

Town of Sullivan's Island

2023 Hurricane Preparedness Guide



(Updated May 2023)

Sullivan's Island Town Hall
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Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

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INTRODUCTION

The Town of Sullivan’s Island, like all barrier islands on the southeast coast of the United States, faces unique and daunting challenges during the onset of tropical storms, storm surge and tidal inundation. The purpose of this guide is to provide Island residents and visitors with an introduction to hurricane preparedness and suggestions for being prepared during and after an emergency storm event. The guide offers an anticipated event timeline, government warning protocols, important emergency operations terminology, emergency responder contact information and emergency preparedness tips and check-lists.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has deemed June 1st to be the official beginning of hurricane season with the month of May being considered “Hurricane Preparedness Month” in South Carolina. All citizens are strongly encouraged to take the month of May to make storm preparations by “knowing your zone,” “preparing your home” and “remembering your route.” ([SCEMD Website](#))

South Carolina is susceptible to all levels of tropical cyclones, from tropical depressions to severe Category 5 hurricanes. These tropical cyclones produce four major hazards: the storm surge, high winds, rainfall-induced flooding and tornadoes.

The National Weather Service categorizes hurricanes by intensity on a scale of 1 to 5, which includes:

CATEGORY	WIND	STORM SURGE
1	74 – 95 mph	4 – 5 feet
2	96 – 110 mph	6 – 8 feet
3	111 – 129 mph	9 – 12 feet
4	130 – 157 mph	13 – 18 feet
5	≥ 157 mph	≥ 18 feet

This guide should not be considered a sole resource for hurricane preparedness, but instead offer ideas, strategies and local emergency contact information for engaging with other agencies and serve as a supplement to other hurricane preparedness resources made available by Charleston County, the State of South Carolina, the Federal government, the American Red Cross and other nonprofit organizations that specialize in emergency preparedness.

Residents and property owners are encouraged to conduct further hurricane preparedness research to ensure the security of their property and safety of their family members and pets in the event of a hurricane. A list of additional hurricane and emergency preparedness sources are listed on the last page of this guide.

TERMS & ACRONYMS

Corps of Engineers. - A U.S. Army command within the continental United States that undertakes engineering projects in support of state and local governments which might otherwise be prohibitive

Damage Assessment. The conduct of on the scene surveys following any disaster to determine the amount of loss or damage caused by the incident. Extent of damage is assessed in all types of disasters such as flash flood, tornado, winter storm, hurricane, nuclear power incident and chemical explosion.

EOC. Emergency Operations Center (Charleston County EOC)

FEMA. Federal Emergency Management Agency

Hurricane warning. Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the WARNING, usually within 24 hours.

Hurricane watch. Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the WATCH, usually within 36 hours.

MEOC. Municipal Emergency Operations Center (Sullivan’s Island Command Center)

Mitigation. A deliberate and concerted preparation directed towards the elimination or reduction of disaster occurrence or disaster effects. Mitigation includes such actions as land use management, safety codes, building specifications, flood proofing and general public information.

Mutual Aid Agreements. Formal or informal understandings between jurisdictions that pledge exchange of emergency or disaster assistance.

Rainfall-induced flooding. Widespread torrential rains, often in excess of 6 inches, can produce deadly and destructive floods. Long after the winds have subsided, hurricanes can generate immense amounts of rain.

SCEMD. South Carolina Emergency Management Division

SOP. Standard Operating Procedures

Storm surge. The storm surge is a large dome of water often 50 – 100 miles wide that sweeps across the coastline near where a hurricane makes landfall. The surge of high water topped by waves is devastating. The stronger the hurricane, the higher the surge will be. Along the immediate coast, storm surge is the greatest threat of life. **Sullivan’s Island, in its entirety, is located within the *STORM SURGE ZONE*.**

Tornadoes. While the threat exists for tornadoes to develop in all storm quadrants, they primarily develop in the northeast quadrant of the storm, possibly as much as 200 – 400 miles from the storm’s center of circulation. Tornadoes can potentially become very strong, causing extensive damage to buildings and loss of lives.

Winds. Hurricane winds can destroy buildings and other property. Debris, such as signs, roofing material, siding and other items become missiles in a hurricane. The winds are the greatest cause of property damage inland of the coast.

STORM PATTERN

Be aware that the eye of the storm can be deceptive; the storm may not be over when you think it is. It is likely that the worst of the storm may occur after the eye passes and the winds blow from the opposite direction. Trees, shrubs, buildings and other objects damaged by the first winds can be broken or destroyed by the second winds.

PUBLIC ALERT PROCESS

To ensure that all organizations within South Carolina have coordinated response activities, and to facilitate coordination of operations with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the following standardized Operation Conditions (OPCONS) have been incorporated into the State's plan and are used by the Town of Sullivan's Island in the event of an emergency.

These OPCON levels increase the State's level of readiness on a scale of 3 to 1 and the Town's level of readiness follows accordingly. During a hurricane event, it is likely that you will hear state and local emergency management authorities refer to "OPCONS."

OPCON's will not necessarily progress sequentially from 3 to 1. Each OPCON includes those key issues regarding communications, essential coordination and response activities appropriate for the hazard.

OPCON 1: FULL ALERT

OPCON 1 indicates a disaster or emergency is imminent or occurring. Both Charleston County and Sullivan's Island Emergency Operations Centers may be, or already are, fully activated. All Charleston County and Sullivan's Island emergency support functions are activated or ready to deploy. As it relates to a tropical storm/hurricane scenario, an evacuation warning for the public has likely been issued. At this level, the State, Charleston County and the Town of Sullivan's Island will coordinate an evacuation.

OPCON 2: ENHANCED AWARENESS

Once it is determined that a disaster or emergency is likely to affect Charleston County, OPCON 2 is declared. As it relates to a tropical storm/hurricane scenario, public authorities will move to OPCON 2 when there is sufficient information that a tropical storm or hurricane poses a significant threat to the area, based upon the individual storm's characteristics. OPCON 2 may include voluntary an evacuation warning.

OPCON 3: NORMAL OPERATIONS

OPCON 3 indicates that the State Emergency Operations Center and all forms of local government, including Sullivan's Island, are at normal day-to day operations. Incident and potential threats are closely monitored by Emergency Management.

The State and Charleston County Emergency Management Divisions monitor the National Weather Service 24 hours a day. The Governor's Office is also kept informed of storm

development. When a storm is identified as one that may pose a threat to South Carolina, the county's emergency operation center prepares for activation and, in turn, keeps the municipalities informed.

FOOTNOTE* SC State and County emergency preparedness agencies streamlined from a system of 5 OPCON levels to 3 OPCON levels in May 2019.

TOWN COMMUNICATION & ALERT PLATFORMS

1. Town Website:

The Town's website will be updated as Operation Conditions change on the following website pages: Home and Emergency Preparedness (Quick Link from Home page). Add the links below to your "Favorites" file on your computer.

<https://sullivansisland.sc.gov/residents/emergency-preparedness>

2. Sullivan's Island Remote Emergency Notification System (SIRENS)

The SIRENS system, implemented in summer 2011, is comprised of 2 sirens located at Station 24, near water tank, and Station 15, near SPAWAR facilities. The system was developed by the Town to provide an additional method to notify Island residents and visitors of an emergency, should they be outside and removed from a telephone, computer and internet. In the event of an emergency, Town Staff will activate this warning system. The system will produce an audible siren followed by a verbal announcement. Uses for the warning system include:

- EW1: Evacuation Warning
- BW1: Vacate Ocean and/or Beach
- HW1: Hurricane Warning
- TW1: Tornado Warning
- TS1: Tsunami Warning
- CRW1: Chemical Release (case-by-case basis, not a recorded message)
- Swimmer Advisory: Hazardous swimming conditions

3. Cell Phone & Email Digital Alerts

The Town encourages you to register to receive Town of Sullivan's Island Emergency Alert System ("Nixle Alerts"). Powered by Nixle Municipal Wire and managed by Sullivan's Island Police Department. Register to receive an email and/or cell phone text message at www.nixle.com. Registration is free; your cell phone carrier may charge text message fees.

5. Town of Sullivan's Island Social Media:

Follow on Twitter@townofsi Follow & Like us on Facebook/Town of Sullivan's Island

MONITOR THE NEWS

Citizens are encouraged to monitor emergency broadcast radio stations and television stations before, during and after the storm's landfall. A battery-operated radio is an essential item to have on hand.

Public Radio Stations*

Station	Frequency	County of License
WLTR, Columbia	91.3 MHz (98,000 watts)	Richland
WSCI, Charleston	89.3 MHz	Charleston
WRJA, Sumter/Columbia	88.1 MHz	Sumter
WNSC, Rock Hill	88.9 MHz	York
WJWJ, Beaufort/Hilton Head	89.9 MHz (48,000 watts)	Beaufort
WEPR, Greenville/Spartanburg	90.1 MHz (85,000 watts)	Greenville
WHMC, Conway/Myrtle Beach	90.1 MHz (30,000 watts)	Horry
WLJK, Aiken	89.1 MHz (10,000 watts)	Aiken

*All stations are FM and 100,000 watts EFP unless otherwise noted.

Television Stations

Station	Channel	Station	Channel
WCBD – NBC/Charleston	2	WYFF – NBC/Greenville	4
WCIV – ABC/Charleston	36	WSPA – CBS/Spartanburg	7
WCSC – CBS/Charleston	5	WBTV – CBS/Charlotte, NC	3
WIS – NBC/Columbia	10	WSOC – ABC/Charlotte, NC	9
WOLO – ABC/Columbia	25	WCNC – NBC/Charlotte, NC	36
WLTX – CBS/Columbia	19	WXIA – NBC/ Atlanta, GA	11
WSB – ABC/ Atlanta, GA	2		

Hurricane Tracking Websites

- The Weather Channel: <https://weather.com/storms/hurricane>
- National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov
- Weather Underground: www.wunderground.com/hurricane

Evacuation Information Telephone Numbers

- Sullivan’s Island Town Hall (MEOC) (843) 883-3198
- Sullivan’s Island Police Department (843) 883-3931
- Sullivan’s Island Fire Department (843) 883-9944
- Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch (843) 743-7200
- Charleston County Emergency Operation Center (when activated) (843) 202-7100
- State of South Carolina Emergency Management Division (803) 737-8500

NOTICE OF EVACUATION

As the storm progresses, the county and municipalities will implement procedures designated for each of the 3 Operation Conditions listed on Page 4 of this guide.

Typically, the Governor of South Carolina declares a state of emergency, issues an evacuation, and notifies the press and affected counties that, in turn, notify the municipalities.

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio and television stations for evacuation instructions. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

OPCON PREPARATION ACTIVITIES

OPCON 3: PREPARE A PERSONAL PLAN

Under normal operations. Plan your evacuation destination ahead of time. Arrange to go to the home of friends and family, motel or shelter in an inland town or an unaffected area. For a list of recommended items to take to an emergency shelter, see [APPENDIX A](#). For a list of area shelters, see [APPENDIX C](#).

- Establish a family pet plan ([APPENDIX D](#)).
- **Keep a current copy of the evacuation routes ([APPENDIX E](#)) in an easily accessible place and take them with you.** These routes are posted on the South Carolina Department of Transportation website: www.sctraffic.org and are **subject to change annually**. Confirm these routes each spring.

- Gather all valuable paperwork such as mortgage notes, insurance papers, deeds, licenses, personal identifying documents, photos, etc. to take with you if you evacuate.
- If children are to be in the custody of anyone other than their parents, write a letter giving the custodial adult permission to seek, sign for and authorize any necessary medical care. Have this document notarized.
- Film the contents of your home (open drawers, cabinets and closets to reveal their contents). Take this video with you in the event of an evacuation.
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit and other emergency/disaster-related kits ([APPENDIX F](#)).
- Know the gas, water and electricity cut-off points for your home or business and how to cut them off.
- Keep your vehicle maintained.
- Ensure that your vehicle has an official Town of Sullivan’s Island sticker on the lower left-hand corner of the windshield. You may not be allowed immediate access across the bridge after the storm has passed without one.
- Install hurricane shutters or purchase pre-cut 1/2" outdoor plywood boards for each window of your home. Install anchors for the plywood and pre-drill holes in the plywood so that you can install it quickly. If you do not intend to install the plywood yourself, confirm that a contractor intends to install the plywood for you.
- Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs. **Do this well in advance of hurricane season.** Flying debris can become dangerous in high winds.
- Survey your exterior doors to determine which ones are vulnerable to high winds and flying debris.
- Strengthen the latch system of those doors most vulnerable to high winds.
- Consider installing deadbolts. They can help deter intruders as well as provide protection during high winds.
- Install braces on the garage doors if they do not comply with current code.
- Secure propane gas tanks.
- Discuss hurricane preparedness with your children. Include them in the process and communicate the importance of these practices, praising their helpfulness.

OPCON 2: ENHANCED AWARENESS: WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED

- Listen to local news radio and television stations for changes in weather conditions.
- Keep vehicles fueled.
- Prepare to evacuate during daylight hours and KNOW your evacuation location.
- Inventory disaster/emergency kit(s) supplies.
- Place valuables in plastic bags or other waterproof containers.

- Fill freezer with ice and with plastic water-filled containers (to be used as drinking water later).
- Withdraw adequate cash from the bank. Banks and ATM machines may close or ATMs may be disabled due to electric power loss or flooding.
- Wash all clothing.
- Fill coolers with ice.
- Bring indoors all lawn furniture, bird feeders, trashcans, recycling bins, deck and lawn decorations, planters and any other items that can become projectiles or floating hazards.
- Stock up on disaster supplies ([APPENDIX F](#))
- Store hazardous chemicals in waterproof containers or heavy plastic bags in safe place
- Park your vehicle in the garage or carport. If you have neither, put the car as close to the side of the house as possible, away from any trees that may fall on it.
- Secure your boat (preferably OFF the island) ([APPENDIX H](#))
- Secure the pool ([APPENDIX I](#))

WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED UNDER OPCON 2:

- Cover all windows and glass doors, if possible.
- Stuff towels and throw rugs against windowsills to help keep water out
- Wedge sliding glass doors with a bar or a length of wood (a portion of an old mop handle can work nicely).
- Place all valuables that were wrapped in plastic earlier in the highest level possible within the home.
- Clean your tub and other containers with chlorine cleanser or bleach for water storage (plan on 2 – 3 gallons per person per day.)
- Fill these containers with fresh water.
- Run a washing machine load of water and chlorine bleach
 - After the wash cycle finishes, fill washer with water to be used after the storm.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer up to coldest settings.
 - Store plastic bottles of water and newspapers in the vacant areas of refrigerator and freezer to act as insulation.
 - Open doors as infrequently as possible.
- If the electricity fails, cut off the building's electricity at the breaker box (all circuits) to avoid overloading the system when the electricity returns.
- If you have **not** been advised to leave, stay indoors and away from windows.

- Close all drapes and blinds.
- Drape tarpaulins or plastic sheeting over furnishings and tape around the edges to minimize water damage.
- Be aware of changing weather conditions
- Listen the news and local authorities and be prepared to evacuate when you are asked to do so.
- Be alert for tornadoes. Tornadoes can occur during a hurricane and afterwards. Remain indoors, in the center of your home, in a closet or bathroom without windows.
- Do not be deceived by the “eye” of the storm. The winds will return from the opposite direction. Stay indoors, listening to your battery-operated radio until local authorities give an “all clear.”
- If you intend to use a portable generator, do not connect it directly to the fuse box or incoming power line.
- Run your generator outside the house and connect your appliances directly to the generator. See [APPENDIX G](#) for additional generator tips.
- When winds begin to pick up, go inside and lock all doors.

OPCON 1: FULL ALERT: EVACUATION IS IMMINENT

- Prepare to evacuate your home or business.
- Turn off gas appliances at their individual shut off valves inside your home, if accessible.
- Disconnect propane gas tanks and turn off the main gas line.
- Turn off electricity at the main fuse or breaker box
- Cut off water at the round green valve cover in front of the water meter, if possible, to avoid flooding from broken pipes when water service is restored.
- Turn off major appliances such as air conditioners and water heater.
- Cut off the water valve to the hot water heater.
- Unplug all appliances with motors, including refrigerators, washers, dryers, videotape players, hairdryers, etc.
- Remove wall hangings, mirrors and objects from the walls.

WHEN AN EVACUATION IS ORDERED UNDER OPCON 1:

When an evacuation has been ordered, local media will make announcements and the Sullivan’s Island Police and Fire Department personnel will cruise the streets of the island announcing the evacuation via a public address system and will go door-to-door to inform residents and business owners of an evacuation. If an evacuation has been ordered:

- Begin evacuation *immediately* when traveling with small children, the elderly or persons with special needs.
- Provide a friend or family member that does not live in the anticipated path of the storm with the telephone number and location of your evacuation destination.
- Pack the car
- Evacuation survival kit ([APPENDIX A](#))
- Lock the doors of your home
- Expect heavy, slow-moving traffic along the evacuation routes
- Avoid floodwaters. If you come upon flooded roadways, turn around and travel another way.
- If caught on a flooded roadway, get out of your car and climb to higher ground.
- Remember that SC law requires that nonfunctioning traffic lights should be treated as a four-way stop sign.
- Let someone know your destination.

AFTER ARRIVAL AT EVACUATION LOCATION

Notify friend or family member that does not live in the anticipated path of the storm that you have arrived at your evacuation destination.

DURING A HURRICANE

When circumstances prevent you from evacuation:

- Stay tuned to radio or TV news programs
- Stay indoors until authorities have issued an “all clear”
- Select the safest possible place in your home such as an interior space or the room with the fewest windows.
- If possible, stay on the downwind side of the house.
- Stay away from doors and windows.
- If a door or window blows out, or a section of the roof is carried away, compromising your position, move to the next most secure place in your home.
- Avoid attic rooms or the second floor of your home unless forced to retreat to such areas by rising water.
- In the event of rising water, put on life preservers.
- Use battery-operated light sources only (no candles, kerosene or oil lamps.)
- Use the telephone only for emergencies (DIAL 911)

- **If you choose to remain, conditions may become too dangerous for first responders to provide assistance.**

AFTER THE HURRICANE

- Stay tuned to radio or TV news programs.
- Use common sense when hearing reports of massive damage occurring at Sullivan’s Island from local media sources at your evacuation location outside of eastern South Carolina. Ask yourself, “Now is that reasonable? Could that really have happened?”
- If you evacuated, return to your home only after local authorities have advised you that it is safe to do so.
- Re-entry information will be announced on the Town’s website, social media accounts (Facebook & Twitter) and the Town’s recorded phone system.
- Re-entry procedures require that each vehicle that crosses the bridge have a Town of Sullivan’s Island vehicle re-entry tag hanging from the rear-view mirror.
- If you did not evacuate, do not venture outside until local authorities have issued an “all clear.”
- Avoid flood situations.
- If your home has sustained structural damage, do not enter it unless the Town’s assessment team indicates that you may do so.
- Beware that snakes and other animals may have taken up residence in your home or business during the storm.
- Beware of downed power lines – avoid them.
- Report loose electrical wires or dangling power lines to the Island’s Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) as you find them. Never approach a downed power line – consider all downed lines to be energized.
- Never approach a downed solar panel – they may be energized.
- If you smell gas:
 - Immediately open windows.
 - Turn off main gas valve.
 - Leave the house.
 - Report the leak to the Island’s Emergency Operations Center.
 - Remain a safe distance from the structure.
- To avoid congestion and interference with damage assessment and repair crews, PLEASE STAY ON YOUR PROPERTY and REFRAIN FROM SIGHT-SEEING.
- Inspect the main electrical connection to your house near the meter.
- If it appears damaged or is pulled away from the house, call an electrician.
- Survey the property for damages and beware of electric wires, broken glass, and other debris.

- Begin clean-up as soon as possible, wearing sturdy, thick soled shoes at all times and wear rubber gloves while clearing after-flood waters to minimize infection from sewage or floodwaters.
- Scout the property and identify utility devices.
- Select a clear site to place debris
- Do not place debris in storm water drainage ditches.
- Do not block access to roads or utility easements.
- Contact the Sullivan’s Island Water and Sewer Department at (843) 883-3198 if you have any questions.
- Open all windows and doors to begin the drying-out process
- Use flashlights to illuminate darkness, not candles.
- When necessary, repairs have been made and you know that power has been restored:
 - Flip the main breaker to the ON position,
 - Then flip other breakers one at a time, starting with the single breakers.
 - Next, flip the double breakers that correspond to the large appliances such as heating and air conditioning (MAKE SURE ALL APPLIANCES HAVE BEEN UNPLUGGED).
 - If any of the breakers flip themselves back to the OFF position, leave it in that position and call an electrician.
- After power is restored and breakers are operational, turn on the lights. Try to determine if they are operating in the manner you have been accustomed.
- If the lights appear dimmer, immediately flip the main breaker off and call an electrician.
- If the lights appear brighter than you have been accustomed to, immediately flip the main breaker off and call Dominion Energy at 1-800-251-7234 or visit <https://www.dominionenergy.com/south-carolina/vanities>
- If lights appear as bright as you have been accustomed:
 - Turn the double breakers “Off,”
 - Plug in the appliances,
 - And then switch the breakers to the “On” position.
 - If all the breakers stay in the “On” position, it is possible that the electrical system is operational,
 - IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS, CONTACT AN ELECTRICIAN.
- Beware of unscrupulous contractors who appear on the scene after a hurricane ([APPENDIX K](#)).
- Notify your insurance agent or broker of any losses, and leave word of where you can be contacted.

FOOD

- Remove and properly dispose of spoiled food from your refrigerator.
- Avoid opening the refrigerator door unnecessarily.
- Bring necessities such as food and water with you when you return home. However, report to the Island's Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) if you need food, medical supplies, water or experience an emergency.
- Conserve water used to cook and wash utensils by cooking canned food in the following manner.
- In a large cook pot, cook canned goods by opening the cans, remove labels, and place them in 2 inches of gently boiling water.
 - Use oven mitts to avoid burning hands when lifting cans from hot water.
 - Reuse that water for another meal, but do not drink it.

WATER AND SEWER

- Do not drink tap water immediately after a hurricane. Assume a Boil Water Notice is in effect until authorities inform you it has been lifted. ([APPENDIX J](#))
 - If water system is not operational, ration water you have stored in containers for toilet flushing.
 - Check to see if sewage lines are broken before using the toilet. If sewer lines are broken, **DO NOT FLUSH YOUR TOILET.**
 - If you cannot use your toilet:
 - Dig a latrine trench in your yard;
 - Fashion a portable toilet (a covered plastic bucket may work for you);
 - Empty it into the trench after each use;
 - Sprinkle the latrine with lime (use rubber gloves to avoid chemical burns.)
- OR-
- Utilize Porta Potty toilets that will be strategically positioned throughout the island.

APPENDIX A: EVACUATION SURVIVAL CHECKLIST

- Baby food and diapers
- Toddler toys/favorite blanket
- Battery-operated radio
- First-aid kit
- Blankets, pillows and sleeping bags
- Identification and valuable papers
- Extra set of car key
- Medicine
- Cards, games and books
- Non-perishable food
- Any special dietary requirements
- Flashlights (1 per person)
- Eating utensils
- Toiletries
- Extra batteries
- Two changes of clothing per person
- Credit cards and cash
- Non-electric can opener
- Rain gear and sturdy shoes
- Extra pair of eyeglasses for each person
- List of family physicians that requires eyeglasses
- Drinking water (2 gallons per person/per day)

PLAN AHEAD! A shelter is a destination of last resort and is primarily for those with no place else to ride out the storm. They are not designed to be comfortable and offer sparse accommodations. Food may or may not be available.

APPENDIX B: DOCUMENTS EVACUATION CHECKLIST

PERSONAL & FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS EVACUATION CHECKLIST

- Take the following documents with you when you evacuate. It would be helpful to have a complete set of these documents held by a trusted relative or friend at an out-of-town location.
- Store these documents in secure and waterproof container.
- Remember safe deposit banks will be subject to the same weather conditions as your home.
- Tip: Consider electronic banking capability and/or automatic bank drafts for recurring monthly bills.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- A complete copy, front and back, of everything in your wallet
- Social Security cards
- Birth certificates
- Passports
- List of emergency contacts: doctors, financial advisors and family
- Pictures of every family member and pets

FINANCIAL IDENTIFICATION:

- Recent checking, savings and investment account statements
- Credit card records; phone numbers for credit card customer service
- Recent pay stubs and employee benefits information; emergency contact number for company's Human Resources office.
- Mortgage statements or rental agreements
- Federal and state tax returns (for at least the last 3 years)
- Backup documents for current year tax returns (i.e., medical receipts)
- Stock and bond certificates

INSURANCE INFORMATION:

- Insurance policies – life, health, disability, auto, home, flood and renters; emergency phone numbers for insurance agents or agencies
- Inventory of home contents with supporting photos and/or videos
- Warranties and receipts for major purchases or home improvements
- Appraisals of real estate and personal property

HEALTH INFORMATION:

- ❑ Health insurance and prescription cards
- ❑ List of doctors and veterinarians with phone numbers
- ❑ Medical Benefits Summary Booklet/Policy of Benefits
- ❑ Immunization records
- ❑ Drug and eyeglass prescriptions
- ❑ Summary of medical history for each member of the family:
 - Blood type (particularly rare types)
 - Current conditions
 - Current medications taken and medical allergies
 - Other allergies

LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

- ❑ Marriage and death certificates
- ❑ Divorce, child custody and adoption papers
- ❑ Military records
- ❑ Mortgage/property deeds
- ❑ Car, boat and other vehicle titles
- ❑ Copies of wills, powers of attorney and trust documents

COMPUTER BACK-UPS:

- ❑ An electronic backup of your personal and business computer files
- ❑ List of important websites with secure list of logon information
 - Remember to include Town’s website: <https://sullivanisland.sc.gov/>
- ❑ Backup (and print hard copy) of email address book

DO NOT FORGET CASH!

**When power is down, credit and debit cards are not usually accepted.
Estimate cash you might need for fuel, lodging and food for 3 – 5 days.**

INSURANCE TIPS:

Review your homeowner’s insurance in January, February or March – not June!

Many insurance companies will not allow changes to policies, or will not write new policies, during a pending storm event. There is a waiting period for flood insurance to be effective, so do not wait until the beginning of hurricane season (June) to reevaluate your homeowner’s insurance.

Consider adding “Loss of Use” in your homeowner’s policy, if you don’t already have it.

Loss of use helps offset the costs of having to live away from home during a prolonged evacuation or rebuilding period. Keep all receipts for expenses incurred during the evacuation for possible reimbursement. These expenses would include fuel, lodging, food, pet lodging, and other incidental expenses incurred while you are unable to return to your home.

Consider flood coverage

If you don’t have flood insurance on Sullivan’s Island, you should. Homeowner’s policies **DO NOT PAY** for losses caused by flood. If you suffer home damage due to rising water levels or

tidal surges in a hurricane, this would be considered flood damage under your flood insurance policy. **Flood insurance is sold separately. There is a 30-day waiting period for flood policies. Flood policies are available for renters' contents. You may need excess flood coverage.**

Consider excess flood coverage

As a barrier coastal island, Sullivan's Island homes are susceptible to 100% property loss due to flooding. Most residents have flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regardless of what insurance company used. NFIP property coverage is capped (\$250,000 for building and \$100,000 for contents). For most homes on the Island, this is not enough insurance to cover a 100% flood loss. Talk to your insurance agent if you wish to explore excess flood coverage.

Is your replacement coverage adequate?

New residential construction on Sullivan's Island is approximately \$200 per square foot and up.

APPENDIX C: LOW COUNTRY RED CROSS SHELTERS

Sullivan’s Island coordinates its evacuation plans, and subsequently its evacuation shelters, through the Red Cross and South Carolina. In years past, South Carolina has used both voluntary and mandatory evacuation protocols. Currently, South Carolina has eliminated its voluntary/mandatory evacuation protocols, and only uses evacuation warnings. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division asks that citizens prepare evacuation plans (with locations for housing) before evacuation occurs. In the event shelter is required, a current and up-to-date list of evacuation shelters can be found at the [South Carolina Emergency Management Division’s Hurricane Plan](#).

Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley counties are categorized into the Central Conglomerate, which begins on Page 16 of Appendix I of the SCEMD Hurricane Plan. As is explained in the beginning of Appendix I, shelters are open and available in a specific order. Page 9 of Appendix I of the SCEMD Hurricane Plan explains the order (listed below).

- A. Groups are designated as “1”, “2”, “3” & “4”. Re-entry groups are designated as “5”. Reserve shelters are designated with an “R”.
- B. RTE designates associated evacuation route.
- C. “G” denotes the presence of a generator transfer switch installed to facilitate the connection of a service generator in an emergency, and “F” designates a shelter with above-average functional needs accessibility.

Charleston County has 6 C1 shelters, 0 C2 – C4 shelters, 6 C5 shelters, and 2 CR shelters.

Check with the Carolina Low Country chapter of the Red Cross annually to verify Shelter List: (843) 764-2323 EXT: 373 or <http://www.redcross.org/local/south-carolina>. You may also refer to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division website: <https://www.scmd.org/prepare/types-of-disasters/hurricanes>.

PLAN AHEAD!

Regardless of whether you evacuate or stay in your home during the storm, you will need a pet disaster kit.

PET DISASTER KIT

- Kennel/crate large enough to comfortably accommodate your pet
- Leash, collar, harness (muzzle, if necessary)
- ID tags, current health records, including immunization record and rabies certificate
- Prescription medication such as heartworm preventatives
- Contact information for family vet
- Food and water bowls
- Photos of your pets
- Newspaper or cat litter
- Bath towels
- Garbage bags
- Water – 1 gallon per 10 lbs. of pet weight
- Dry pet food – 1 to 2 lbs. of pet weight
- Toys and treats
- Pet first-aid kit that includes 4x4 gauze pads, gauze rolls, antibiotic ointment, cortisone cream and scissors

WHEN YOU EVACUATE WITH YOUR PET

Make shelter arrangements for your pets well before a storm.

Arrange for pets to stay with friends, family or a veterinary clinic in towns located out of the storm's anticipated path.

---OR---

Identify hotels and motels that will take pets. **CONFIRM** that they will accommodate your pet when you make your reservation. Each individual hotel has its own rules and requirements may change periodically. Pet friendly hotels/motels are listed at the following websites:

www.petsonthego.com/top-pet-hotels-usa/

www.petfriendlytravel.com

www.travelpets.com

WHEN YOU DO NOT EVACUATE

If no evacuation warning is ordered, and you choose not to evacuate and have not sent your pets to a boarding facility:

- Keep your pet with you in the place you have determined to be the safest location (away from windows, etc.)
- Exercise caution after the storm by taking the pet out on a leash until you have determined your yard does not pose a threat to the safety of your pet.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET HOME DURING A HURRICANE. A SECURE ROOM AND A FEW DAYS SUPPLY OF FOOD IS NOT GOING TO ENSURE YOUR PET'S SAFETY.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET IN THE CAR OR TIE IT OUT WHILE YOU STAY IN A SHELTER OR MOTEL.

**HURRICANE EVACUATION ROUTES RECOMMENDED
BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Evacuees leaving Sullivan's Island will use SC 703 to I-526 Business to access I-526 then I-26.

Evacuees leaving Sullivan's Island would use the Isle of Palms Connector (SC-517) and go to US 17.

The right lane will turn north on US 17, then proceed to SC 41, to SC 402, then to US 52 to SC 402, then to US 52 and 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 would turn left to go to I-526 and then on to I-26.

Evacuees in the right lane on I-526 approaching I-26 from the East Cooper area will be directed to the normal lanes of I-26. Evacuees in the left lane on I-526 will be directed into the reversed lanes of I-26.

Evacuees traveling on I-26 in the normal westbound lanes of travel will be allowed to exit at all interchanges between Charleston and Columbia. Evacuees traveling in the reversed lanes of travel will be allowed to exit at most, not all interchanges.

Re-entry to I-26 will be permitted at all interchanges, but only into the normal, not reversed lanes of travel.

No motorists in the reversed lanes of travel will be allowed directly from I-26 onto I-95. However, they will be able to access I-95 via exit 165. They will take SC 210 north to US 176 east to I-95.

I-26 westbound traffic in the normal travel lanes that does not exit prior to reaching Columbia will be routed onto I-77 north.

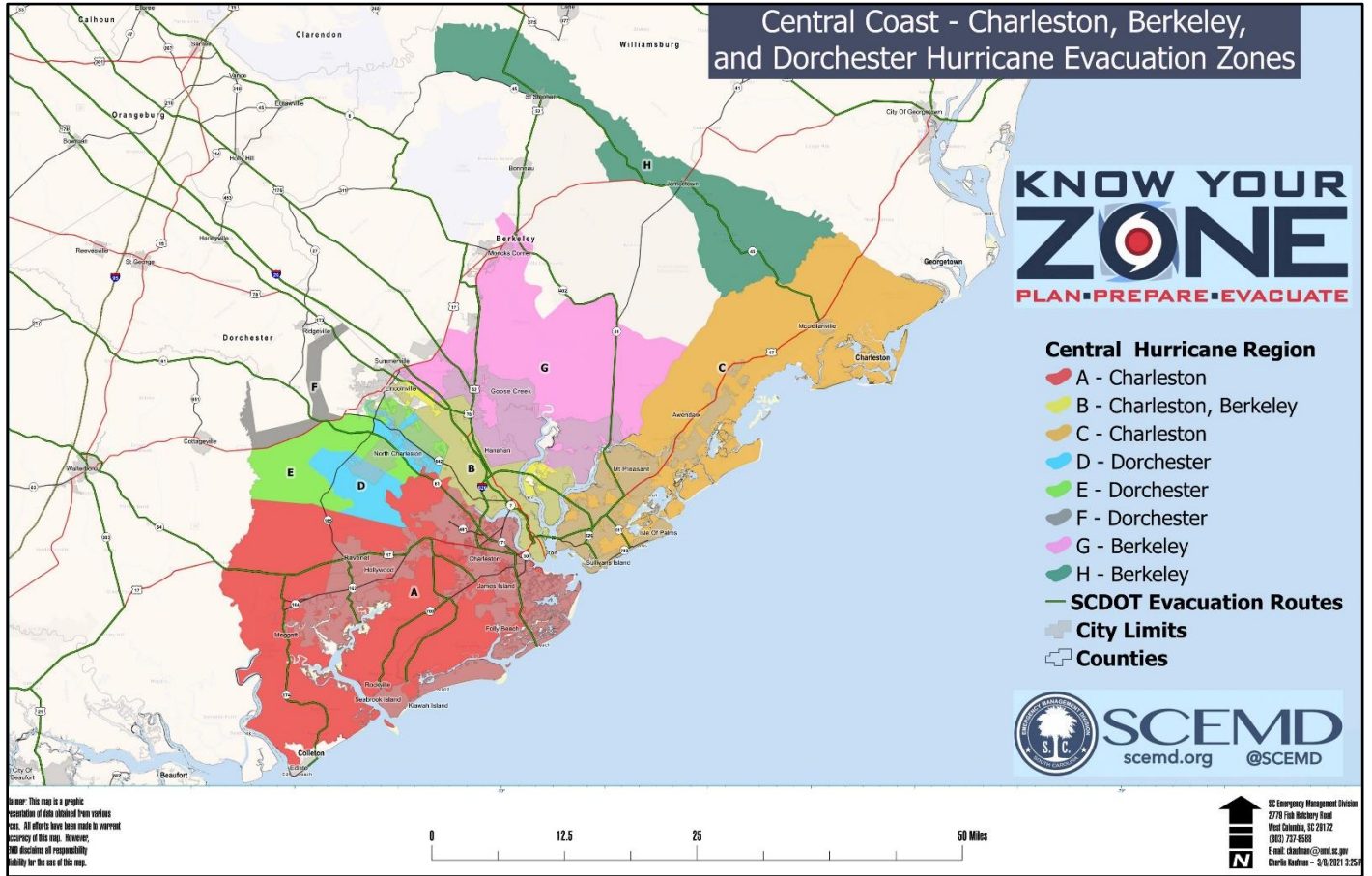
I-26 westbound traffic in the reversed travel lanes that does not exit prior to reaching Columbia will be directed by law enforcement officers across the interstate median into the normal lanes of travel.

Motorists are cautioned not to cross any roadway median unless directed to do so by a law enforcement officer.

For more information go to <https://sullivansisland.sc.gov/emergency-evacuation> or <https://www.scemd.org/prepare/know-your-zone/>

CENTRAL COAST EVACUATION MAP: CHARLESTON METRO AREA

Click on map for SCEMD Website:



APPENDIX F: DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

Have at least a two-week supply of the following items in your disaster supplies kit.

- Aluminum foil
- Baby food, diapers, formula
- Battery-operated radio
- Bleach (without lemon or additives)
- Butane lighters
- Camera and film
- Cleaning supplies/disinfectant
- Duct tape
- Eating utensils
- Emergency cooking
- Extension cords (heavy duty 3-pronged)
- Extra batteries
- Extra pet food
- Fire extinguishers (ABC type)
- First-aid kit (see below)
- Flashlights
- Fuel in the car
- Gas for grill (have the tank filled and secure)
- Gas grill or camping stove
- Glasses or contact lenses (extra)
- Heavy plastic (to cover furnishings)
- Inflatable raft
- Lantern and extra batteries
- Life preserver
- Manual can opener
- Matches in separate water proof container
- Medicine – prescriptions, pain reliever/fever reducer, antacid, antibiotic cream
- Mosquito netting
- Mosquito repellent
- Non-perishable canned or packaged foods and beverages
- Pencil and paper
- Plastic trash bags (get plenty)
- Plastic bucket with lid
- Rope (100 ft.)
- Sleeping bags
- Soap, deodorant, shampoo
- Spray paint
- Tarps (heavy duty plastic)
- Toilet paper and towelettes
- Tools: crowbar, sledge hammer, saw, hammer and nails, pliers, gloves
- Valuables
- Water purification tablets (follow manufacturer's suggestion for use)
- Water to drink; at least 7 gallons per person
- Whistle
- Shutters, window protection

FIRST-AID KIT

- 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4 – 6)
- 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4 – 6)
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves
- Scissors
- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- Sunscreen
- Tweezers
- Needle
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Laxative
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Tongue blades (2)
- Activated charcoal (use if advised by Poison Control Center)
- Moistened towelettes
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Activated charcoal if advised to use by
Poison Control Center:
(1-800-222-1222 or 1-803-777- 1117)

Update the kits with fresh food and water about every 6 months. Check expiration dates of medications and dispose as necessary.

APPENDIX G: Generators

There is evidence to suggest that power and phone company employees have been injured because people have used their portable generators improperly. The power from portable generators can actually flow out of a home or business and recharge the lines if we do not follow a few simple steps.

- Before using a portable generator, turn off the electricity at your home's main circuit breaker or fuse box to disconnect your home from the power grid.
- When electric service is restored, prevent damage to the portable generator by disconnecting it before turning on the power to your home.
- A portable generator should be used only outside the home, not even in the garage. *Generators can emit poisonous, odorless carbon monoxide gas.*
- Run a separate heavy-duty, properly grounded extension cord from the generator directly to each of the electrical appliances that are to be powered.
- Add up the total consumption (number of watts) of all the appliances that you intend to hook up to be sure that you stay within the load capacity of the generator. **DO NOT OVERLOAD THE GENERATOR.**

DO NOT CONNECT A GENERATOR TO THE HOME WIRING.

APPENDIX H: BOATS

Boats may become airborne in high wind, please consider every avenue to remove boats from the Island in the event of a hurricane.

The best place for trailered boats is in a garage or warehouse.

If you must leave your boat outside, attach the trailer to a firm spot in the ground, take some air out of the tires and lash the boat to the trailer. Place boards between the axle and the trailer to prevent damage to the trailer springs.

If you are going to leave your boat in the water:

Check your marina contract to make sure of what is allowed;

Check the mooring hardware and equipment to be sure they are strong enough to handle a hurricane. Hurricane moorings should have at least double lines.

Practice your hurricane mooring system.

If you move your boat, do so as early as possible.

When making your plans to move your boat, note all drawbridges/swing bridges will be locked in the down position **prior** to landfall of gale force winds.

APPENDIX I: POOLS

Lower the water level 15 inches to accommodate heavy rains. Do not drain the pool completely.

Add extra chlorine to prevent contamination. Consult your pool supply company to see if they recommend powdered shock or liquid chlorine.

Prohibit use of the pool in its super-chlorinated state.

Turn off the electricity at the breaker, not the pump.

Once the pump is cool, you may wrap it in a plastic bag for protection.

Wrap an exposed filter with waterproof covering and tie it securely.

Remove all removable childproof safety fencing and reinstall immediately after the storm.

DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN NEAR THE POOL AFTER THE FENCE HAS BEEN REMOVED!

THE PROCESS OF PURIFYING WATER

Boiling and chemical sterilization are 2 ways to purify water. Any water that is obtained from sources outside the home or water that does not appear clear should be sterilized. Non-sterilized water may be contaminated with the parasite, Giardia.

STRAINING

Strain water containing sediment or floating material through a cloth or paper filter before beginning the purification process.

HEAT STERILIZATION

Boiling water is the preferred method of purification because most disease-causing microorganisms cannot survive the intense heat.

Bring the water to a rolling boil for 1 minute.

Allow it to cool.

CHEMICAL STERILIZATION

In some situations, boiling may not be an option. The alternative is to treat the water chemically. Plain household bleach may be used. Be sure that hypochlorite is the only active ingredient. Bleach containing soap or fragrance is not acceptable.

- With an eyedropper, add 8 drops of bleach per gallon of water (16 drops if the water is cloudy)
- Stir.
- Let stand for 30 minutes.
- After 30 minutes, it should taste and smell like chlorine and it may be used.

However, if the taste and smell (and appearance, in the case of cloudy water) is unchanged after it has stood for 30 minutes, repeat the process. If, after the additional 30 minutes, the water does not have a chlorine smell, do not use it.

Another method of chemical sterilization is water treatment tablets. Follow the manufacturer's directions on the package carefully.

CONTAINERS

Store the water in clean and sanitary glass or plastic containers. Plastic is most effective as it is light and easy to carry. Glass can break. Metal containers should not be considered as a storage container because they may corrode and give water an unpleasant taste.

APPENDIX K: UNSCRUPULOUS CONTRACTORS

“Contractors” are on the prowl the minute a storm is over.

WARNING SIGNS OF A POSSIBLY UNSCRUPULOUS CONTRACTOR

- The contractor requests all payment upfront.
- The contractor gives a post office box or local hotel as an address.
- The contractor asks you to obtain the building permit or tells you there is no need for the building permit.

TIPS FOR HIRING A CONTRACTOR

- Ask to see a state “Certified” or “Registered” contractor’s license and a copy of their insurance coverage. “Registered” contractors may work as subcontractor and may perform up to \$5,000 of work, unless they are bonded for a greater amount.
- Get itemized estimates in writing from more than one contractor.
- Beware of contractors who claim to fix anything for a cheaper price than anyone else.
- Never agree to obtain building permits yourself and always ask to see the building permit before work starts.

The Town’s Building Official

The Town has a list of contractors and consultants knowledgeable or experienced in retrofitting techniques and construction. The building official will:

- Furnish information to help select a qualified contractor and advise on what resources are available when someone is dissatisfied with a contractor’s performance.
- Make site visits upon request to review flooding, drainage, and sewer problems and provide recommendations to the property owner.
- Provide assistance and advice in retrofitting techniques to lessen the possibility of flood damage.

For additional information, contact the Town of Sullivan’s Island Building Official at 843-883-3198.

ADDITIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201
202-690-6343

www.cdc.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472
202-566-1600

www.fema.gov

NOAA's National Weather Service
Department of Commerce
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration

www.nws.noaa.gov

American Red Cross National Headquarters
2025 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
202-303-4498

www.redcross.org

South Carolina Emergency Management Division
2779 Fish Hatchery Road
West Columbia, SC 29172
803-737-8500

www.scemd.org

Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Department
North Charleston, SC 29405-7464
843-746-3800

www.charlestoncounty.org

[\[Charleston County Emergency Operations Plan\]](#)

East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO)
1145 Six Mile Road, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466
(843) 849-9220 Ext 28
FAX: (843) 849-0943

www.eccocharleston.org