacuación](#)

FACING THE REALITY OF MORE & BIGGER STORMS

HURRICANE SAFETY AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Known as "The Greatest Storm on Earth", the HURRICANE carries with it three highly destructive elements: storm surge, flooding and wind. The grave dangers created by these forces can be greatly reduced and need not result in death **IF** you are prepared to meet the threat they pose to your safety. Being prepared requires that you:

- 1) **READ** this paper **CAREFULLY**;
- 2) **DECIDE** what course of action you need to take;
- 3) **KEEP** this pamphlet, because the information it contains will correspond to the instructions you will receive while the storm threatens;
- 4) **LISTEN** to the local radio and/or television often for weather advisories;
- 5) **BE PREPARED TO PUT YOUR PLANS INTO ACTION**. Remember, following these simple directions may save the lives of you and your family!

PRESEASON PREPAREDNESS

The hurricane season is from June 1 through November 30th. There are several basic precautions you should take before each hurricane season begins. Check these items off as you complete them.

- Learn the storm surge history and possibilities in your area.
- Know the elevation of your property.
- Know the evacuation zone in which you live.
- Study the information in this pamphlet, and be sure each family member is familiar with it also.
- Decide on a destination ahead of time and make sure everyone knows that destination.
- Have a point of contact (telephone number) away from the danger area where relatives can call to check on you, i.e., relative or friend.
- Review your insurance policies, homeowners does not cover flood damage.
- Purchase flood insurance from your agent.
- Take an inventory of your personal property for insurance and/or tax deduction reasons and keep it in a safe place. If possible take pictures or video your belongings.
- Keep your immunizations for tetanus up to date.
- Make sure your house is in good repair, especially the roof and windows.
- Trim back dead wood from trees.
- Make sure you have a good portable radio, several flashlights, spare batteries and bulbs.
- Buy materials to board your windows and doors. Have it cut to size and identified as to where it will be used before hand.
- Purchase a can of lime to sterilize garbage and refuse.
- Keep family car in good repair.
- Keep important papers, pictures and keepsakes in a box ready to move on short notice.

HURRICANE CATEGORIES

A hurricane's strength is described by five categories, ranging from 1, the least severe, to 5, the most severe. This is called the SAFFIR-SIMPSON hurricane scale.

CATEGORY ONE: Winds of 74-95 MPH. Damage primarily to shrubbery, tree foliage and unanchored mobile homes, some structural roof damage. No real damage to other structures. Storm surge 8-9.5 feet above normal tide level. Low lying coastal roads inundated, minor pier damage, some small craft in exposed anchorage torn from moorings. Evacuation of barrier islands and low lying mainland areas.

CATEGORY TWO: Winds of 96-110 MPH. Considerable damage to shrubbery and tree foliage. Some trees blown down. Major damage to exposed mobile homes. Some structural and roof damage. Storm surge of 11-13 feet above normal tide level. Coastal roads and low lying escape routes inland cut by rising water 7-8 hours before arrival of hurricane center. Considerable damage to piers. Marinas flooded. Small craft in unprotected anchorages torn from moorings. Evacuation of barrier islands and low lying mainland areas.

CATEGORY THREE: Winds of 111-130 MPH. Foliage torn from trees, large trees blown down. Damage to roofs, windows and doors, some structural damage. Mobile homes destroyed. Storm surge 17-20 feet above normal tide level. Serious flooding on coast, many structures on coast destroyed. Larger structures near coast damaged by battering waves and floating debris. Low lying escape routes inland cut by rising water 9-10 hours before hurricane center arrives. Large scale evacuation required.

CATEGORY FOUR: Winds of 131-155 MPH. Shrubs and trees blown down, all signs blown down. Considerable structural damage to buildings. Complete failure of roofs on many residences. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Storm surge 23-26.5 feet above normal tide level. Major damage to lower floors of structures near shore due to flooding and battering of waves and floating debris. Low lying escape routes inland cut by rising water 11-12 hours before hurricane center arrives. Major erosion of beaches. Total evacuation of all barrier islands, low lying areas of mainland and most other areas of the county.

CATEGORY FIVE: Winds greater than 155 MPH. Shrubs and tree blown down. Complete failure of residential and commercial roofs. Some complete building failures. Complete destruction of all mobile homes. Storm surge greater than 27 feet above normal tide level. Major damage to lower floors of all structures less than 15 feet above sea level within 500 yards of shore. Low lying escape route inland cut by rising water 12-13 hours before hurricane center arrives. Total evacuation of entire county.

WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED FOR YOUR AREA

A HURRICANE WATCH is issued for a coastal area when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24 - 36 hours. When you hear the announcement, you should:

- ___ Stay tuned to you **LOCAL** radio or TV station for bulletins.
- ___ Ensure vehicle gas tanks are full.
- ___ Moor small craft or move to safe shelter. Small boat trailers should be tied down securely, with boats lashed to trailers and filled with water.
- ___ Check supplies of medications and drugs.
- ___ Lower TV and radio antennas to avoid contact with electrical wires.
- ___ Secure furniture, garbage cans, and other loose items outside.
- ___ Check mobile home tie-downs.
- ___ Tape, board and shutter windows to prevent shattering.
- ___ Obtain tools and materials for emergency home repairs.
- ___ Wedge sliding glass doors to prevent their lifting from their tracks.
- ___ Ensure batteries for portable radio and flashlights are fresh.
- ___ Spare bulbs for flashlights.
- ___ Stock up on canned provisions and non-perishable foods. Don't forget non-electric can openers.
- ___ Check mobile home tie-downs.

WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED FOR YOUR AREA

A HURRICANE WARNING is issued when hurricane conditions are expected in specified coastal area in 24 hours or less. When you hear the announcement, you should:

___ Stay tuned to your **LOCAL** radio or TV station for official bulletins. **DON'T LISTEN TO RUMORS!**

___ Board up windows, garage and porch doors. Large windows should be braced inside and out. Plywood with a minimum thickness of 1/2 inch should be used. Taping of windows will lessen the chance of flying glass, but will not prevent breakage.

___ Turn refrigerator and freezer to maximum cold and don't open unless necessary.

___ Bring inside all toys, furniture, garbage cans, hanging plants, etc.

___ Check your supply of canned heat or charcoal for cooking. NOTE: DO NOT USE CHARCOAL FOR INSIDE COOKING.

___ Fill containers with several days supply of drinking water, including a sterilized bathtub. Clean, large plastic garbage cans are also good.

___ Move valuables to upper floors to avoid water damage.

___ Stay indoors on the downwind side of the house, with a window on that side opened.

___ Leave mobile homes, after you have checked tie-downs, secured the shutters, and removed awnings.

___ Use telephone only in emergencies.

___ Beware of the calm in the eye, it only lasts a few minutes, and the reversal of wind direction as the eye passes.

IF YOU ARE ORDERED TO EVACUATE

If you are ordered to EVACUATE, quickly secure your home and LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. Follow evacuation orders no matter what the weather looks like at the time. It may be sunny and calm when the evacuation order comes, but this lead time is NECESSARY to insure your safety.

VOLUNTARY EVACUATION:

-Destination and route is your choice - relative, friend, motel. Take items as listed below.

MANDATORY EVACUATION:

-Rarely issued, but must be adhered to immediately.

-No choice in direction of travel, roads will be barricaded.

-Take items as listed below.

EVACUATION TO A FRIEND OR RELATIVE'S HOME

If you plan to evacuate to a friend or relative's home, let family members and friends know where you are going and the phone number where you can be reached. If you are going to evacuation centers in host cities, check the information in your phone book concerning shelters and routes.

EVACUATION TO A DESIGNATED RECEPTION CENTER

Follow the designated routes to the reception centers shown on the enclosed map or in the phone book. You will be expected to register as soon as you arrive at the reception center. You are required to keep the premises clean and sanitary. **REMEMBER** Baby diapers, adult diapers, and sanitary napkins are items that are forgotten most often, and are also the items that are the hardest to find during and after a disaster.

First, SECURE YOUR HOME by taking the actions listed for a HURRICANE WATCH and HURRICANE WARNING and shut off the gas valves.

In all cases, take the following items with you whether going to a motel, a friend or relatives home, or a shelter:

Flashlight with extra batteries and a bulb.

Blankets, pillow, and/or sleeping bag for each person.

Extra clothing for each family member.

Medication, such as insulin, blood pressure, etc. Bring enough for two weeks. Even after you get back, they may not be available.

Infant support items such as formula, diapers, pins, baby foods, etc. Plan on enough for two weeks. They may not be available after you get back.

Plastic containers of drinking water.

Non-perishable food, such as canned goods and snacks.

Personal items, toothbrush and paste, wash cloth, towel. Women should remember sanitary napkins. Adult diapers as needed.

Any non-perishable foods needed for special diets.

Non-destructive toys for children, games, and books.

Do not bring alcoholic beverages, guns, or pets to the shelter.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE

If you have a medical problem and will need assistance, call the Chatham County Health Department, office of Community Services and give them your name, address, and phone number NOW, not when the storm is approaching. Your name and address on the Agency's list will assure that you receive assistance in evacuating if the need should arise. The phone number for the agency is listed below. If you change residence, please call and give the agency your new address.

IF YOU STAY IN YOUR HOME

If you are not ordered to evacuate, stay inside your home. There are several actions you should take to insure your safety throughout the storm:

___ While storm winds blow, STAY INSIDE. Keep a window cracked on the side AWAY from the wind. Be sure to close that window when the wind direction changes, and open one on the other side. Wind direction will change as the eye passes by.

___ Do not use electrical appliances during the storm, you could be electrocuted.

___ CONSERVE REFRIGERATION. Turn refrigerator and freezer to the coldest position. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly. Refrigerators and freezers will stay cold longer when filled with food and these precautions are taken. You will be advised where you can get ice if the emergency is prolonged. If resumption of electrical power is delayed, find a neighbor with a gas stove and cook your frozen food. Make sure there are no gas leaks.

___ An emergency supply of water is even more important than food, especially for infants and the elderly. One gallon of water per person per day is the recommended minimum for drinking and food preparation. Use paper or plastic plates to eliminate the need of using water to wash dirty dishes.

___ If the storm center passes your area, there will be a calm period or lull lasting from several minutes to a couple of hours. Wind and rain may cease completely, but do not be fooled. DO NOT GO OUT. DO NOT BE A CURIOSITY SEEKER. The wind will resume from the opposite direction, often with greater force than before. Wait for official word that it is safe for you to leave your home. Listen only to local radio stations for information. If you listen to stations in another town, the situations will be different and the information will be difference different.

___ After the storm, be cautious of every move. Watch for wild animals and snakes that have been driven out of their refuge by the storm. Do not touch fallen or low hanging wires of any kind, under any circumstances. Avoid puddles with fallen wires in them. Watch out for weakened limbs, porches, bridges, and so forth, which might collapse. Keep strict supervision over your children during and following the emergency.

RE-ENTRY

- Many hazardous conditions, including blocked roads, downed power lines, ruptured gas mains and broken water mains will have to be cleared and repaired.
- Do not attempt to return until the all clear is given and CEMA issues a Phase II reentry order.
- If you leave your place of refuge and attempt to return, the roadblocks will not allow passage and you will have to return to your place of shelter.
- All Clear messages will be broadcast and shelters notified when it is safe to return.

AFTER THE ALL-CLEAR IS GIVEN

The danger is not over when the storm subsides. To avoid post-hurricane hazards, you should:

- Do not drive unless absolutely necessary, and then, drive carefully watching for dangling electrical wires, undermined roads, and flooded low spots.
- Report damaged or broken water, sewer, gas, and electrical lines.
- Use caution in re-entering your home by checking for gas leaks, damaged electrical wiring and appliances, damage to the home, and spoiled food and water.
- Watch for snakes and animals, they may have sought refuge in your home. Remember they are frightened and may attack rather than run away.
- Do not sight-see, you could put yourself and others in danger.
- Report all hazards to appropriate agency.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Do not listen to rumors.
- EMA will be issuing info bulletins to all radio stations, cable services and Ch. 21 for our area. Disregard what you hear from outside sources unless the bulletin states the information is from the Glynn County EMA.
- Know in what evacuation zone you live. This information is in the telephone directory.
- Know your evacuation route and destination.
- Smoking, alcohol, pets and firearms are not allowed in shelters.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency Management	966-7780	Georgia State Patrol	
Fire Dept	911	Hospital	
Police Dept	911	Salvation Army	
Emergencies	911	American Red Cross	
Fire Dept .	911	Health Dept	
Police Dept .	911		
Ambulance	911		

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS LINKS

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes

<http://www.flash.org> The hurricane services section for tips on preparing your home.

Humane Society of the United States

www.hsus.org The disaster services section for tips on preparing pets for disasters.

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org Disaster safety section for preparedness tips and detailed information on building a disaster preparedness kit and a family emergency plan.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

www.fema.gov Provides information on the federal disaster assistance program. Look for news, photos, preparedness information, independent study programs, maps and more. Also has a link to FEMA for kids, a great source for children, parents and teachers with games and stories.

Institute for Business and Home Safety

www.ibhs.org An initiative of the insurance industry, IBHS provides information on retrofitting buildings and creating disaster-resistant communities.

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

www.nvoad.org Provides information on volunteer disaster service organizations and links to more than 30 volunteer disaster agency web sites.