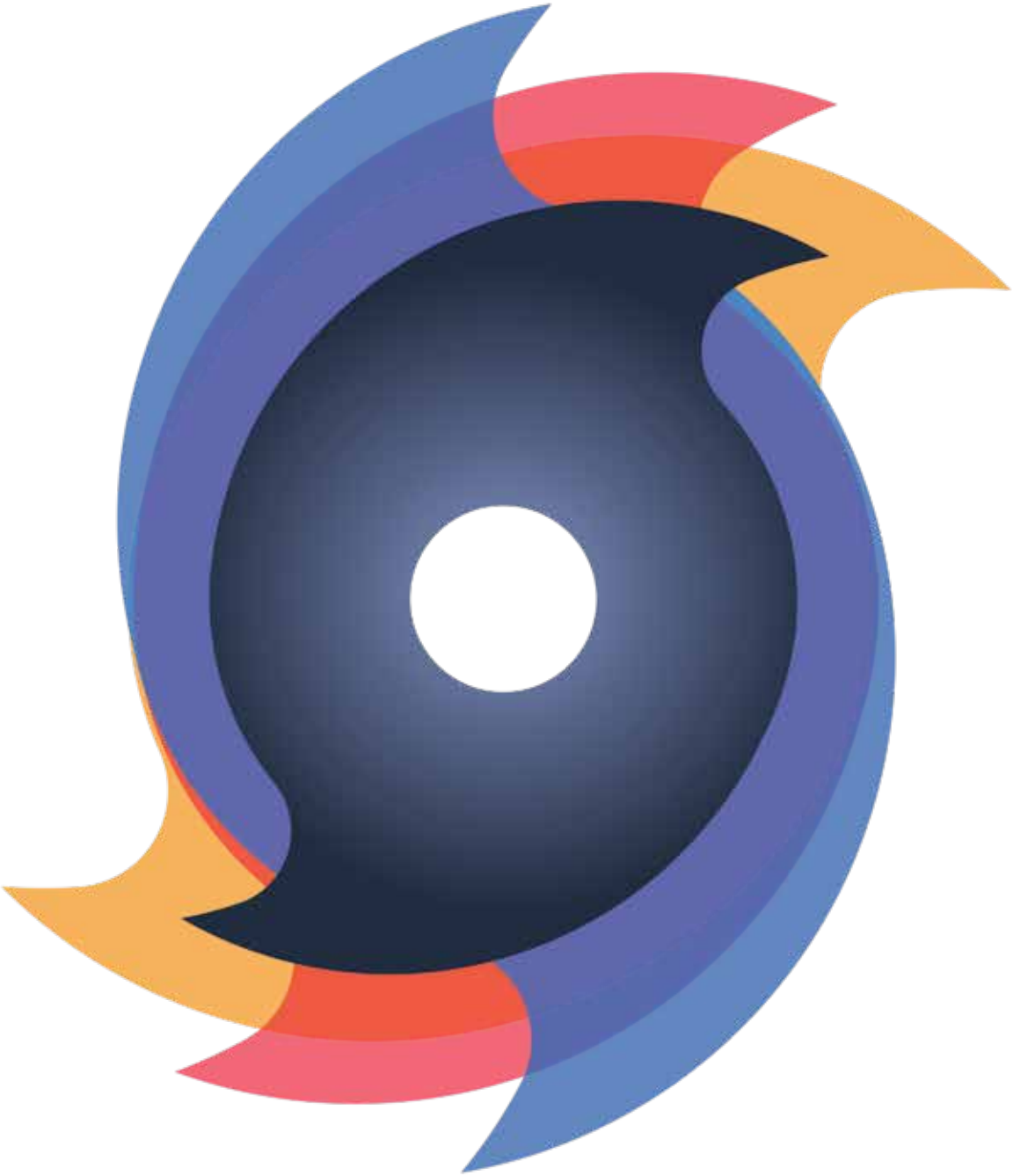
# SOUTH CAROLINA
# HURRICANE GUIDE



## 2019

Have a plan. Make it personal.

SCEMD

scemd.org @SCEMD

# KNOW

## WATCHES AND WARNINGS

**Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the National Hurricane Center issues watches 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. The NHC issues warnings 36 hours in advance of the predicted onset of tropical-storm-force winds.**

### Storm Surge Watch

A storm surge watch is defined as the possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 48 hours.

### Tropical Storm Watch

An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are possible within the specified area.

### Hurricane Watch

An announcement that hurricane conditions are possible within the specified area.

**Action:** Prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation in case a Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning is issued. Listen closely to instructions from local officials.

### Storm Surge Warning

A storm surge warning is defined as the danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 36 hours.

### Tropical Storm Warning

An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are expected within the
specified area.

### Hurricane Warning

An announcement that hurricane conditions are expected within the specified area.

**Action:** During a warning, finish storm preparations and immediately leave the threatened area if directed by local officials. Have a plan for where you will stay such as with family or friends, at a hotel or at a shelter.

### Extreme Wind Warning

Extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane (115 mph or greater), usually associated with the eyewall, are expected to begin within an hour.

**Action:** Take immediate shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.

**Additional watches and warnings may be issued to provide detailed information on specific threats such as floods and tornadoes. Local National Weather Service offices issue flash flood/flood watches and warnings as well as tornado warnings.**

## Hurricane Hazards

Hurricanes and tropical storms not only threaten South Carolina's coast but all areas of our state. It's important for all South Carolinians to prepare for hurricane season.

Hurricanes and tropical storms often produce widespread, torrential rains in excess of 6 inches, which may result in deadly and destructive floods. In fact, flooding is the major threat from tropical cyclones for people living inland.

Winds from a hurricane can destroy buildings and manufactured homes. Outdoor items and debris can become projectiles in high winds.

Tornadoes can accompany hurricanes and tropical storms. The most tornadoes spawned by a single tropical cyclone were associated with Hurricane Ivan, which spawned 120 tornadoes in 2004.

# EAS STATIONS

The following radio and television stations are key participants in the Emergency Alert System as well as S.C. Public Radio. They broadcast emergency information throughout the state, as do numerous other radio and television stations.

**Charleston**

WIWF 96.9 FM
WEZL 103.5 FM

**Grand Strand**

WYAV 104.1 FM
WLFF 106.5 FM

**Florence**

WJMX 103.3 FM
WYNN 106.3 FM

**Upstate**

WFBC 93.7 FM
WESC 92.5 FM

**Aiken/Augusta**

WBBQ 104.3 FM
WLUB 105.7 FM

**Columbia**

WCOS 97.5 FM
WTCB 106.7 FM

**York**

WRHI 1340 AM
WRHM 107.1 FM
WNSC 88.9 FM

**SC Public Radio**

WLTR 91.3 FM (Columbia)

WSCI 89.3 FM (Charleston)

WRJA 88.1 FM (Sumter/Columbia)

WNSC 88.9 FM (Rock Hill)

WJWJ 89.9 FM (Beaufort/Hilton Head)

WEPR 90.1 FM (Greenville/Spartanburg)

WHMC 90.1 FM (Conway/Myrtle Beach)

WLJK 89.1 (Aiken)

# SCETV WEATHER

Residents in South Carolina can now use a new emergency information service launched by South Carolina Educational Television and South Carolina Public Radio. In partnership with WUFT, this new, story-telling based service provides heightened hurricane, tropical storm and other weather-related emergency content to South Carolina residents and visitors across the state. This new partnership builds on SCETV's existing relationships with state emergency agencies and adds the unique meteorological services of WUFT. In addition to radio updates carried on South Carolina Public Radio stations, residents can track updates on social media by following @SCETV and @SCPublicRadio on Twitter and Facebook using the hashtag #SCETVwx. All updates can also be found on the all new SCETV.org/weather webpage.

# INSURANCE

**From the S.C. Department of Insurance:**

1. Review your insurance policy so that you know if you have adequate coverage. Understand the difference between replacement cost and cash value.

2. Know your policy's deductibles as well as the procedures to take when property is damaged or destroyed. Be sure to contact your insurance company ASAP.

3. A standard homeowners or renters policy does not cover damage from flood; you will need to purchase a separate flood insurance policy. Visit floodsmart.gov for more information.

4. Make a property inventory list of your valuables, furniture, electronics, etc. Take pictures of your property so you can have a visual record of your belongings.

5. If you do evacuate, be sure to carry your important documents with you.

6. When a hurricane is imminent, remove outdoor objects like lawn furniture and garbage cans that may be blown by the wind. Protect window openings with storm shutters.

**Ways to Save on Insurance Costs:**

Catastrophe savings accounts are state income tax free savings accounts that allow the homeowner to set aside funds to pay for qualified expenses such as deductibles. Insurance premium discounts are available for homes that have been made more storm resistant. State income tax credits are available for property owners who purchase supplies to retrofit and make their homes more resistant to hurricanes and severe storms.

**For questions and additional information, please visit doi.sc.gov or call the department's Office of Consumer Services toll-free number, 1-800-768-3467**

# PREPARE

## Hide from the wind...

**The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale** estimates potential property damage based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major because of their potential for significant loss of life and property damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous, and require preventative measures.

### CATEGORY 1

**DAMAGE**

**MINIMAL**
Some damage to roofs, siding, gutters and trees.

**WINDS**

74-95 MPH

**POWER OUTAGES**

Outages could last several days.

### CATEGORY 2

**DAMAGE**

**MODERATE**
Extremely dangerous winds could cause major damage to homes and buildings. Shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted.

**WINDS**

96-110 MPH

**POWER OUTAGES**

Near total power loss that could last from several days to weeks.

### CATEGORY 3

**DAMAGE**

**MODERATE**
Devastating damage could occur. Buildings can sustain damage with loss of roof structure and some exterior walls. Trees will be snapped and uprooted.

**WINDS**

111-129 MPH

**POWER OUTAGES**

Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks.

### CATEGORY 4

**DAMAGE**

**EXTREME**
Buildings will sustain severe damage. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

**WINDS**

130-156 MPH

**POWER OUTAGES**

Outages could last for weeks to possibly months.

### CATEGORY 5

**DAMAGE**

**CATASTROPHIC**
A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and all collapse. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

**WINDS**

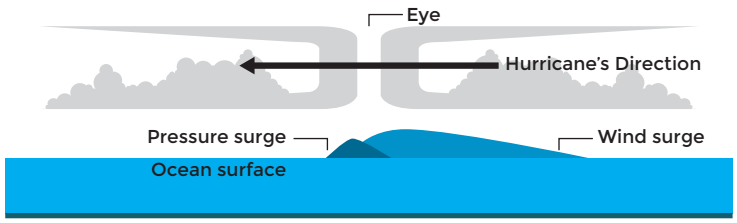
157+ MPH

**POWER OUTAGES**

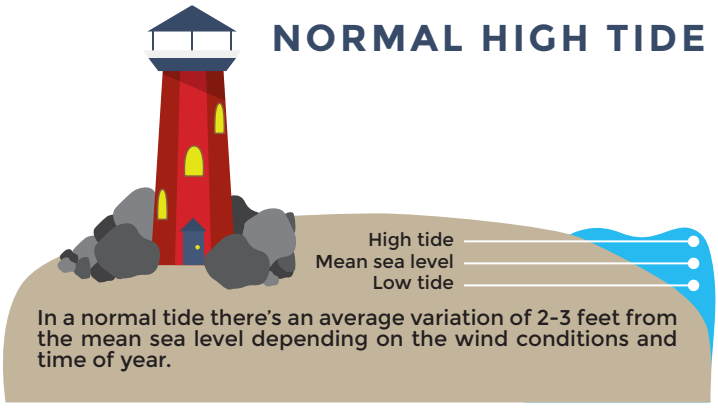
Outages will last for weeks to possibly months.

# ...and run from the water.

Storm surge inundation is the total water level that occurs on normally dry ground as a result of the storm tide, and is expressed in terms of water, in feet, above ground level.

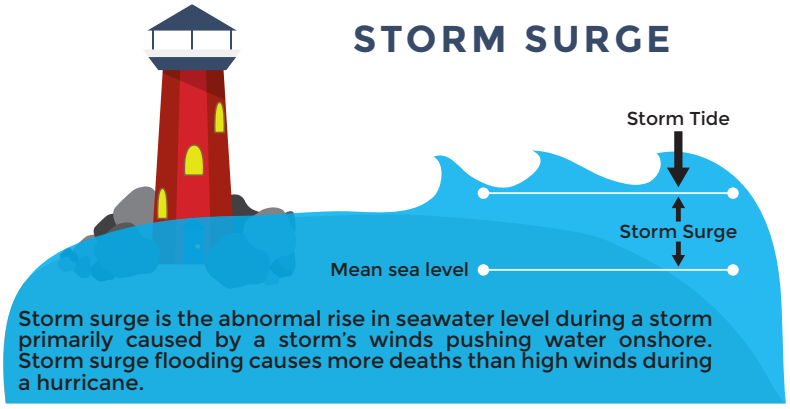



## NORMAL HIGH TIDE




In a normal tide there's an average variation of 2-3 feet from the mean sea level depending on the wind conditions and time of year.

## STORM SURGE




Storm surge is the abnormal rise in seawater level during a storm primarily caused by a storm's winds pushing water onshore. Storm surge flooding causes more deaths than high winds during a hurricane.

# HURRICANE NAMES

## 2019

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Andrea | Humberto | Olga |
| Barry | Imelda | Pablo |
| Chantal | Jerry | Rebekah |
| Dorian | Karen | Sebastien |
| Erin | Lorenzo | Tanya |
| Fernand | Melissa | Van |
| Gabrielle | Nestor | Wendy |

In the event that more than 21 named hurricanes occur in the Atlantic in a season, additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, etc.

## 2020

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Arthur | Hanna | Omar |
| Bertha | Isaias | Paulette |
| Cristobal | Josephine | Rene |
| Dolly | Kyle | Sally |
| Edouard | Laura | Teddy |
| Fay | Marco | Vicky |
| Gonzalo | Nana | Wilfred |

# POWER POINTERS

- If you see a downed power line, do not touch it. Do not touch tree limbs or other objects touching a power line.
- Do not attempt to tie generators into the house circuit. This can be dangerous to you, your neighbors and to linemen. Plug appliances directly into the generator.
- Should the power go out while you are cooking, remember to turn the stove off and remove any cookware from the cooking surfaces and oven.
- Do not open refrigerators or freezers during an outage unless absolutely necessary. Repeated openings cause the cold air to escape and food to thaw more quickly.
- If you smell gas, leave your home immediately, and call the power company.

**Start preparing for a power outage now. Visit scemd.org to find a list of all power utilities serving South Carolina complete with their outage reporting information.**

# ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Put your most important identification and medical records into a digital format for easy safekeeping and quicker movement because paper documents can easily get misplaced or damaged during a significant weather event.

Put your name and contact information on your equipment in case it gets misplaced during the excitement of evacuation, sheltering, or shelter consolidation.

Ask for help if you need it. Call your local emergency management office. Some offices have a list of people who need extra help during an emergency.

Know yourself and have your plan ready and in place. Make sure other people know your plan too. Leave as soon as you can so you can reach your destination safely ahead of a storm.

Review the hurricane preparation checklists in this guide. Think about any additional items you may need like batteries for hearing aids and similar devices, extra oxygen tanks, electrical backups for medical equipment or special food requirements.

**The South Carolina Emergency Manager Mobile App**

**AVAILABLE NOW**

Download on the App Store

Google Play

- Build and customize a personal emergency plan.
- Keep track of your disaster supplies kit.
- "Know Your Zone" evacuation maps.
- Local emergency manager information.
- Emergency strobe light and alert whistle.
- Share your location with emergency contacts.
- Traffic and weather.
- Document storm damage.
- Push alerts from SCEMD.

Have a plan. Take it with you.

SCEMD

scemd.org @SCEMD

# IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**S. C. Emergency Management Division**
scemd.org

**Public Information Phone System (PIPS)**
1-866-246-0133*
*only activated as needed
*Spanish interpreters available

**S.C. Department of Public Safety**
*EmergencyTraffic Network*
sctraffic.org

**National Hurricane Center**
hurricanes.gov

**The Official Website of the State of South Carolina**
sc.gov

**S.C. Department of Insurance**
doi.sc.gov
(803) 737-6160
(803) 768-3467

**American Red Cross**
redcross.org
1-866-438-4636

**FEMA**
fema.gov
ready.gov

**SCDHEC CareLine**
803-472-3432

**S.C. Salvation Army**
doingthemostgood.org
(704) 522-4970

**S.C. Department of Transportation**
scdot.org
855-GO-SCDOT
(855-467-2368)

# PREPARING PETS

Include your pet in your family disaster plan.

## BEFORE

Including your pets in your family emergency plan is essential. Your veterinarian is an excellent resource to help you prepare. Here are some important tips:

- Evacuate with your pet outside of the evacuation zone. An emergency temporary shelter should be a last resort.
- Have a cage/carrier for each pet – a means of containment will be needed anywhere you go.
- Counties may have a temporary emergency shelter for pets, the South Carolina Emergency Manager mobile app and scemd.org will list open shelters.
- Instead of shelters, consider boarding facilities, veterinary clinics, pet-friendly hotels as well as homes of friends and relatives.
- Choose an identification method for each animal. Examples: micro-chipping and ID tags on collar. Have photos of yourself with your animals to prove ownership if you become separated.
- Keep your animals' immunizations, especially rabies, current and be sure to have copies of all important documents.
- Maintain a disaster 'go kit' for each pet in a quickly accessible site: cage/carrier large enough to stand and turn around in, leash, harness, bowls, 3-days of water and food, medications, health records/care instructions, microchip numbers, litter box/litter and clean-up supplies.

## DURING

- In the immediate post-landfall period, there may be areas of extreme damage from winds or flooding. The immediate focus for emergency workers during this time will be human safety.
- When circumstances allow, there will be personnel trained in animal emergencies to assist emergency workers and citizens with animal needs. These may include rescue of displaced animals, ID, treatment, temporary shelter and care, and reunification with owners.
- Information about options for assistance with animals will be provided as soon as possible from SCEMD by way of news briefings and telephone hotlines.

## AFTER

- If your pet is lost, contact your veterinarian, animal care/control organization and/or county and state emergency managers who can help you search lists and databases of animals that have been found and sheltered during the hurricane.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may be different after a hurricane. Your pet may become confused and lost.
- Watch your animals closely. The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard with access to shelter and water.

Animal rescue may not be available immediately after a hurricane.

## OTHER RESOURCES

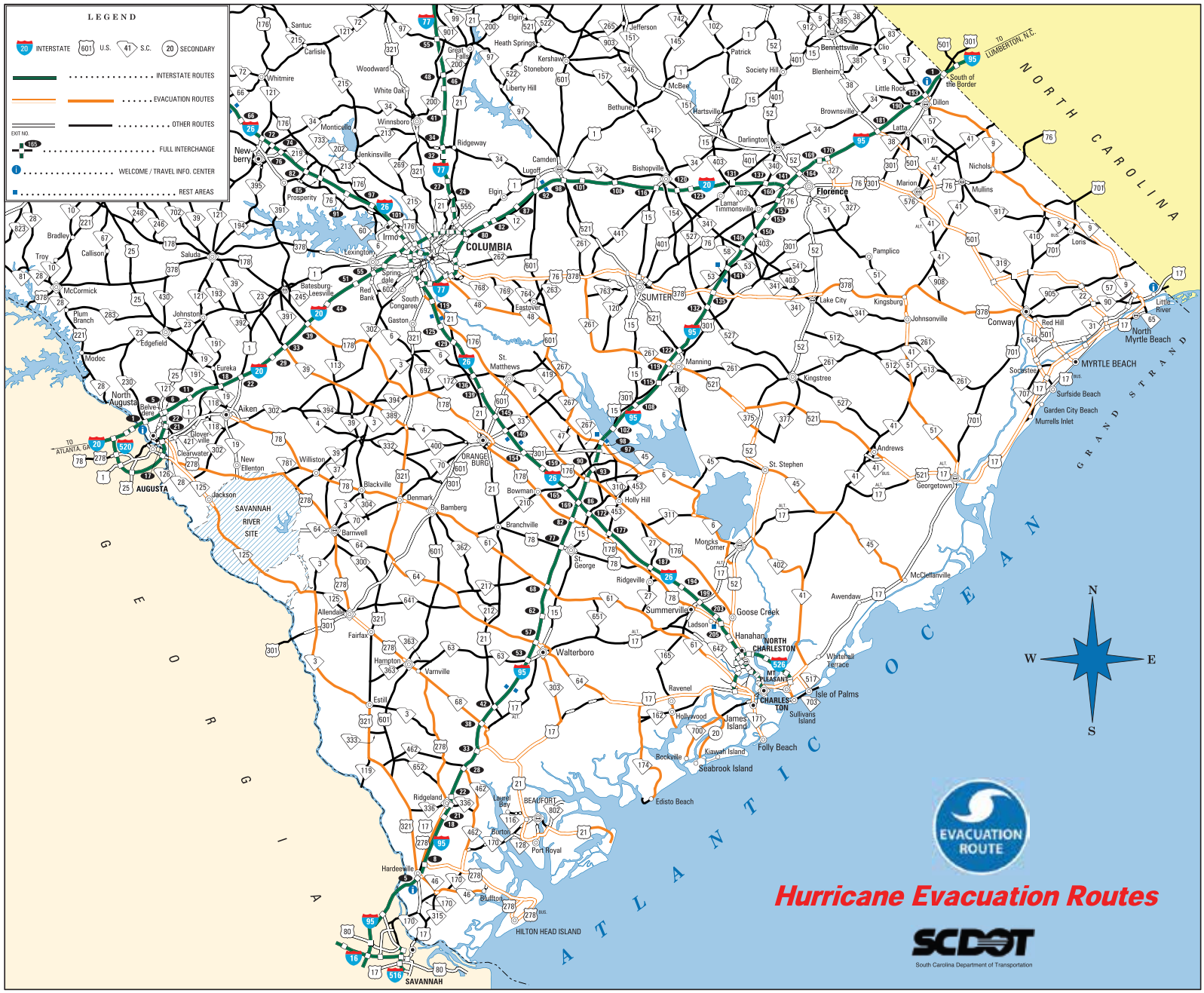
Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health
803-788-2260 | clemson.edu/LPH

S.C. Department of Agriculture
803-734-2200 | agriculture.sc.org

S.C. Association of Veterinarians
1-800-441-7228 | scav.org

S.C. Animal Care and Control
843-329-1574 | scacca.org

# EVACUATE


LEGEND
INTERSTATE
U.S.
S.C.
SECONDARY
INTERSTATE ROUTES
EVACUATION ROUTES
OTHER ROUTES
EXIT NO.
FULL INTERCHANGE
WELCOME / TRAVEL INFO. CENTER
REST AREAS
COLUMBIA
AUGUSTA
SAVANNAH
CHARLESTON
NORTH CHARLESTON
MT. PLEASANT
FLORENCE
SUMTER
MYRTLE BEACH
North Myrtle Beach
Conway
Aiken
North Augusta
Walterboro
Summerville
Goose Creek
Hanahan
Orangeburg
Bamberg
Barnwell
Allendale
Hampton
Estill
Ridgeland
Hardeeville
Bluffton
HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BEAUFORT
Port Royal
Edisto Beach
Seabrook Island
Kiawah Island
Folly Beach
Isle of Palms
Sullivans Island
James Island
Mullins
Marion
Dillon
Latta
Little Rock
Bennettsville
Clio
Blenheim
Society Hill
Patrick
McBee
Bethune
Hartsville
Darlington
Lamar
Timmonsville
Bishopville
Lugoff
Camden
Elgin
Ridgway
Winnsboro
Jenkinsville
Monticello
Prosperity
Newberry
Irmo
Lexington
Springdale
Batesburg-Leesville
Red Bank
South Congaree
Gaston
Eastover
St. Matthews
Manning
Kingstree
Lake City
Kingsburg
Johnsonville
Pamplico
Andrews
Georgetown
St. Stephen
Moncks Corner
Ridgeville
St. George
Holly Hill
Bowman
Branchville
Denmark
Blackville
Williston
New Ellenton
Jackson
SAVANNAH RIVER SITE
Clearwater
Graniteville
Belvedere
Edgefield
Modoc
Eureka
Plum Branch
McCormick
Johnston
Troy
Callison
Saluda
Bradley
Whitmire
Carlisle
Santuc
Woodward
White Oak
Great Falls
Heath Springs
Kershaw
Stoneboro
Liberty Hill
Jefferson
Elgin
Little River
Red Hill
Socastee
Surfside Beach
Garden City Beach
Murrells Inlet
McClellanville
Awendaw
Whitehall Terrace
Ravenel
Hollywood
Rockville
Burton
Dunbar
Bay
Varnville
Fairfax
Estill
TO LUMBERTON, N.C.
TO ATLANTA, GA
South of the Border
NORTH CAROLINA
GRAND STRAND
ATLANTIC OCEAN
GEORGIA
N
S
E
W
EVACUATION ROUTE
Hurricane Evacuation Routes
SCDOT
South Carolina Department of Transportation

# EVACUATION ROUTES & LANE REVERSALS

## Grand Strand Area

### North Myrtle Beach and Northward

- Use SC 9 to proceed to I-95.

### Myrtle Beach

- 10th Avenue North and northward to Briarcliff Acres use SC 22 (Conway Bypass) to US 501. Motorists using SC 31 (Carolina Bays Parkway) or the Grissom Parkway will be directed north to SC 22.
- South of 10th Avenue North southward to the Myrtle Beach Airport use US 501 toward Marion and beyond.
- Under certain conditions, US 501 will be converted to four lanes northbound from SC 22 to SC 576.
- Myrtle Beach Airport southward through Surfside Beach use SC 544 to US 501.
- Under certain conditions, US 501 will be converted to four lanes northbound from SC 544 to US 378. The reversed lanes will carry SC 544 traffic onto US 378 where it will travel westbound to I-95 or Columbia.

### Garden City Beach South to Winyah Bay, Georgetown

- Take US 17 south through Georgetown, then take US 521 to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia.
- Under certain conditions, an alternate route from Georgetown will be Black River Road to US 701 to SC 51 to SC 41 to US 378 at Kingsburg.

## Charleston Area

### Edisto Island, Adams Run

- Evacuees will take SC 174 to US 17. They will then take US 17 south to SC 64. This will take them to Walterboro, and then to Aiken and I-20.

### Yonges Island, Meggett, Hollywood, Ravenel

- Use SC 165 to US 17, then US 17 south to SC 64 where they will go to Walterboro, then to Aiken and I-20.

### Johns Island, Kiawah Island and Seabrook

- Use SC 700 to Main Road (S-20) to US 17.
- Evacuees will then take US 17 south to SC 64 where they will go to Walterboro, then to Aiken and I-20.

### James Island and Folly Beach

- Use SC 171 to US 17.
- Evacuees should then travel south on US 17 to I-526 to the reversed lanes of I-26.

### Awendaw and McClellanville

- Evacuees will take SC 45 to US 52 where they will be directed right onto US 52 to SC 375 to US 521 to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia.

### City of Charleston

- The west side of the city (West Ashley) will use SC 61 to US 78, US 321, and SC 389 to I-20.
- Downtown will use the normal lanes of I-26.

### Daniel Island

- Evacuees will use I-526 or Clements Ferry Road as conditions warrant.

## Hilton Head Island and Beaufort Areas

### Hilton Head Island

- Hilton Head Island evacuees will use both the William Hilton Parkway (US 278 Business) and the Cross Island Parkway toll facility (US 278).
- As these two roads merge, a third lane will be formed by reversing flow on the inside eastbound lane of US 278. This lane will carry traffic from the toll facility to the three lane section beginning on the mainland.
- Lane assignments will be as follows:
  1. The right lane on US 278 westbound will exit onto SC 170, proceed to SC 462, then be directed to I-95 northbound at I-95 exit 28.
  2. The center lane on US 278 westbound will become the right lane at SC 170 which will be directed to I-95 northbound at exit 8.
  3. The left lane on US 278 westbound at SC 170 will continue on US 278 to Hampton and eventually to North Augusta.

### Beaufort

- Two-Lane Evacuation: Evacuees will use the two present northbound lanes on US 21 to US 17. Upon reaching US 17, the right lane will be directed to US 17 north to SC 303 to Walterboro. The left lane will be directed to US 17 south, then to US 17 Alt/US 21 to Yemassee and then ultimately to North Augusta.
- Three-Lane Evacuation: Under certain conditions, a third northbound lane will be formed by reversing flow in the inside southbound lane of US 21 at US 21 Business west of Beaufort, accommodating traffic from US 21. This reversed lane will be directed to US 17southbound and eventually I-95 northbound at exit 33 (Point South). The remaining two lanes will be used as described above for the two-lane evacuation.

### North Charleston

- Evacuees will take US 52 (Rivers Avenue) to US 78 to US 178 to Orangeburg then to I-20 or continue on US 52 to US 176 or continue north on US 52.
- The right lanes of US 52 at Goose Creek will continue on to Moncks Corner. In Moncks Corner, evacuees will be directed onto SC 6, where SC 6 will take them toward Columbia.
- The left lanes of US 52 at Goose Creek will go onto US 176 to Columbia.
- Evacuees using SC 642 will travel west toward Summerville and take road S-22 (Old Orangeburg Road) to US 78 west.

### East Cooper

- Evacuees leaving Mount Pleasant will take I-526 or US 17 south to I-26.
- Those leaving Sullivan's Island will use SC 703 to I-526 Business to access I-526, then I-26.
- Evacuees from the Isle of Palms will use the Isle of Palms connector (SC 517) to go to US 17, where the right lane will turn north on US 17, then proceed to SC 41, to SC 402, then to US 52 to SC 375, then to US 521, to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia.
- Evacuees using the left lanes of the Isle of Palms connector will turn left to go to I-526 and then on to I-26.
- Evacuees on I-526 approaching I-26 from East Cooper will be directed to the normal lanes of I-26 if in the right lane of I-526.
- Those in the left lane of I-526 will be directed into the reversed lanes of I-26.

# KNOW YOUR ZONE

## PLAN▪PREPARE▪EVACUATE

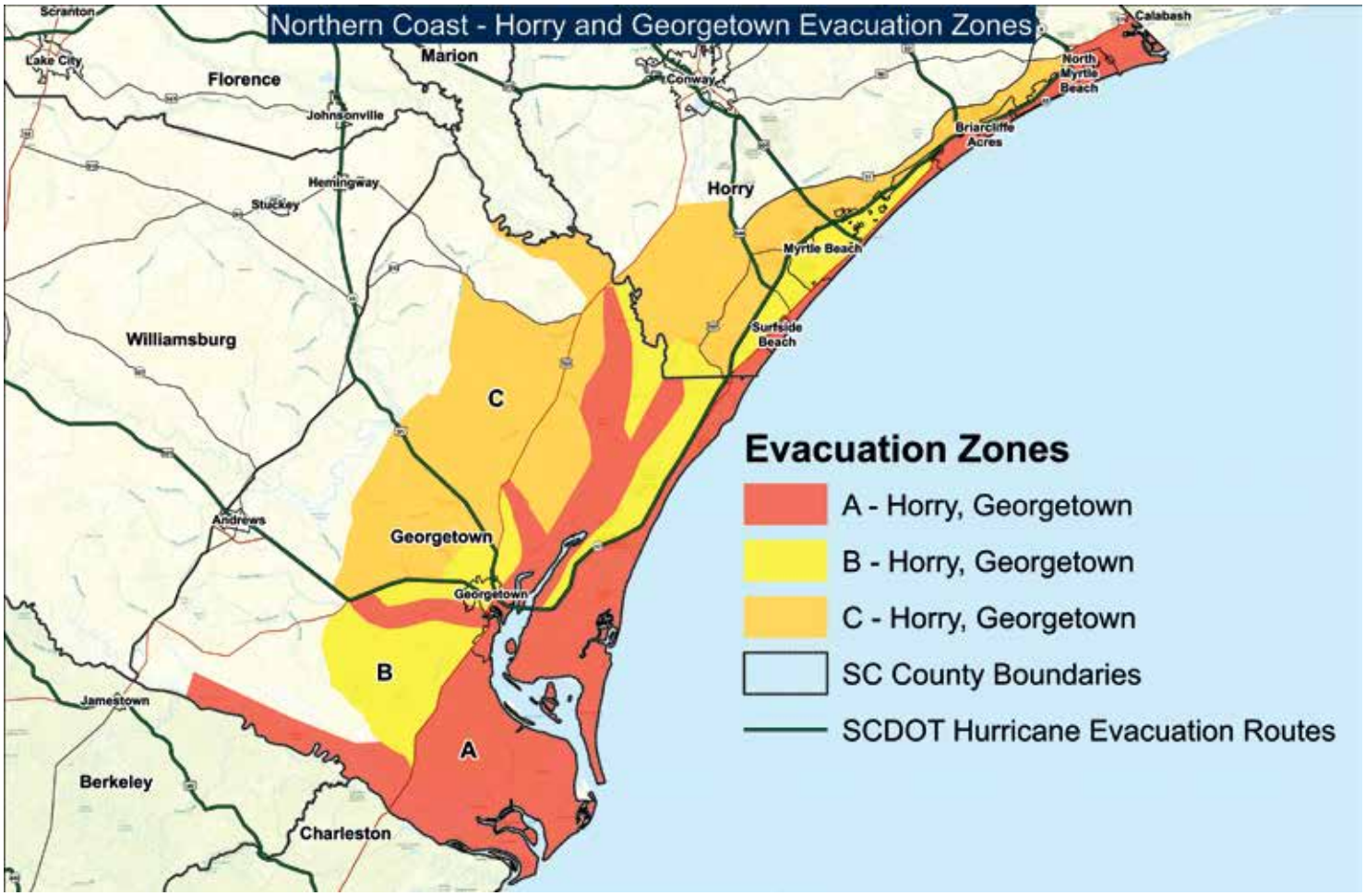
**Use these maps to identify your correct hurricane evacuation zone. Include your zone information in your plan to evacuate prior to landfall of a hurricane.**

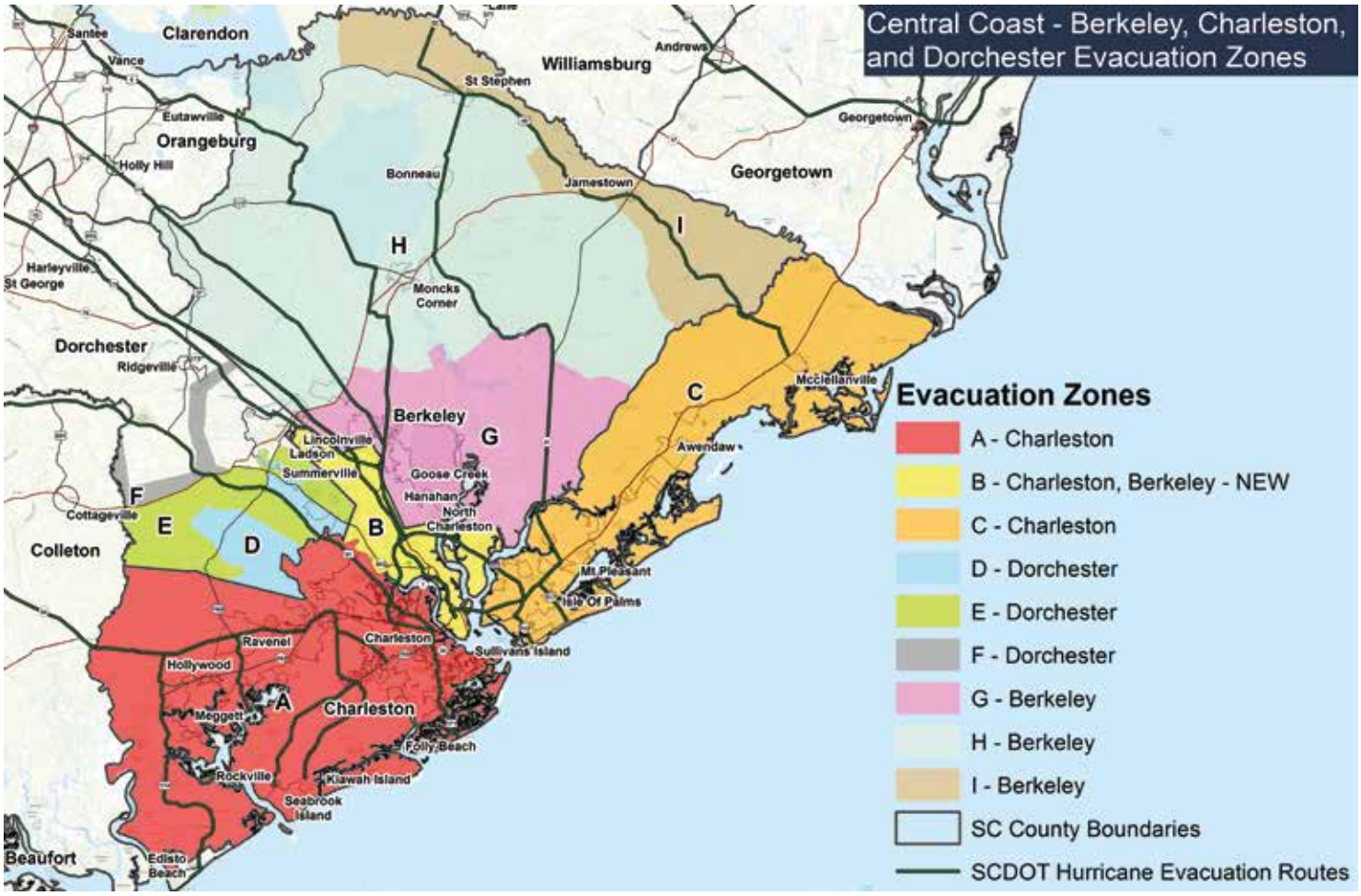
These maps of the South Carolina coast show areas that are most vulnerable to tropical storm conditions. State and local authorities will announce evacuations by these designated zones.

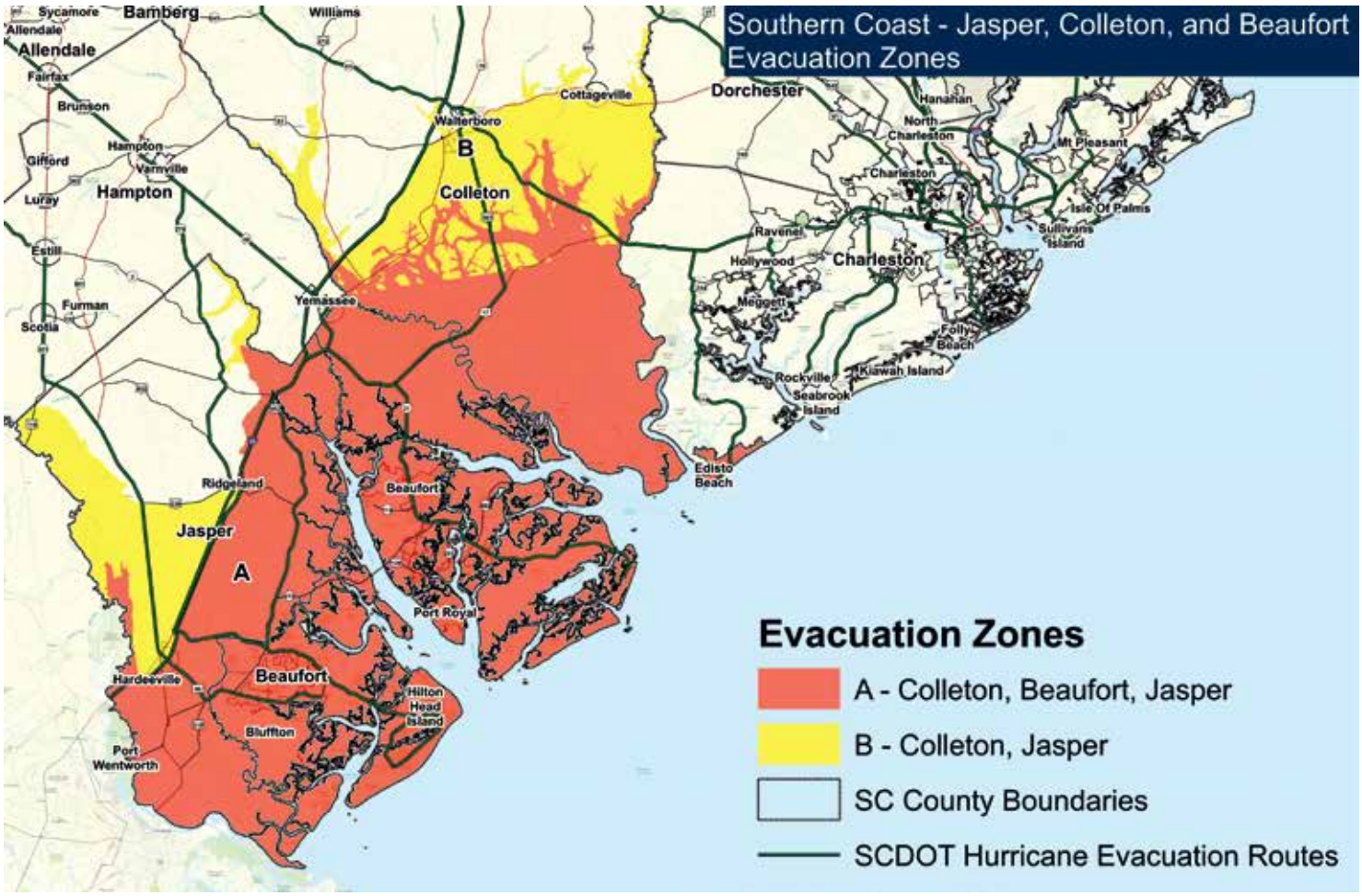
**Actual storm conditions may require changes to the planned evacuation zones.** Monitor local media for specific evacuation instructions. For more information, visit the Know Your Zone page at scemd.org.

KNOW YOUR ZONE
PLAN▪PREPARE▪EVACUATE

Know your zone instantly by downloading the South Carolina Emergency Manager in your mobile app store.




Central Coast - Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Evacuation Zones
Evacuation Zones
A - Charleston
B - Charleston, Berkeley - NEW
C - Charleston
D - Dorchester
E - Dorchester
F - Dorchester
G - Berkeley
H - Berkeley
I - Berkeley
SC County Boundaries
SCDOT Hurricane Evacuation Routes
Clarendon
Santee
Vance
Eutawville
Orangeburg
Holly Hill
Williamsburg
Andrews
St Stephen
Georgetown
Bonneau
Jamestown
Harleyville
St George
Moncks Corner
Dorchester
Ridgeville
Berkeley
Lincolnville
Ladson
Summerville
Goose Creek
Hanahan
North Charleston
Cottageville
Colleton
Mcclellanville
Awendaw
Mt Pleasant
Isle Of Palms
Sullivans Island
Ravenel
Hollywood
Charleston
Meggett
Folly Beach
Rockville
Kiawah Island
Seabrook Island
Beaufort
Edisto Beach


Southern Coast - Jasper, Colleton, and Beaufort Evacuation Zones
Evacuation Zones
A - Colleton, Beaufort, Jasper
B - Colleton, Jasper
SC County Boundaries
SCDOT Hurricane Evacuation Routes
Sycamore
Allendale
Bamberg
Williams
Fairfax
Brunson
Hampton
Varnville
Gifford
Luray
Estill
Furman
Scotia
Yemassee
Walterboro
Cottageville
Colleton
Dorchester
Hanahan
North Charleston
Mt Pleasant
Charleston
Isle Of Palms
Sullivans Island
Ravenel
Hollywood
Meggett
Folly Beach
Rockville
Kiawah Island
Seabrook Island
Edisto Beach
Ridgeland
Jasper
Beaufort
Port Royal
Hardeeville
Hilton Head Island
Bluffton
Port Wentworth

# EVACUATION ACTIONS

## BEFORE

### Be Prepared

Contact your local emergency management office to assist in determining your vulnerability to a hurricane. A storm surge may extend beyond coastal areas, but hurricanes also bring high winds, tornadoes, heavy rains, and flooding to inland areas.

If you live in a vulnerable area, be sure to plan an evacuation route. Consider staying in a hotel or with family and friends outside of the vulnerable area. Learn safe routes inland. Be ready to drive at least 20 to 50 miles inland to locate a safe place.

### Before You Leave Home

Know where you will go.

Make arrangements for pets. Pets are not allowed in most shelters.

Fuel up family vehicles and service them.

Turn off gas, electricity, and water.

Stay tuned to your local television and radio stations for emergency information.

Charge your cell phone and mobile devices. (Have an extra charger for your phone, etc.)

**In addition to the items listed in your Basic Disaster Supplies Kit, also carry road maps, jumper cables and a tire repair kit.**

## ON THE ROAD

### Leave early. Take your time.

The South Carolina Emergency Response Team has been working in partnership with the petroleum industry in an attempt to make extra fuel available at certain filling stations along major evacuation routes.

Rest areas along I-26 will be enhanced with additional facilities in order to accommodate motorists efficiently. Department of Public Safety weigh stations will also be available as comfort stations.

A GPS may misdirect you to closed roads. Stay on official evacuation routes.

## DURING

### Protect Yourself

- Stay tuned to your local television and radio stations for emergency information. Be sure to keep a battery- operated, solar-powered or hand-crank operated radio or television for use during power outages.
- Stay inside of a well-constructed building away from the windows and the doors, even if they are covered. Go to an interior first-floor room, closet, or under the stairs.
- Be alert. Tornadoes are very often spawned during hurricanes.
- If the “eye” of the storm passes over your area, be aware that severe conditions will return with winds from the other direction in a very short time.
- Limit non-emergency calls. Be sure to keep calls brief to minimize any network congestion. Wait at least 10 seconds before redialing a call. For non-emergencies, try sending text messages from your mobile device.
- Once the storm passes, be patient. You will most likely not be able to return home right away.

# SEEKING SHELTER

**Emergency shelters are the place of last resort. Cots and blankets may not be provided in the shelter before the storm.**

Emergency shelters may be opened should a hurricane approach South Carolina. Before heading to a public shelter, first consider staying with family and friends or in a hotel out of the evacuated area. If those options are unavailable, the American Red Cross will provide a safe place to stay when you have no other place to go. Cots and blankets may only be provided in the public shelter after hurricane conditions subside. Although food may be provided, specialty items for infants and individuals on restricted diets may not be available. If you plan to evacuate to a shelter, bring the supplies listed in your disaster supplies kit.

### PLUS:

- Blankets, sleeping bags, pillows and cots.
- Special foods, if you are on a restricted diet.

During an evacuation, pay attention to emergency alerts via media and road signs for information about the nearest open shelter in case you need it.

# RETURNING HOME

If you have evacuated, some areas may be inaccessible even after the official evacuation order is rescinded. **Return home only after local authorities advise it is safe to do so.** Keep tuned to your local radio and TV stations and monitor social media for recovery information.

### Avoid downed and sagging power lines.

- Report them immediately to the power company, police or fire department.

### Be alert for driving restrictions.

- Avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges and roadways.
- Follow directions provided by public safety officials.

### Enter your home with caution.

- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Beware of snakes, insects and other animals driven to higher ground by floodwater.
- Do not use candles or open flames indoors. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage.

**Never try to move or drive around barricades.**

### Inspect the utilities in your 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. From a safe place, call to report a gas leak to your utility provider. 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, broken or frayed wires, or if you smell something burning, 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. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid water from the tap.

**Local officials will provide information about how you can properly dispose of storm debris and damaged property.**

### Take pictures.

- Photos of the damage will help in filing insurance claims. Contact your insurance claims agent as soon as possible.

### Let a relative know you are home.

- Tell them how to get in touch with you, especially if phone service is out.

### Monitor the radio, TV and social media.

- Learn how to apply for possible assistance and how to receive further official information.

# BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES

- "South Carolina Hurricane Guide"
- Bedding and clothing for each family member
- Toothbrush, toothpaste
- Cash, enough to fill up your vehicle with gas
- Portable radio with extra batteries
- Plastic dishes, eating utensils
- Soap, shampoo and other personal hygiene items
- Flashlight(s) with extra batteries
- Mobile device chargers
- Rain jackets, pants, boots
- Blankets, towels
- First Aid Kit, including any prescription medications
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Sunscreen, sunglasses and mosquito repellent
- Driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, medical records, family pictures, etc.
- Bottled water (2 gallons per person per day)
- Non-perishable food for at least 3 days
- Baby supplies (food, diapers, medication)
- Pet supplies (food, leash and carrier, vaccination records)

# 2019 SC HURRICANE GUIDE

This Hurricane Guide was compiled and produced by the S.C. Emergency Management Division as a public service in coordination with state, federal, local and volunteer agencies, including the S.C. Department of Public Safety, S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs, Clemson University Extension Service, the S.C. Department of Insurance, National Weather Service, S.C. Broadcasters Association, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Federal Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross, S.C. Department of Transportation, and others.

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HAVE A PLAN. STAY CONNECTED.

Visit scemd.org to stay connected during an emergency. Our website is designed to make it easy to get information before, during and after a major disaster, such as a hurricane. It's also mobile-friendly so you can access important information no matter where you are. Additionally, download the South Carolina Emergency Manager mobile app to develop your personal emergency plan and follow the official @SCEMD accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to stay connected during an emergency. During emergencies it's important to know the sources of the information you are consuming. Only trust information provided by verified and reputable sources to avoid misinformation, rumors or malicious disinformation.