STORM TEAM 3
HURRICANE-READY GUIDE

METEOROLOGIST
ALYSA CARSLEY

CHIEF METEOROLOGIST
SCOTT ROBERTS

METEOROLOGIST
BRIAN MICHIGAN

PREPARATION PLANS  •  EVACUATION ROUTES  •  HURRICANE CHECKLISTS
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**INTRODUCTION | 01**  
**WEATHER GLOSSARY | 02**

**BEFORE THE STORM**  
**CATEGORIES & IMPACTS | 03**  
**STORM SUPPLIES CHECKLIST | 04**  
**SENIOR PREPARATION | 05**  
**EMERGENCY KITS | 06**  
**SPECIAL NEEDS | 08**  
**HURRICANE INSURANCE | 09**  
**EVACUATION PLAN | 10**

**IMPELLING STORM**  
**PREPARATION TIMELINE | 11**  
**PREPARING YOUR PROPERTY | 12 - 13**  
**REGIONAL SHELTERS | 14 - 15**  
**VERIFYING INFORMATION | 16**  
**PREPARING YOUR PETS | 17**

**AFTER THE STORM**  
**POWER OUTAGES & FOOD SAFETY | 18**  
**GENERATOR SAFETY | 19**  
**INSURANCE CLAIMS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION | 20**

**ROUTES AND CONTACT INFORMATION**  
**EVACUATION ROUTES AND ZONES | 21-22**  
**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONTACT INFORMATION | 23**
SCOTT ROBERTS
CHIEF METEOROLOGIST

WSAV Storm Team 3 will be here throughout the hurricane season and will be with you before, during and after a storm. Now is the time to plan and to be ready for when a storm threatens.

2022 was a ‘near normal’ Atlantic hurricane season, but predictions for 2023 indicate that this year will be slightly more active than normal.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecast 14 to 21 named storms. Of those, 6 to 11 could become hurricanes. Of the hurricanes that form, 2 to 5 may become major hurricanes category three or stronger.

A couple of factors for an active hurricane season is much warmer than normal water in the tropical Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico along with an active west Africa monsoon where many tropical systems originate.

When a storm threatens the Coastal Empire and Lowcountry, you may only have two to three days to prepare your home or evacuate.

When there is little time, you need to make a plan now.

You need to know your risk and you need to know where you’re going to go if you must evacuate. Please use this comprehensive hurricane guide here on WSAV.com/HurricaneCentral that answers all of your storm preparation questions.

Storm Team 3 is On Your Side to help you through hurricane season.
WEATHER GLOSSARY

Storm Team 3 meteorologists and the National Hurricane Center use a lot of specialized terms when talking about the tropics. Knowing what each term is and what they mean will help you better understand the forecast, especially when tropical systems threaten the Coastal Empire and Lowcountry.

**TROPICAL WAVE:** These are elongated areas of relatively low pressure that move from east to west across the tropical regions of the Atlantic. These are unorganized, though they can lead to tropical development.

**TROPICAL DISTURBANCE:** This is a tropical weather system that has some organized convective development (Developing and growing thunderstorms) around a broad area of low pressure in the tropics for 24 hours or longer. A detectible wind field may begin to develop and are about 100-300 miles in diameter.

**TROPICAL DEPRESSION:** These are tropical cyclones that have maximum sustained wind at the surface of 38 mph or less. They are more organized than tropical disturbances and usually have more convective development and a detectible wind field.

**TROPICAL STORM:** This is a tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained wind at the surface between 39 and 73 mph. Wind gusts may be much stronger than the sustained wind speeds. Some damage to homes and trees may occur. Power outages are also possible.

**HURRICANE:** Hurricanes are the most organized and strongest tropical cyclones. Sustained wind speeds are greater than 74 mph. Extensive damage and power outages are likely.

**MAJOR HURRICANE:** Hurricanes of a category 3 or greater are considered major hurricanes. They have sustained wind greater than 111 mph. Major hurricanes produce the greatest and most widespread damage, power outages, and storm surge flooding.

**TROPICAL WATCHES & WARNINGS**

**TROPICAL STORM WATCH:** Within 48 hours, tropical storm conditions are possible in the area it is issued for.

**TROPICAL STORM WARNING:** Within 36 hours, tropical storm conditions are expected in the area it is issued for. This includes storm surge, flooding, and sustained wind between 39-73 mph.

**HURRICANE WATCH:** Strong wind greater than 74 mph are possible within the watch area. Watches are issued 48 hours in advance of tropical storm force wind since storm preparations become hard once tropical storm wind begins.

**HURRICANE WARNING:** A hurricane warning is issued when wind greater than 74 mph is expected within the area warned. Storm surge, flooding and hurricane force winds are likely. Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of tropical storm conditions begin. Storm preparations need to be completed immediately.
FOCUS ON IMPACTS, NOT CATEGORY

Focus on all of the forecast details when deciding how and when to put your hurricane plan into action. It can be a very big mistake to automatically dismiss the threat of lower-ranked hurricanes, tropical storms, and depressions. There are cases of tropical storms and even depressions producing more serious impacts than some hurricanes.

Tropical systems bring a wide array of threats that include damaging wind, flooding rainfall, storm surge, beach erosion, and even tornadoes. Despite the fact that storm surge and rainfall flooding typically claim more lives than the wind, it is only the maximum sustained wind speed near the center of a tropical system that determines its rank and category.

Also consider, two otherwise identical hurricanes can produce dramatically different levels of damage just based on forward speed alone. A slow-moving or stalled storm will prolong impacts over a much longer period than an otherwise identical storm moving quickly, thus producing far more damage and flooding. And yet, both storms would have the same intensity rating.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Wind</th>
<th>Damage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>74-95 mph</td>
<td>Minimal – Downed trees and some roof damage. Power outages lasting days are possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>96-110 mph</td>
<td>Moderate – Major roof &amp; siding damage. Weak trees uprooted. Total power loss lasting days or weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>111-129 mph</td>
<td>Extensive – Well-built homes sustain major damage. Trees snapped and uprooted. Power out and water unavailable for weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>130-156 mph</td>
<td>Catastrophic – Well-built structures sustain severe damage. Total roof failure and loss of exterior walls of framed homes. Most trees &amp; utility poles downed. Power out and water unavailable for weeks to months. Areas are uninhabitable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>157+ mph</td>
<td>Catastrophic – Framed homes destroyed. Severe damage to well-built structures. Loss of roofs. Most trees &amp; utility poles downed. Power out and water unavailable for weeks to months. Most areas are uninhabitable.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Storm timing can also make a huge difference in the amount of damage a storm might produce. A tropical storm or hurricane approaching the coast at high tide is much more dangerous than having that same storm approach as the tide is going out.

Category also does not factor in storm size. A very large tropical storm could potentially be more dangerous than a compact hurricane just due to the fact that it threatens a much larger area. Category is only one factor to consider. It is far more important to focus on all of the expected impacts in the forecast details in order to accurately assess a threat.
STORM SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

- Water (One gallon per person, per day for several days for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (At least a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First-Aid Kit
- Extra Batteries
- Fire Extinguisher
- Whistle (To signal for help)
- Face Mask
- Duct Tape
- Plastic Sheeting
- Moist Towelettes
- Garbage Bags
- Plastic Ties
- Can Opener
- Local Maps
- Soap
- Hand Sanitizer
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Prescription Medications
- Non-Prescription Medications (Pain relievers, antacids, laxatives, etc.)
- Prescription Eye Glasses and/or Contact Lens Solution
- Infant Formula, Bottles, Diapers, and Wipes
- Pet Food and Extra Water for your pet
- Cash or Traveler’s Checks
- Insurance Policies, Bank Records, and any important family documents
- Sleeping Bag or Warm Blanket for each person
- Matches in Waterproof Container
- Feminine Supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess Kits, Paper Cups, Plates, Paper Towels, and Plastic Utensils
- Paper and Pencils
- Books, Games, Puzzles, and other activities for children
Senior citizens are more vulnerable to natural disasters for a variety of reasons that could include physical and/or cognitive impairments, lack of awareness and/or preparedness, lack of a support network, etc. Emergency preparedness for seniors are slightly different in that they emphasize three main factors...

**Medications** – Many seniors (not all of course) have medical conditions that require them to take medication on a regular basis. Before a disaster hits, it’s important to have enough prescription medications on hand to cover you for at least a week.

**Medical equipment** – If you require oxygen or colostomy bags or catheters or other medical devices, you will want to have at least a week’s worth of supplies of those as well in your emergency kit.

**Transportation** – If you are an older adult that can no longer drive then you will need to make arrangements beforehand to be transported to a safe location if evacuation orders are put in place.

### SENIOR’S CHECKLIST FOR HURRICANE PREP

The following checklist is specifically designed for older adults to help them prepare as much as possible for an oncoming hurricane.

**Cane Users** – I would recommend to pack a folding cane in your evacuation kit just in case.

**Walker / Wheelchair Users** – I would recommend to have replacement parts on hand. If you live in a remote type of area and you are using a wheelchair you can be extra safe and purchase an all terrain wheelchair like this one.

**Documents** – Keep your important documents in a water proof document holder. I would also include serial numbers and operation manuals of any medical equipment that you may be using and will continue to need.

**Contact List** – Many of us currently keep our list of friends, neighbors and family on our phones but I would recommend to create a paper list of their contact information, as well, and include it in your documents folder.

**Hearing Aid Batteries** – Keep a couple sets of extra batteries for your hearing aids in your emergency kit.

**Eyewear** – Also important to keep an extra pair or two of eyeglasses and sunglasses in your kit as well.

Seniors are one of the most vulnerable groups during a hurricane, so as we get older, our hurricane emergency plan might need to change. Sadly, something not many of us do is to create (and routinely practice) an evacuation plan if you need to escape at any point.

If you are a senior, or have aging parents and/or elderly relatives, and live in an area that is prone to hurricanes, it’s important to have a plan in place well before one hits.
EMERGENCY KITS

The set of emergency kits that we recommend for any type of natural disaster are...

First-Aid Kit – This of course includes the basic items needed in case of a medical emergency but should additionally include your medication and any medical equipment you are currently require. (i.e. oxygen, blood pressure cuff, mobility devices, etc.)

Evacuation Kit – This is basically a bag (usually a backpack or duffel bag) that you take with you in the event of an evacuation. It should include emergency supplies for an extended period (at least a week). Put in items like bottled water, survival foods that have a long shelf life, clothing, a blanket and extra pair of comfortable shoes, shelter (like a tent), light and heat and other items. Anything that could get ruined if it got wet should be put in a waterproof container. Read more about what to include in your evacuation kit on page 4.

Shelter In Place Kit – This kit is meant if you are able to stay in your home during the hurricane. In addition to filling up your car with gas as soon as possible you should have the following basic items on hand.

- Survival water
- Water treatment tablets
- Long-term freeze-dried food
- Dried food staples such as rice and beans
- Canned food (make sure they are not expired)
- Can opener
- Extra batteries for cell phones, weather radio, etc
- Cooking set with fuel that is safe to use indoors

Toilet Kit – The one caution I would give to seniors using a toilet kit is to choose one that can withstand their weight and to use it in a location where they can use something to help themselves up and down from the bucket. To be extra careful because it could be very easy for someone with poor strength and/or balance to fall off these bucket toilets.

Emergency Lights – You can have flashlights handy but I like these light bulbs because they automatically come on if the power goes off. They last for 4-5 hours which can give you plenty of time to pull out other emergency lights.

Any specialty items that you may require.

Pet Kits – If you have the love of a pet – then you will want to care for them as well in case of a hurricane or other emergency. I would recommend to then also have a pet emergency kit available. Put in anything you’ll need for pet care, including the animal’s food, medications, and important papers like their licenses and vaccinations (i.e: rabies, etc). (More on Page 17)

It’s a good idea to put these kits together beforehand. Doing this will help most individuals to survive a hurricane as intact as possible.
DOWNLOAD THE FREE WSAV WEATHER NOW APP AND STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE STORM

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

WSAV.com
WEATHER

3 WSAV
On Your Side
Disaster preparedness takes on added dimensions for people with disabilities and functional needs. The keys to effective disaster preparedness of building a kit, making a plan and staying informed, applies to all of us. But people with special needs and their families should approach preparedness planning with additional considerations.

Additional considerations should include the following:

- Create a support network and maintain contact with those who can assist you. Keep a contact list in a watertight container in your emergency kit. Learn more at www.ready.gov/kit
- Inform your support network where your emergency supplies are kept. You may want to give someone in your support network a key to your house or apartment.
- Plan ahead for accessible transportation to evacuate or get to a medical clinic. Work with local services, public transportation or paratransit to identify local or private accessible transportation options.
- Know the location and availability of more than one facility for dialysis. If dialysis is part of a health maintenance plan or other life-sustaining treatment, know where multiple facilities are located.
- Determine how to use medical equipment if a power outage occurs.
- Wear medical alert tags or bracelets.
- Make note of the best way to communicate with you in an emergency. If you have a communications disability, determine the best way others can communicate with you and let them know.
- Plan how to evacuate with assistive devices or how to replace equipment if it gets lost or destroyed.
- Keep model information secure and note who provided it such as Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance.
- If you have a service animal, be sure to include food, water, identification tags and supplies. It is also important to have cash or travelers checks in your kit in case you need to purchase supplies.

Tips for people who are blind or have low vision include:

- Marking emergency supplies with Braille labels or large print.
- Keep a list of your emergency supplies on a portable flash drive or make an audio file that is kept in a safe and is accessible.
- Keep a Braille, or Deaf-Blind communications device in an emergency supply kit.

Tips for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing include having:

- A weather radio with text display and a flashing alert along with extra batteries.
- Extra hearing-aid batteries
- A TTY device
- Pen and paper in case you must communicate with someone who does not know sign language
HURRICANE INSURANCE

A homeowner’s policy alone won’t cover all potential hurricane damage to your home.

Your home is where your heart is, and it’s where your money is. For most of us, it’s the most valuable investment we have. It’s also why we have a homeowners insurance policy to protect it. Problem is, even the best home insurance won’t pay for every kind of hurricane damage. There’s technically no single policy known as “hurricane insurance.” Because of this, you need to insure your home against two main types of hurricane damage, which is water and wind. This means you may need to buy separate policies to make sure you have adequate hurricane coverage.

Flood Insurance - Most homeowners insurance policies don’t cover floods. So to get coverage, you’ll need flood insurance. You can buy flood insurance separately through the National Flood Insurance Program or on the private market. Many major insurers provide flood insurance through an arrangement with the NFIP.

Windstorm Insurance - Homeowners insurance policies in some hurricane-prone states won’t pay for windstorm damage. If you live in a high-risk coastal state, you might need to buy separate windstorm insurance. You can do this through your insurance company or a state-run insurance pool. Windstorm insurance covers damage from any strong wind, not just hurricanes. There’s windstorm, named storm and hurricane deductibles. Some insurers impose a separate hurricane, named storm and/or windstorm deductible on home and renters policies. An insurance deductible is the amount subtracted from your insurer’s claim payout. Although these deductibles sound similar, there are important differences:

Windstorm Deductible: Sometimes called a wind/hail deductible, this applies to damage not only from hurricanes but also to tornadoes or other strong winds.

Named Storm Deductible: This type of deductible typically goes into effect if your home is damaged in a storm that’s been named by the National Weather Service or the National Hurricane Center. A tornado or other strong windstorm would not trigger this type of deductible.

Hurricane Deductible: A hurricane deductible is generally triggered only when a storm has high enough winds to be categorized as a hurricane (rather than a tropical storm or depression). Home insurance deductibles are often a flat dollar amount, such as $1,000, while wind, named storm and hurricane deductibles are typically a percentage of your home’s insured value. They usually range from 1% to 5%, though they can be higher in high-risk coastal areas. If your home is insured for $500,000 and you have a 5% wind deductible, up to $25,000 will be deducted from your payment if you file a claim. Check with your agent to make sure you understand the deductibles that apply to your policy and under which circumstances they might be triggered.

The average cost of homeowners insurance in the U.S. is $1,784 per year, according to NerdWallet’s 2022 rate analysis, while flood insurance from the NFIP costs $771 a year, on average. That adds up to a total hurricane insurance cost of $2,555 per year, on average.

TIPS FOR BUYING HURRICANE INSURANCE

Whether you’re buying home, flood or windstorm insurance make sure you have enough coverage to pay for the full cost of rebuilding your house and replacing your possessions. Your insurance agent can help you pinpoint the right amount.

Don’t procrastinate. Flood insurance policies usually impose a 30-day waiting period between the time you buy and the time coverage takes effect. And insurers typically won’t adjust your coverage once a storm is forecast.
HAVE AN EVACUATION PLAN

When a tropical storm or hurricane threatens coastal Georgia or South Carolina, county and state emergency management agencies will determine the risk from the storm and may issue evacuation orders. These orders will be issued by zones within each county.

KNOW YOUR ZONE

Most of the counties in WSAV’s coverage area are divided into multiple zones, except for Beaufort County. If an evacuation order is issued, be prepared to leave the county. All other counties are divided into A, B, or C zones. A having the greatest risk from storm surge flooding, B and C having a lower risk.

If a hurricane is coming our way, an order from authorities to evacuate may be issued. Never ignore evacuation orders. Even sturdy, well-built houses may not hold up against a hurricane and storm surge. Staying home to protect your property is not worth risking your health and safety. Contact your local emergency management office to assist in determining your vulnerability to a hurricane.

Storm surge flooding may extend inland, beyond coastal areas. Hurricanes also bring strong wind, tornadoes, heavy rain, and flooding to inland areas. If you live in a vulnerable area, plan an evacuation route. Consider staying in a hotel or with family and friends outside of vulnerable areas.

Find the official Georgia and South Carolina evacuation routes inland using our evacuation maps located on pages 21 and 22 of this guide.

Be ready to drive at least 20 to 50 miles inland to locate a safe place. Plan to leave early and take your time. Once the storm passes, you may not be able to return home right away.

BEFORE EVACUATION

- Know how to turn off utilities if you must evacuate. Gas, electric, and water.
- Secure outdoor items before leaving.
- Prepare an emergency kit for your car.
- Plan out your evacuation route and have an alternate route.
- Do not travel hundreds of miles, only far enough away from the storm threat.
- Leave when ordered. Do not wait.
- Communicate your plan with someone not in the storm’s path.
- Plan for your pets, many shelters do not permit them.
- Get local evacuation updates on the WSAV Weather NOW App.

AFTER EVACUATION

- Watch for downed power lines when returning.
- Enter your home with caution.
- Make sure you let a friend or relative know you are home.
- Inspect your utilities including sewer for damage when you return.
HURRICANE PREPARATION TIMELINE

Before a storm

Hurricane season begins June 1st and runs through November 30th. Before a storm threatens is the time to start preparing for impacts from any tropical system. This way you are not rushing when tropical storm or hurricane alerts are issued.

- Put together your hurricane kit.
- If you have a kit, make sure supplies are still safe and ready to use.
- Know your county evacuation zone.
- Make your evacuation plan for where you will go if needed and know the route you will take.
- Check your homeowner’s or rental insurance policies and put copies in your hurricane kit.

48 Hours before a storm

Within 48 hours of a tropical system threatening land, tropical storm or hurricanes watches are issued. This is your signal to begin to put your hurricane plan into action and pay attention to the forecast. Expected conditions can change very quickly.

- Check your hurricane kit and make sure everything you need is there and is ready to use.
- Prepare your home by boarding up windows and securing outdoor items such as patio furniture or anything else that may become a projectile in high wind.
- Fuel your vehicles and get fuel for generators.
- Get extra cash. During widespread power outages, phones, and internet from strong storms, ATMs and other electronic payment methods may not work.
- Review your evacuation plan on where you will go, how you will get there, and when you will leave.

36 Hours before a storm

If you are told to evacuate or would feel safer leaving your home, plan to leave and put your evacuation plan into action. Finish your final preparations immediately for your home and hurricane kit. Leave as directed by local emergency management officials.
PREPARING YOUR PROPERTY PT. 1

Protecting your physical and digital property in the face of severe weather is especially important, and failure to do so can cost you thousands of dollars in damages and replacements. Ahead of hurricane season, it is essential to review all your insurance policies and make sure you have a plan in place ahead of storms to prevent financial losses if any of your property is damaged.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency offers the following advice to protect yourself and your property before a hurricane strikes:

• Make an evacuation plan for your family
• Prepare to secure your property
• Cover all of your home’s windows with hurricane shutters to protect them from high winds. Another option is to board up windows with 5/8” exterior grade or marine pre-cut plywood.
• Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
• Keep all trees and shrubs well-trimmed to make them more wind-resistant.
• If you have a car, fill the gas tank in case you must evacuate.
• Know your area’s flood risk – if unsure, call your local emergency management agency or planning and zoning department.
• Property insurance does not typically cover flood damage. Talk to your insurance provider about your policy and consider if you need additional coverage.

In case of a hurricane, homeowner’s or renter’s insurance can protect your belongings, but it is your job to protect your digital property. Here are some tips from ready.gov to make sure you’re tech ready:

• Download the WSAV Weather NOW app or the FEMA app.
• Before a disaster, follow local government or news on social media to stay up-to-date with official information before, during and after a disaster. Sign up for Twitter alerts from trusted government agencies to get notified when critical information goes out.
• Make a plan
• Use text messages, social media and email to connect with friends and family during emergencies.
• Have an emergency charging option for your phone and other mobile devices.
• At home: Prior to severe weather make sure that all of your electronic devices are fully charged.
• In your car: Keep a portable phone charger in your car at all times and consider purchasing a back-up power supply to keep in your car as well.
• Store important documents on a secure, password-protected jump drive or in the cloud.
• Back-up your computer to protect photos and other important electronic documents.
• Create a group chat via a texting app or a thread for family/friends/coworkers to communicate quickly during a disaster.
• Sign up for direct deposit and electronic banking to access your paycheck and make electronic payments wherever you are.
• Hurricanes can strike unexpectedly, so staying prepared before the storm can save you time and a lot of money. Protect your personal belongings and property by planning ahead.
PREPARING YOUR PROPERTY PT. 2

Securing your home before the hurricane is an important step before evacuation. Take ample time to inspect and safeguard your home. Here are some tips to help secure your property.

- Inspect your roof covering to make sure all of the shingles or tiles are secured and none are cracked or missing.
- Make sure the posts supporting your porch, carport or other structures attached to your home are firmly anchored to the ground.
- Clear your yard. Make sure there’s nothing that could blow around during the storm and damage your home.
- Move bikes, lawn furniture, grills, propane tanks and building material inside or under shelter.
- Cover up windows and doors. Use storm shutters or nail pieces of plywood to the outside window frames to protect your windows. This can help keep you safe from pieces of shattered glass.
- Make trees around your home trimmed to prevent damage from broken branches.
- Secure all doors on your property. Remember: garage doors are usually the most vulnerable.
- Move your car inside the garage or another secure location.
- Fill clean water containers with drinking water. You’ll want to do this in case you lose your water supply during the storm. You can also fill up your sinks and bathtubs with water for washing.
- Check your carbon monoxide (CO) detector’s battery to prevent CO poisoning.

GABLE END BRACING

Homes built with gable end roofs are at high risk of damage from high winds during tropical storms and hurricanes. Gable roofs are when there is a triangular shaped peak above the normal side wall of the structure. Because of their exposure to the wind and may easily blow apart, compromising the entire structure.

A relatively easy and cost-effective way to help strengthen your home’s gables is to add extra bracing within the rafter system. It is recommended that 2x4s are added in an X pattern attached to the top center of the gable and attached to the 4th truss bottom. A second 2x4 would be attached to the top of the 4th truss and to the bottom of the gable end. Use standard wood screws, nails, or bolts to attach to 2x4s to the truss work. The X pattern will make the gable end more ridged and less susceptible to damage from the powerful hurricane force wind.
REGIONAL SHELTERS PT. 1

Living along the coast brings a chance every year of having to evacuate your home during a hurricane. If you find yourself needing shelter, you can search for open locations through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (fema.gov) or the Red Cross (redcross.org).

Shelters typically aren’t listed until they are available in the event of a storm. If you plan on heading to a shelter, you’ll want to pack your own essentials, considering there could be hundreds of people joining you. You’re going to want to bring your basic sleeping needs, including your favorite pillow and blanket. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) suggests that you should also bring along daily medicines and prescriptions, extra eyeglasses and contacts.

Since the country is still slowly recovering from the deadly and highly infectious coronavirus, pack a facemask and hand sanitizer to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends.

Packing a first-aid kit is also essential. (See page 6 for packing help)

If you have any little ones, you’ll also want to pack baby formula and diapers. If you’re bringing along any pets, you should pack pet foods, bedding, pee pads and other essentials.

You’ll also want to bring things to keep you entertained. Consider packing your family’s favorite board games, playing cards, earbuds, laptop or tablet. However, pack portable chargers for your devices and be prepared to possibly be without WiFi or network capabilities.
Statesboro, Ga.

- **Home 2 Suites by Hilton Statesboro**  
  1576 Brampton Ave  
  Pet type: Dogs or cats  
  Number of pets: Up to two  
  Fee: $75 for one to four night stays and $125 for longer stays

- **Quality Inn & Suites Statesboro**  
  230 S Main St  
  Pet type: Dogs and cats  
  Number of pets: Up to two and up to 40 lbs.  
  Fee: $15 per pet per night  
  Pets at this hotel cannot be left unattended.

- **Days Inn by Wyndham Statesboro**  
  616 Fair Rd  
  Pet type: Dogs and cats  
  Number of pets: Up to two and up to 60 lbs  
  Fee: $30 per pet per stay and a refundable $100 deposit  
  Pets must be crated if left unattended in rooms.

- **Knights Inn Statesboro**  
  461 S Main St  
  Pet type: Dogs and cats  
  Number of pets: Two of any size  
  Fee: $10 per pet per night  
  There are only three non-smoking rooms available for those with pets at this hotel. Guests must call ahead if they want to book a pet friendly room.

Vidalia, Ga.

- **Quality Inn & Suites Vidalia**  
  2619 E 1st St  
  Pet type: Dogs and cats  
  Number of pets: Up to three of any size  
  Fee: $20 per pet per night

Eastman, Ga. (near McRae)

- **Quality Inn**  
  41 Pine Ridge Rd  
  Pet type: Dogs and cats  
  Number of pets: Up to two of any size  
  Fee: $30 per pet per stay

Dublin, Ga.

- **La Quinta Inn & Suites Dublin**  
  101 Travel Center Blvd  
  Pet type: Dogs and cats  
  Number of pets: Up to three of any size  
  Fee: $20 per night up to $40 per stay

- **Motel 6**  
  2108 Hwy 441 S  
  Pet type: Dogs and cats  
  Number of pets: Up to two pets of any size  
  Fee: No additional fee

- **Baymont Inn & Suites Dublin**  
  100 PM Watson Ln  
  Pet type: Dogs and cats  
  Number of pets: Up to two pets up to 25 lbs  
  Fee: $25 per pet, per stay
Over the course of hurricane season, new information comes out every day: new advisories, new tracks, new impacts etc. Whether we are tracking multiple storms or watching one, your social media timeline can easily bury accurate data with confusing, out-of-date, unreliable information.

Here are multiple ways to make sure you stay up to date:

First, know what time tropical advisories come out. The National Hurricane Center issues advisories every 6 hours at 5 & 11 am/pm. Intermediate advisories are issued every 3 hours when coastal watches & warnings are in effect: 2, 5, 8, 11 am/pm. Each advisory (normal & intermediate) updates the current stats of the tropical cyclone: location, wind speed, wind gusts, movement, pressure, & impacts. Only the 5 & 11 am/pm advisories update the forecast track and forecast cone.

Next, check who wrote the post. “Social media-ologists” tend to hype up a storm and feed off of creating alarm. There are many false forecasts that go viral on social media that aren’t written by actual meteorologists. These social media-ologists create panic forecasts that go beyond a week out. You can avoid this by only getting your information from verified sources. Knowing how to spot fake information will save you a lot of worry and panic. Always be suspicious of very specific forecasts beyond a week out, especially with tropical systems. Data and tracks can, and will, change that far in advance.

Then, look at the timestamp of that post. Don’t assume a post is up to date because it’s at the top or closest to the top of your social media feed. With multiple advisories issued every day, there can easily be a backup of information. Always check the date and time before sharing or retweeting. Impacts and conditions could be very different by the time you are seeing an out-of-date post.

This is why relying on social media for time-sensitive alerts can be dangerous. Make sure you are checking in with Storm Team 3 on-air to see the latest update on statistics and tracking.
As you prepare for the worst for your human family, don’t forget the four-legged members of your crew. Here’s what you need to know to keep your furry friends safe during a hurricane.

According to ready.gov the first thing you’ll want to do is make a plan for what you’re going to do in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster. As part of this plan, you will want to make sure of several things...

**Is your pet microchipped?** You will want to make sure your pet is microchipped in the event that the worst happens and they escape during the storm or evacuation.

**Do you have an evacuation plan set in place?** Go ahead and make one if you don’t. It should include routes you are going to take when you leave as well as the hotel you plan to stay at. You will also want to make sure you have alternative routes planned in the event that your original route does not work out.

**What is your plan if you can not make it back home to your pets? Will a neighbor take care of them or a friend?** Make sure you know exactly who is going to watch your animals if you can not make it back home.

You will want to make sure you have answers and solutions to all of these questions before a disaster strikes. This will ensure that you know ahead of time what you’re going to do in the event of a hurricane.

Next, you’ll want to build a kit to bring with you in the case of an evacuation. This kit should include things like food, water and any medications your pet takes. It should also include items you may not have thought of like a crate, a photo of you with your pet for proof of ownership as well as extra collars or harnesses and ID tags. Make sure that the kit is easily accessible. The easiest way might be to put everything you’ll need inside of the crate or carrier you plan on using.

Finally, ready.gov recommends that you stay informed about what is going on. This is the best way to ensure that you and your pets remain safe. Staying informed includes listening to local officials who might have more information about the situation and paying attention to wireless emergency alerts. When a storm comes in, you will want to bring your animals inside if possible.
POWER OUTAGES AND FOOD SAFETY

Before a storm, fully charge all electronics you would need if the power goes out. Regardless if you have a generator or not, make sure you have flashlights with extra batteries just in case. Do not use candles and keep open flames away from anything that could catch fire.

- Assume every downed or low hanging power line is energized.
- Never touch a powerline.
- Never clean up trees or debris around downed powerlines as they could still be active.
- Avoid stepping in the water around powerlines as the water could be electrified.
- Allow emergency officials to clean up debris around powerlines. There could be hidden downed lines in the debris.

Is your food safe to eat after a power outage?

When in doubt, throw it out!

If you want to be sure your food is still safe to eat after a power outage, here is a simple tip. Put a quarter over a frozen cup of water. If the quarter is still on top when you go to check, your food is still good. If the quarter is in the middle of the ice, your food is likely still okay. But if you are still unsure about it, it’s best just to throw it out. If the quarter is at the bottom of the cup, your food was not refrigerated at some point and is unsafe to eat.

If you plan on staying and the power does go out, refrain from opening up your freezer. If you do so, you are letting all the cold air come out and that will allow for your food to spoil more quickly. Group food together in the freezer and fridge to keep it colder longer.

Throw away any food that has come into contact with flood or stormwater. Stormwater can make you sick. Use bottled or treated water as safe drinking water. It can also be used as cooking water.
GENERATOR SAFETY

When tropical storms and hurricanes make landfall, even weak systems, typically disrupt electric service to large swaths of area. Many residents turn to portable generators to combat prolonged periods without power. Generators are internal combustion engines that are used to generate electricity. When used properly and safely, they can provide the power needed to have the use of some basic electric tools and small appliances. Portable generators do not provide the power needed for an entire home and you should not try to do so. If that is what you feel you need, a whole house power system is a viable option.

PORTABLE GENERATOR USE

- Test and run your portable generator regularly. This will help you know the operating condition of your generator and help you to become familiar with its operation.
- DO NOT operate a portable generator in an enclosed space such as inside your house or garage. Exhaust from generators contain carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide which is harmful or deadly if inhaled. Locate operating generators away from your home to provide proper ventilation.
- Keep the generator dry. Rain water can increase the risk of electric shock or electrocution when you come in contract with a running generator.
- DO NOT connect it directly to the electrical system for your home. Always use heavy-duty grounded 3-prong indoor/outdoor power cords to connect your appliance or tools needed directly to the generator. Many generator manufacturers supply cords to use with your generator.
- DO NOT refuel your generator while it is running. Only refuel once it has been turned off and cooled.
- Check oil levels each time you refuel the generator.
- Never overload the generator. Read guidelines provided by the manufacturer about how much electric load it can carry.
- Reduce fuel consumption by alternating which appliances you have connected. Refrigerators that are not opened often can stay cool by powering them for 8 hours a day.
- Always have a fire extinguisher located near the generator in case of a fire igniting.
A standard homeowner’s insurance policy will cover damage from high winds, though a separate policy may be needed to cover damage caused by floods. Be sure to check your policy or ask your agent.

A flood policy can be purchased through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by a resident who lives in a designated flood plain living in a community that participates in the national program. NFIP policyholders can file a flood claim whether their home experiences inches of flood water or a few feet.

Officials recommend reporting your loss immediately and asking about advance payments. If you need help finding your insurance agent or carrier, call the NFIP at 877-336-2627.

Should there be an official presidential disaster declaration for a storm, the NFIP encourages policyholders to apply for federal assistance.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency may help eligible individuals with expenses like temporary housing or other immediate needs.

Visit disasterassistance.gov or call 800-621-3362 to see if your area has been declared for assistance.

Keep in mind, FEMA assistance differs from insurance, only providing the basic needs to make a home safe after a storm. Disaster assistance will not normally compensate a resident for their entire loss.

**CONSUMER PROTECTION AND FRAUD**

After the storm (or any disaster for that matter), there are often criminals who attempt to take advantage of survivors through identity theft and a number of different scams. Always make sure you know who you are accepting help from and be careful about giving out any personal information, especially to anyone offering unsolicited help.

If a FEMA inspector comes to your home and you did not apply for assistance, let them know. Contact the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 to inform them you did not apply and they will stop all further processing for the application. A fraudulent FEMA application could be a sign of identity theft.

If you are interested in creating a new application, ask the operator for assistance and if you suspect identity theft, visit consumer.ftc.gov and identitytheft.gov for help on important steps to take towards a recovery plan.

If something makes you feel uncomfortable or suspicious, always check with FEMA or local law enforcement before accepting help from an unknown source.
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Georgia Emergency Management
www.gema.ga.gov

South Carolina Emergency Management
www.scemd.org/

Chatham Co. Emergency Management
www.chathamemergency.org

Beaufort Co. Emergency Management
https://bcso.net/our-agency/emergency-management-division/

Bulloch Co. Emergency Management
https://bullochcounty.net/emergency-management/

Jasper Co. Emergency Management
https://www.jaspercountysc.gov/emergency-services/emergency-management

Effingham Co. Emergency Management
http://www.effinghamcounty.org/342/Emergency-Management

Bryan Co. Emergency Management
https://www.bryancountyga.org/government/departments-a-g/emergency-services/emergency-management/

Liberty Co. Emergency Management
https://www.libertycountyga.com/244/Emergency-Management

Hampton Co. Emergency Management
http://www.hamptoncountysc.org/20/Emergency-Management

Wayne Co. Emergency Management

Appling Co. Emergency Management
www.applingema.com/

Tattnall Co. Emergency Management
https://www.tattnallcountyga.com/emergency-management-agency.cfm

Evans Co. Emergency Management
http://evanscounty.org/departments/ema/
DOWNLOAD THE FREE
WSAV WEATHER NOW APP
AND STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE STORM

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

WSAV.com
NOW
WEATHER

WSAV
On Your Side
HURRICANE REGISTRY
FOR THOSE WITH FUNCTIONAL, ACCESS, OR MEDICAL NEEDS

IF A HURRICANE WERE COMING, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO LEAVE?

✔ DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS?
✔ DO YOU NEED HELP WITH EVERY DAY TASKS LIKE EATING AND BATHING?
✔ DO YOU HAVE NO ONE TO HELP YOU EVACUATE BEFORE A STORM?

THEN YOU MAY NEED TO BE ON OUR HURRICANE REGISTRY.

FIND OUT IF YOU QUALIFY FOR THE COASTAL HEALTH DISTRICT HURRICANE REGISTRY FOR THOSE WITH FUNCTIONAL, MEDICAL, OR ACCESS NEEDS.

CALL 1-833-243-7344 OR CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

Georgia Department of Public Health
Chatham County Health Department