

# Media Release



**bluffton**  
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

October 12, 2016

For more information:

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## Town of Bluffton Ready to Issue Emergency Permits

The Town of Bluffton is ready to assist homeowners who need emergency permits to rebuild or repair from Hurricane Matthew storm damage. Town Hall remains closed and will re-open Monday, October 17. Meanwhile, Town representatives are set up in the lobby of the Bluffton Police Department (101 Progressive Street, across from Publix/Buckwalter) to assist residents from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Friday.

Basic guidelines for emergency permitting:

- A permit is NOT required for debris removal in or on a structure or if a homeowner is repairing minor demolition to prevent further property damage or prevent personal injury. Generally, if a homeowner is replacing “like for like” due to storm damage, a permit is not required. No permit is required if a homeowner is repairing minor water leaks that do not involve structural, mechanical or electrical systems.
- There is no charge for emergency permits.
- If a homeowner has trees which may present a hazard, a permit is not required.
- If you are removing trees which do not present a current hazard, a permit may be required. Please call the Town Customer Service Center if you have specific questions about your case (843.706.4522).
- If you live adjacent to a Highway Corridor (adjacent to Hwy. 46, 170, 278 or May River Road) or in the Bluffton Historic District, a homeowner is required to bring in pre-disaster photos to apply for a permit.
- If a homeowner has structural damage, please bring in photographs of the damaged structure and those incidents will be assessed on a case to case basis.
- During this Emergency Permitting period, the Town will not be accepting applications for new permits. Additionally, power releases to the utility companies, certificates of occupancy and building inspections will be accomplished on a case by case basis.

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- If you are a contractor from out of town, please call the Town's business license office (also temporarily set up in Bluffton Police Department) at 843.706.4526 or email [businesslicense@townofbluffton.com](mailto:businesslicense@townofbluffton.com).
- Important contact information:
  - Town of Bluffton Customer Service Center (i.e. permits, applications, etc.) 843-706-4522.
  - Town of Bluffton Business License: (email: [businesslicense@townofbluffton.com](mailto:businesslicense@townofbluffton.com)) or 843-706-4526.

Town Hall will reopen Monday, October 17 at 8 a.m.; until then, representatives are available in the Bluffton Police Department's lobby today through Friday.