



For More Information

www.horrycounty.org-Horry County Government's website. Click on Hurricane Info Center for tracking, preparation links, and County government operational levels (OPCON).

www.nhc.noaa.gov-National Hurricane Center's Tropical Prediction Center. Provides THE most up-to-date forecast and tracking information as well as historical hurricane data.

www.fema.gov/areyouready/-the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency's Are You Ready program site. Provides in depth information on disasters, how to prepare, and how to recover.

www.scemd.org-South Carolina Emergency Management. Provides helpful disaster related information pertaining to South Carolina. Includes helpful links.

www.sctrffic.org-State of South Carolina Traffic Network. Provides evacuation routes, preparation tips, lane reversal information, and other traffic related hurricane situation reports/press releases.

www.floodsmart.gov-The United States Federal Emergency Management's Flood Smart flood insurance program site. Provides information on flooding dangers, how to estimate your flood insurance premium, and how to find an agent in your community.

www.solidwasteauthority.org-Horry County Solid Waste Authority's website. Provides information on recycling centers for storm debris.

For More Information

Horry County Emergency Management
Conway: (843) 915-5150

American Red Cross (Shelters)
(843) 477-0020

Current Road Conditions
1-888-877-9151 (This is the State's number for questions about traffic and is usually activated after the storm and stays active as long as needed).

Re-entry Information
Public Information Phone System (PIPS) 1-866-246-0133 (This phone line is manned in Columbia, providing information on evacuation, shelters, damage assessment, and re-entry. This number is activated once an evacuation is ordered).

**Aceramiento Hispano de Carolina del Sur
Hispanic Outreach for South Carolina**
(803) 714-0538

South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (Special Needs Shelters)
(843) 915-8804

Horry County Information Line
(843) 915-5005/915-5006 TDD/TTY Available 24 hours a day. Will be pre-empted with pertinent information during a hurricane.



Horry County Public Information
Post Office Box 1236
Conway, SC 29528
(843) 915-5390

<http://www.horrycounty.org/>

4/13/2010

Surviving a Hurricane



Garden City Beach—Hurricane Hugo, 1989

Horry in County

SURVIVING A HURRICANE: Answers to Your Questions

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HURRICANE “WATCH” AND A “WARNING”?

A hurricane warning means that sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are expected in a specified coastal area within 36-hours or less. A hurricane warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of high water and exceptionally high waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force. A hurricane watch means hurricane conditions are possible for the watch area within 48-hours.

I AM A LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER. HOW CAN I PREPARE MY BUSINESS FOR HURRICANE SEASON?

- ➔ Review internal plans and policies, including your insurance policies and your emergency plans.
- ➔ Identify records and equipment located in risk areas and move to a safe location.
- ➔ Notify all employees of possible shut down/evacuation so they can prepare their own families. Also have them provide emergency contact information so you can reach them after the hurricane has passed.
- ➔ Take copies/back-up of all critical records including payroll, personnel, financial and insurance documents, site maps, engineering plans and other critical needs for your business with you when you evacuate.

I DO NOT LIVE IN AN EVACUATION ZONE AND PLAN TO STAY IN MY HOME DURING THE HURRICANE. HOW CAN I PREPARE?

Have a family emergency plan and a disaster supply kit on hand. Be prepared to be without utilities for at least **three days and possibly up to two weeks**. There are seven basic categories of supplies you should stock in your home kit: water, non-perishable food, first aid supplies, tools and emergency supplies, sanitary items, clothing and bedding, and special items such as medicine. Keep in mind a normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day and possibly as much as a gallon a day. For more information about a family plan and disaster supply kit you can go to www.redcross.org or www.ready.gov.

WHY DO I HAVE TO EVACUATE FOR A HURRICANE?

In South Carolina the Governor mandates an evacuation order whether voluntary or mandatory. Upon receiving that order, counties must evacuate their citizens in a safe and expeditious manner. Horry County evacuates for storm surge and not for wind. Storm surge is simply water that is pushed toward shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the mean water level 15 feet or more. In addition, wind driven waves are superimposed on the storm tide. This rise in water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, particularly when the storm tide coincides with the normal high tides.



Flooding in Conway after Hurricane Floyd, 1999

HOW DO I KNOW IF I LIVE IN AN EVACUATION ZONE?

- ➔ Category 1 or 2 storm, all properties along and east of US 17 or US 17 Business must evacuate.
- ➔ Category 3 or 4 storm, all properties along and east of US 17 or US 17 Bypass must evacuate.
- ➔ Category 5 storm, all properties east of the Intracoastal Waterway must evacuate.

(ALL MOBILE HOMES AND CAMPERS are evacuated for all hurricanes, even if securely fastened to the ground. In addition, those living in low lying or other areas prone to flooding are asked to evacuate.)

I DO NOT LIVE IN AN EVACUATION ZONE, SO WHY I AM I BEING ASKED TO EVACUATE WHEN I LIVE IN A MOBILE HOME IN CONWAY?

Residents that live in mobile homes are more vulnerable during hurricane season than those who live in permanent structures. When a voluntary or mandatory evacuation order is given, all citizens who live in mobile homes or campers **countywide**, are asked to evacuate. According to the National Hurricane Center, no mobile or manufactured home—no matter how new it is—can be a safe shelter from hurricane force winds. Hurricane straps or other tie-downs will not protect a mobile home from the wind gusts associated with tornadoes! Sometimes tornadoes spin off from hurricanes and other times they are created by unfavorable weather conditions.

IF I LIVE IN THE EVACUATION ZONE, WILL I BE FORCED TO TAKE A PARTICULAR ROUTE OUT-OF-TOWN?

Yes. You should familiarize yourself now with the designated evacuation route for your area. Local law enforcement and the Army National Guard may be posted along these routes to assist you. Motorists who deviate from the primary evacuation routes may experience delays and may be turned around to adhere to their designated route. The routes are on the next page:

- ➔ **North Myrtle Beach and northward:** Evacuees from north of Briarcliffe Acres will take SC 9 north to I-95 and beyond.
- ➔ **Briarcliffe Acres south to Myrtle Beach 10th Avenue North:** Evacuees in Briarcliffe Acres south to 10th Avenue North will take SC 22 (Conway Bypass) to US 501 to Marion. In Marion, they may then take US 76 to Florence to access I-95 southbound or they may stay on US 501 to SC 38 to access I-95 northbound.
- ➔ **Myrtle Beach, from 10th Avenue North south to the Myrtle Beach Airport:** Evacuees from the Myrtle Beach area south of 10th Avenue North and north of the Myrtle Beach Airport will take US 501 to Conway. They may then take US 378 to Columbia or continue on US 501 to Marion. In Marion, they may then take US 76 to Florence to access I-95 southbound or they may stay on US 501 to SC 38 to access I-95 northbound.
- ➔ **Myrtle Beach Airport southward through Surfside Beach:** Evacuees from the Myrtle Beach area from the Myrtle Beach Airport southward through Surfside Beach will take SC 544 to US 501 to Conway. They may then take US 378 to Columbia or continue on US 501 to Marion. In Marion, they may then take US 76 to Florence to access I-95 southbound or they may stay on US 501 to SC 38 to access I-95 northbound.
- ➔ **Garden City Beach south to Winyah Bay:** Evacuees from Garden City Beach southward to Winyah Bay will take US 17 south through Georgetown. They will then take US 521 to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia. Alternatively, they may take US 17 south to US 701 in Georgetown to SC 51 to US 378 at Kingsburg.



Map from www.sctrffic.org

***ALWAYS TAKE A ROAD MAP WITH YOU WHEN YOU EVACUATE!**

I WOULD LIKE TO EVACUATE TO A SHELTER, BUT I DO NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION. IS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE?

Coast RTA, the public transportation system for Horry County, activates its Emergency Evacuation Program once an evacuation order has been issued. There are seven pre-designated hurricane evacuation pickup points. All evacuation rides are free and start and end at the emergency shelters. Once the evacuation order has been lifted and the area deemed safe, Coast RTA will resume operations transporting evacuees back to the initial pickup point. For a list of those specific pickup points and more information, you can call Coast RTA at (843) 488-0865 or go to their website at www.coastrta.com.

I HAVE HEARD OF COUNTIES CONDUCTING LANE REVERSALS ON MAIN ROADS. DOES HORRY COUNTY IMPLEMENT ANY LANE REVERSALS DURING HURRICANE EVACUATIONS?

Yes. However, only the Governor of South Carolina can order lane reversals statewide. If the Governor does order lane reversals for Horry County, it would only be for Highway 501. If that happens, the lane reversals will **ALWAYS** begin on Highway 501 either at SC 544 to SC 378 or Highway 501 at SC 22, towards Interstate 95 westward to Columbia, South Carolina. Once you get into the lane reversal pattern, you will not be able to get out.

TRAFFIC IS HORRENDOUS DURING AN EVACUATION, AND I HATE TO LEAVE. IF I CHOSE NOT TO LEAVE AND I CALL 911 FOR HELP, WILL SOMEONE COME?

Possibly. It is critical to know that all public safety operations in the field will cease once the winds reach a sustained speed of 60 miles per hour. These conditions are too risky to the safety of law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel. If you have a serious life-threatening emergency, call 911; operators will be available to answer your call and dispatch assistance as conditions permit. Remember, waiting to leave may not only jeopardize your life, but also the lives of others. Once the wind speed is below 60 miles per hour and conditions improve, public safety crews will once again respond to emergency calls.

IF I EVACUATE FOR A HURRICANE, WHERE CAN I FIND THE CLOSEST SHELTER?

A public shelter should be considered the last resort and are only for those with nowhere else to go during an emergency. Your best option is the well prepared home of a friend or relative outside the evacuation zones.

All Horry County public shelters are operated by the Coastal South Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross and the South Carolina Department of Social Services, which are located inside public schools. However, the shelter list will change from year-to-year due to renovations that will take place in the schools. You are encouraged to visit Horry County's Hurricane Information website at www.horrycounty.org for a list and maps of the current shelter list or call Horry County Emergency Management at (843) 915-5150 to receive information about shelters. You can also contact the Coastal South Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross at (843) 477-0020.

I WOULD GO TO A SHELTER, HOWEVER PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED. WHY?

American Red Cross Shelters in Horry County and statewide do not accept pets. There are many reasons why shelters do not accept pets, which include safety and sanitation. We encourage residents who live in an evacuation zone not to stay because of their pets, but instead seek pet-friendly hotels/motels in the area, stay with friends or family, or consider boarding your pet in a safe facility for the duration of the storm. You can find a list of pet-friendly hotels, by logging onto Horry County's Website at www.horrycounty.org.

I HAVE FAMILY FLYING INTO THE MYRTLE BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DURING AN EVACUATION. WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT AIRPORT CLOSURES OR AIRLINE DELAYS?

The Myrtle Beach International Airport rarely closes even during an evacuation. However, each independent airline will most likely cease flights into Myrtle Beach during an evacuation. You will need to contact the airline directly to get information on flight delays and/or cancellations. You can log onto www.flymyrtlebeach.com to get direct links to the airlines that service the Myrtle Beach area.

WILL THERE BE SECURITY IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD AFTER THE STORM?

Yes. Local police, Horry County police, and the Sheriff's Office will be patrolling all evacuated areas to prevent looting and other property crimes. In the event our local effort is not enough, state assets such as the National Guard will supplement our officers.

THE ONLY THING THAT BOTHERS ME ABOUT EVACUATING IS NOT KNOWING WHEN I CAN COME BACK. HOW CAN I GET INFORMATION ON WHEN IT IS SAFE TO RETURN?

You may have evacuated to another town or even another state and the news media is not focused on Horry County anymore. The South Carolina Information Phone System (PIPS) 1-866-246-0133 is manned in Columbia, and provides statewide information about evacuations, shelters, damage assessment, and re-entry. This toll-free number is activated once an evacuation is ordered.

The Horry County Information Line (843) 915-5005/915-5006 TDD/TTY is an automated; 24-hours a day phone line that will be pre-empted with pertinent, local information when a mandatory evacuation order is given. You can receive situation reports, evacuation and re-entry information, local road closures, etc. You can also receive this information by logging onto Horry County's website at www.horrycounty.org.

ONCE AN EVACUATION ORDER IS LIFTED, CAN I RETURN IMMEDIATELY?

Residents, owners, tenants, businesses, and other essential personnel will be allowed immediate access into the area **ONCE IT IS DEEMED SAFE**. However, each city jurisdiction will block off certain areas of their town that may not be safe due to flooding, debris, downed power lines, etc.

Law enforcement will establish checkpoints during re-entry. Returning residents, workers and business owners will be required to show proper identification, including a driver's license, company ID cards, or documents showing ownership or rental of business. In cases where an address on a driver's license does not correspond to the area being entered, other documents such as utility bills, mortgage deeds, property tax documents, and car registrations will be accepted at established checkpoints.



Checkpoint after Hurricane Hugo, 1989

I DO NOT LIVE IN THE CITY LIMITS; WILL SOMEONE COME BY AND REMOVE THE STORM DEBRIS FROM MY YARD?

No. Horry County Public Works will clear storm debris from the roads and the public right-of-ways. You will be responsible for removing your own debris by taking it to one of the Horry County Solid Waste Authority Recycling Convenience Centers or the landfill. There are 24 recycling centers located throughout Horry County. You are encouraged to use proper safety equipment when clearing debris and if you are physically unable to remove debris, you will need to contact a professional waste hauler to assist you. Recycling locations are listed on their website at www.solidwasteauthority.com or by calling (843) 347-1651.



Hurricane Information Center

www.horrycounty.org