

# Edisto Beach Hurricane Preparedness Guide 2015



## **DISCLAIMER**

The purpose of this guide is to provide an introduction to hurricane preparedness for the residents and property owners of Edisto Beach. The guide offers an anticipated event timeline, hurricane terminology, and common hurricane preparedness tips and helpful information.

This guide should not be considered a sole resource for hurricane preparedness. It is formatted to supplement other hurricane preparedness resources made available by Colleton 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 hurricane and emergency preparedness sources are listed on the last page of this Guide.

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## INTRODUCTION

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:

## HURRICANE CATEGORIES

CATEGORY	WIND	STORM SURGE
1	74-95 mph	4 – 5 feet
2	96-110 mph	6 – 8 feet
3	111- 130 mph	9 – 12 feet
4	131 – 155 mph	13 – 18 feet
5	156+ mph	19+ feet

## THREATS

### Hazards

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.

### Storm Surge

The storm surge is a large dome of water often 50-100 miles wide that sweeps across the coast line 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 to life.

### Winds

Hurricane winds can destroy buildings, mobile homes, and other property. Debris, such as signs, roofing material, siding, and other material become missiles in a hurricane. Wind is the greatest cause of property damage inland of the coast.

### 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. In 1999, Hurricane Floyd produced high rainfall totals that resulted in devastating floods in

South and North Carolina.

## **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 life.

## **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.

## **OPERATION CONDITIONS (OPCON LEVELS)**

To ensure that all organizations within South Carolina have coordinated response activities, the following standardized Operation Conditions (OPCON'S) have been incorporated into the State's plan and are used by the Town of Edisto Beach in the event of an emergency. These OPCON levels increase the State's level of readiness on a scale of 5 to 1 and the Town's level of readiness follows accordingly. During a hurricane event, it is not unlikely that you will hear state and local emergency management authorities refer to "OPCONS."

OPCON's will not necessarily progress sequentially from 5 to 1. Each OPCON includes those key issues regarding communications, essential coordination, and response activities appropriate for the hazard.

**OPCON 5:** This OPCON indicates that the State Emergency Operations Center and all forms of local government, including Edisto Beach, are at normal day-to day operations.

**OPCON 4:** Once it is determined that a storm poses a possible threat to SC, the State and local government will move to OPCON 4.

**OPCON 3:** Once public authorities have sufficient information that a storm poses a significant threat to SC, the State and local government will move to OPCON 3. This decision is based on each storm's characteristics.

**OPCON 2:** Once a state-level decision is made that a voluntary evacuation or mandatory evacuation order is imminent, the level automatically moves to OPCON 2.

**OPCON 1:** Once a voluntary evacuation recommendation or mandatory evacuation order is announced to the public, the level automatically moves to OPCON 1. At this level, the State, Colleton County and the Town will coordinate an evacuation.

## EDISTO BEACH EVACUATION PROCEDURES

1. Coastal areas of South Carolina area at risk from the threat of hurricanes. There is significant possibility that a hurricane will strike the South Carolina coast and impact political jurisdictions within Colleton County with extremely strong winds, storm surge, and torrential rains; tornadoes may also be spawned by the hurricane. The potential for damage will depend on the storm's strength, where it makes landfall, and the storm path.
2. When a hurricane/tropical event occurs, **the Town of Edisto Beach will follow the Incident Command System (ICS)** to control and direct the first response with the State coordinating and providing support as needed.
3. Movement of **people into and within the disaster area will be controlled by the Town of Edisto Beach Police Department** with the assistance of the Colleton County Sheriff's Office and the Edisto Beach Fire Department.
4. **Edisto Beach is located in the Category 1-Primary Evacuation Area.**
5. **The evacuation of residents and tourists from Edisto Beach is along SC 174 to US 17 South SC 64 to Walterboro.**
6. **People with special needs will be evacuated from the Bi Lo on SC 174 by school buses.**
7. **The special medical needs shelter is Colleton Medical Center, located at 501 Robertson Boulevard, Walterboro, South Carolina. Colleton County shelters are Colleton County Middle School, 1379 Tuskegee Airmen Drive, Walterboro.**
8. Domesticated animals pose a unique challenge during evacuation because owners may seek to carry these animals to shelters not equipped to handle these animals or abandon animals during evacuation or refuse to evacuate.

## RE-ENTRY AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS

**Re-entry shall be phased and dependent upon actual conditions and severity of damage. This is carefully orchestrated so as not delay citizens from returning to their property and possessions.**

### Re-Entry Levels

Level 1-Restricted access limited to the Safety Assessment Team and Initial Damage Assessment Team. Extended personnel will not be allowed on the Beach until area has been assessed to determine what measures need to be taken to make entry safe for Level 3.

Level 2-Extends restricted access to allow entry of contractors, emergency workers and officials to make area public access ready.

Level 3-Extend re-entry to homeowners only for a defined period of time.

Level 4-Unrestricted access to the public.

Depending on the severity of damage, re-entry may be restricted. Restricted entry may be scheduled in the following order:

- a) Safety Assessment Team (Level 1)
- b) Initial Damage Assessment Team (Level 1)
- c) Disaster Recovery (emergency workers, emergency protective measures contractors, Town staff and elected officials) (Level 2)
- d) Limited entry-may be time restricted ( residents only) (Level 3)
- e) Unrestricted entry (Level 4)

## **PUBLIC ALERT PROCESS**

The State and Colleton 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.

**The Town encourages you to take advantage of our new communications tools by registering to receive one/all of the following:**

**We highly recommend that you register your phone number at <https://cne.coderedweb.com/Default.aspx?groupid=Hk9F6DtVxryfV8Nw3f0SxA%3d%3d>. Register any preferred number to receive emergency alerts about Edisto Beach. It is very important that people with unlisted numbers register to receive alerts. Cell phones can also be registered.**

The Town’s website has an Operation Condition notice that will be updated as Operation Conditions change. Add the link below to your “Favorites” file on your computer. [www.townofedistobeach.com](http://www.townofedistobeach.com)

## **HURRICANE WATCH**

Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the WATCH, usually within 48 hours.

## **HURRICANE WARNING**

Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the WARNING, usually within 36 hours.

## **MONITOR THE NEWS**

Citizens are encouraged to monitor 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.

## **RADIO STATIONS**

### **Station Frequency County of License**

WEZL, Charleston 103.5 MHz

WCOO, Kiawah Island 105.5 MHz

WIWF, Charleston 96.9 MHz

WXLY, Charleston 102.5 MHz

WFXH, Hilton Head 106.1 MHz

WSCI, Charleston 89.3 MHz

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

## **TELEVISION STATIONS**

### **Station Channel Station Channel**

WCBD – NBC/Charleston 2

WCIV – ABC/Charleston 4

WCSC – CBS/Charleston 5

## **HURRICANE TRACKING WEBSITES**

[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

[www.wunderground.com/tropical](http://www.wunderground.com/tropical)

[www.intellicast.com](http://www.intellicast.com)

## **EVACUATION INFORMATION TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Colleton Emergency Operation Center (when activated) 843-549-5632

Edisto Beach Police Department 843-869-2505 x 208

State of South Carolina’s toll-free Public Information Phone System (PIPS) 866-246-0133

The PIPS offers accurate statewide evacuation and shelter information to visitors and citizens of SC during a hurricane evacuation.

## **BEACH NOTICE OF EVACUATION**

As the storm progresses, the county and municipalities will implement procedures designated for each of the five (5) operation conditions listed on page 7 of this guide. Typically, the Governor of South Carolina declares a state of emergency and recommends a voluntary evacuation and/or issues a mandatory evacuation, 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.

## MANDATORY EVACUATION (OPCON 1)

When a mandatory evacuation has been ordered, local media will make announcements and the Edisto Beach police and fire department personnel will cruise the streets of the beach announcing the evacuation via a public address system and will go door-to-door to inform residents and business owners that evacuation is required.

## PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

### OPCON 5 -- Prepare a personal plan

- 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 APPENDICES A and B. 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: [http://www.scdot.org/getting/pdfs/Evac\\_Maps/evacMap\\_CO.pdf](http://www.scdot.org/getting/pdfs/Evac_Maps/evacMap_CO.pdf) and are **subject to change annually**. Confirm these routes each spring.
- Traffic cams can be viewed at <http://www.511sc.org/>
- 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.
- Video 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, electricity cut-off points for your home or business and how to cut them off.
- Keep your vehicle maintained.
- Ensure that you identification that shows you are a property owner of Edisto Beach. You may not be allowed immediate access across the causeway after the storm has passed without this.
- Install hurricane shutters or purchase pre-cut ½” 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 and strategically remove branches so that wind can blow through. **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 most vulnerable to high winds. Consider installing deadbolts. These 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.

#### **When a Hurricane Watch is Issued – OPCON 4**

- 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 ATM's 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 and roll carts, 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 Edisto island) (APPENDIX H)
- Secure the pool (APPENDIX I)

#### **When a Hurricane Warning is Issued -- OPCON 3**

- 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 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.

## EVACUATION IS IMMINENT – OPCON 2

- 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 d'art from the walls.

## EVACUATION – OPCON 1

If you decide to evacuate voluntarily or a mandatory 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.

## **AFTER ARRIVAL AT EVACUATION LOCATION**

- Notify that 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 Evacuating**

- 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 there is a mandatory evacuation, 911 will not respond until the area has been cleared.

## **AFTER THE HURRICANE**

- Stay tuned to radio or TV news programs.
- Use common sense when hearing reports of massive damage occurring at Edisto Beach from local media sources at your evacuation location outside of eastern South Carolina. Ask yourself, “Now is that really 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 and local media venues
- Re-entry procedures require that each vehicle that crosses the causeway show proof of property ownership on Edisto Beach. Permanent resident property ownership will be verified by the voter’s registration list and current utility bill.
- Full-time residents will be able to access the beach on a limited basis after the area has been deemed safe by the Safety Team. When the “all clear” is given and power is restored, the general public and non-permanent residents will be allowed on the beach.

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 Edisto Beach Emergency Operations Center as you find them.

If you smell gas:

- Immediately open windows.
- Turn off main gas valve.
- Leave the house.
- Report the leak to the Edisto Beach 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.

Consult Edisto Beach Water and Sewer Department 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 stored 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 SCE & G at 843-745-6000.

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 of 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 dishonest 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 Town of Edisto Beach Operations Center 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 port-a-let toilets that will be strategically positioned throughout the beach.

## APPENDIX A

### EVACUATION SURVIVAL KIT CHECKLIST

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

### 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

### PERSONAL & FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS EVACUATION TOOLKIT

- 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, 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, 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 website with secure list of logon information
- Remember to include Town's website: [www.townofedistobeach.com](http://www.townofedistobeach.com)
- 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 Edisto Beach, 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 Edisto Beach 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?**

## APPENDIX C

### VOLUNTARY EVACUATION SHELTERS

Check with the Colleton County Emergency Management Department annually to verify Shelter List:

Colleton County Middle School, 1379 Tuskegee Airmen Drive, Walterboro, SC 29488

You may also refer to the Colleton County website:

<http://www.colletoncounty.org>

## APPENDIX D

### PET PLAN

#### 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 heart worm 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, scissors

#### WHEN YOU EVACUATE WITH YOUR PET

Make shelter arrangements for your pets well before a storm. Arrange for your 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](http://www.petsonthego.com)

[www.travelpets.com](http://www.travelpets.com)

#### WHEN YOU DO NOT EVACUATE

If no mandatory evacuation is ordered, you choose not to evacuate voluntarily 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 lease 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/MOTEL.**

## APPENDIX E

### HURRICANE EVACUATION ROUTES

Hurricane Evacuation Routes Recommended By the South Carolina Department of Transportation

Evacuees leaving Edisto Beach will use SC 174 to 17 S. Then take 17S to SC 64 to Walterboro.

Click on Evacuation link

For more information go to [http: www.sctrffic.org/centralmap.html](http://www.sctrffic.org/centralmap.html).

## APPENDIX F

### DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

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

- Aluminum foil
- Manual can-opener
- Baby food, diapers, formula
- Matches in separate water proof container
- Battery-operated radio
- Bleach (without lemon or additives)
- Medicine – prescriptions, pain reliever/fever reducer, antacid, antibiotic cream
- Butane lighters
- Mosquito netting
- Camera and film
- Mosquito repellent
- Cleaning supplies/disinfectant
- Non-perishable canned or packaged foods and beverages
- Duct tape
- Pencil and paper
- Eating utensils
- Plastic Trash bags (get plenty)
- Emergency cooking
- Plastic bucket with lid
- Extension cords (heavy duty 3-pronged)
- Rope (100 ft)
- Extra batteries
- Sleeping bags
- Extra pet food
- Soap, deodorant, shampoo
- Fire extinguishers (ABC type)
- Spray paint
- First-aid kit (see below)
- Tarps (heavy duty plastic)
- Flashlights
- Fuel in the car
- Toilet paper and towelettes
- Tools: crowbar, sledge hammer, saw, hammer and
- Gas for grill (have the tank filled and secure)

- Nails, pliers, gloves
- Gas grill or camping stove
- Valuables
- Glasses or contact lenses (extra)
- Water purification tablets (follow manufacturer's suggestion for use.)
- Heavy plastic (to cover furnishings)
- Inflatable raft
- Water to drink, at least 7 gallons per person
- Lantern and extra batteries
- Life preserver
- 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
- Tongue blades (2)
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Activated charcoal (use if advised by Poison Control Center 1-800-922-1117 or 1-803-777- 1117)
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Latex gloves
- Laxative
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Scissors
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- Sunscreen
- Tweezers
- Needle

**Update the kits with fresh food and water about every six 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!**

## APPENDIX J

### DRINKING WATER

#### THE PROCESS OF PURIFYING WATER

Boiling and chemical sterilization are two 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 one 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 hypo-chlorite 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 thirty 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

### DISHONEST CONTRACTORS

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

### WARNING SIGNS OF A POSSIBLY DISHONEST CONTRACTOR

- The contractor asks for all of the money 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.
- Never pay a contractor before the work is completed!

### 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 Edisto Beach Building Official at 843-869-2505.

## ADDITIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/>

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20201

202-690-6343

Federal Emergency Management Agency [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

500 C Street, SW

Washington, DC 20472

202-566-1600

NOAA's National Weather Service [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

Department of Commerce

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration

American Red Cross National Headquarters [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

2025 E. Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006

202-303-4498

South Carolina Emergency Management Division [www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org)

2779 Fish Hatchery Road

West Columbia, SC 29172

803-737-8500

## MOBILE APPS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mobile devices can be lifelines following disasters.

Home and safety preparations for those in a severe storm's path should include making mobile devices like smartphones for emergencies. Extreme weather and other major disasters can disrupt communication channels, your mobile devices could be tools to keep in touch with family, as well as with response and recovery efforts.

**Create a texting phone tree.** Create a network of contacts, so you can reach them quickly after any sort of extreme weather. Texting may be the only available form of communication. You can also check to see if text alerts are available through businesses and government agencies.

**Utilize mobile banking apps.** Use mobile banking apps during power outages and ATMs aren't accessible.

**Take advantage of insurance apps.** Many insurance companies allow their customers to file claims using their smartphones to quickly start the recovery process.

**Have a car phone charger and spare battery.** If power is out for an extended period, your car will be a valuable source of energy.

**Have a back-up.** During a large-scale disaster it is possible that mobile networks can become overloaded or non-operational. Have a back-up like a battery powered or hand-crank NOAA weather radio to stay informed.

Use these smartphone apps to be prepared, remain connected and stay safe.

*Note: This list of free mobile applications is provided to assist you with disaster preparedness. SCEMD does not endorse or promote any specific commercial product and it is recommended that you test mobile apps before a disaster occurs to find the best ones that work for you. If you find a free app that we should include on this list, let us know at [pio@emd.sc.gov](mailto:pio@emd.sc.gov).*

### [National Weather Service](#)

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

### [NOAA Weather Radio Apps](#)

*Android and iPhone*

NOAA Weather Radio alerts directly to your smartphone.

### [FEMA](#)

The FEMA App (smartphone app for mobile devices) contains disaster safety tips, interactive lists for storing your emergency kit and emergency meeting location information, and a map with open shelters and open FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs). The app is free to download through your smartphone provider's app store:

[Android devices](#)

[Apple devices](#)

[Blackberry devices](#)

### [American Red Cross: Shelter View](#)

*iPhone*

When a hurricane or earthquake drives people from their homes, the American Red Cross steps in to provide shelter. That's great as long as you know where the shelter is. American Red Cross: Shelter View shows you where to go. Currently, this app is not available for Android, but you can still go online to search for a [Red Cross shelter](#).

### [Dropbox](#)

*Android and iPhone*

Cloud storage for your important documents. Install the program on your PC or Mac, upload files to your folder, and they are instantly available on all your other computers. With the mobile app, everything can be found on your mobile devices as well.

### [Brightest Flashlight Free](#) for Android

### [Flashlight by Rik](#) for iPhone

These apps turn your phone's camera LED flashbulb into a flashlight.

### [Life360](#)

*Android and iPhone*

A smartphone can be a personal GPS tracking device with this app. Life360 will show you where they are — right now — on a map. The family GPS tracking system can help you find your loved ones anywhere, get safety alerts to them, or call for help with the tap of a button. It also provides neighborhood safety monitoring.

### [INRIX Traffic](#)

Real time traffic information. Free App for multiple mobile platforms.

### [GasBuddy](#)

*Android and iPhone*

GasBuddy uses your GPS to display up-to-the-minute gas prices near you.

### [Hands-Only CPR](#)

*Android and iPhone*

For an adult victim of cardiac arrest, the American Heart Association now recommends hands-only CPR. The official Hands-Only CPR app walks you through the two-step checklist: Call 911, start chest compressions. There's a (brief) video showing you how to restart that heart.

*Additionally, for \$1.99, AHA's Pocket First Aid & CPR includes the same CPR info along with first aid advice for all sorts of situations.*

### [SCE&G](#)

*Android and iPhone*

Outage Map: <http://www.sceg.com/en/storm-center/>

Mobile Devices [www.sceg.com/mobile](http://www.sceg.com/mobile)

Text Messaging: Customers must first register their cell phone number to their SCE&G account. <http://www.sceg.com/en/storm-center/outage-text-messaging/>

Customers can also follow SCE&G on:

Twitter- [www.twitter.com/scegnews](http://www.twitter.com/scegnews)

Facebook- [www.facebook.com/scegnews](http://www.facebook.com/scegnews)

Flickr- [www.flickr.com/scegnews](http://www.flickr.com/scegnews)  
Youtube- [www.youtube.com/scegnews](http://www.youtube.com/scegnews)  
Power outages: 888-333-4465  
Gas Leaks: 800-815-0083  
Non-emergency: 800-251-7234