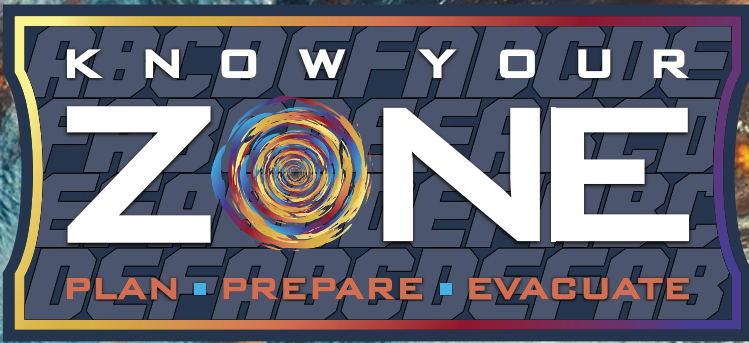




# **SOUTH CAROLINA** **HURRICANE GUIDE**



HURRICANE.SC

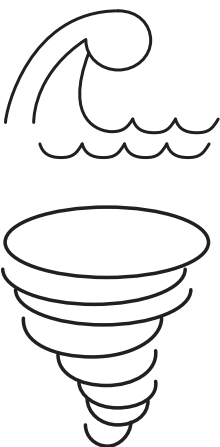
# **2025**

# KNOW

## WATCHES & WARNINGS...

Making outdoor preparations become increasingly challenging once the wind speed reaches tropical storm level. The National Hurricane Center issues watches and warnings for specific areas of danger. Local National Weather Service offices may issue additional watches and warnings to provide detailed information on specific risks like flash floods and tornadoes.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STORM SURGE:</b> <br><i>Life-threatening flooding from rising water moving inland from the shoreline.</i>                                                            | <b>STORM SURGE WATCH</b><br><i>danger is possible</i>                                                                                                       | <b>STORM SURGE WARNING</b><br><i>danger is expected</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>TROPICAL STORM:</b> <br><i>An organized system of powerful thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph.</i>                    | <b>TROPICAL STORM WATCH</b><br><i>conditions are possible</i>                                                                                               | <b>TROPICAL STORM WARNING</b><br><i>conditions are expected</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>HURRICANE:</b> <br><i>Winds that have reached a constant speed of 74 mph or above and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center known as the “eye”.</i> | <b>HURRICANE WATCH</b><br><i>conditions are possible</i>                                                                                                    | <b>HURRICANE WARNING</b><br><i>conditions are expected</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>HURRICANE HAZARDS</b><br>Hurricanes and tropical storms threaten <b>ALL areas of South Carolina</b> , including areas well inland. <b>ALL South Carolinians</b> need to prepare for hurricane season.                                                 | <b>ACTION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation in case an evacuation order is issued.</li></ul> | <b>ACTION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If directed by state or local officials, finish storm preparations and leave the threatened area immediately.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                             | <b>EXTREME WIND WARNING</b><br><i>*extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane, usually associated with the eyewall, are expected to begin within an hour.</i><br><b>ACTION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Take immediate shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.</li></ul> |



- **HURRICANES** and tropical storms often produce widespread, torrential rains, which may result in deadly and destructive flooding. Flooding is a significant threat from tropical cyclones for people living inland.
- **WINDS** from a hurricane can destroy buildings and manufactured homes and turn outdoor items into dangerous projectiles. Strong wind gusts can snap or uproot trees.
- **TORNADOES** can accompany hurricanes and tropical storms. In South Carolina, 46 tornadoes were spawned by Hurricane Frances in 2004, the most by any tropical cyclone in state history. Additional storms that produced notable tornadoes in South Carolina include Tropical Storm Beryl (1994) with 23 tornadoes, including an F-3 tornado that injured 40 people, and Hurricane Helene (2024), which produced 21 tornadoes.

# HURRICANE EVACUATION STUDY

South Carolina completed its Hurricane Evacuation Study in 2024. The study focused on five main areas: hurricane hazards, vulnerability, evacuation behavior, sheltering, and evacuation traffic. Results from the study will help improve hurricane planning and evacuation within the state for years to come.

## Key findings include:

- South Carolina is vulnerable to all types of hurricane hazards – wind, tornadoes, freshwater flooding, and storm surge.
- The greatest concentration of vulnerability to hurricanes is located along the immediate coast, but some inland locations throughout Central and Upstate South Carolina have high vulnerability to hurricanes as well.
- In coastal counties, more than half of critical infrastructure is vulnerable to storm surge.
- Results from the 2023 Behavioral Survey indicate that more than 80% of respondents have prior experience with a hurricane or tropical storm, and almost 60% have evacuated from a hurricane in the past.
- A hurricane's forecasted landfall location and hurricane category were the top factors influencing respondents' evacuation decisions.
- The State has enough shelter capacity to safely support the sheltering population during a hurricane evacuation.
- Lane reversals along I-26 reduce the amount of time required to evacuate the central coast by 3-4 hours.

## EMERGENCY ALERTS

It's important to have multiple ways of receiving emergency alerts to stay informed about the latest situations and necessary actions. Some reliable sources for emergency alerts include Wireless Emergency Alerts on mobile devices, NOAA Weather Radios, and local TV or radio broadcasts. Don't rely on just one method for receiving information.

For additional notifications, consider signing up for **CodeRED** alerts. You can customize the types of alerts you wish to receive and choose how you want to receive them—via text messages, voice phone calls, or emails.

**You can register for CodeRED alerts through the SCEMD website at [scemd.org](https://scemd.org).**



## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**S.C. Emergency Management Division (SCEMD)**  
[scemd.org](https://scemd.org)

**Public Information Phone System (PIPS)**  
1-866-246-0133 \*FOR ALL INFORMATION  
*Only activated as needed / Spanish interpreters available*

**S.C. Department of Public Safety**  
[scdps.sc.gov](https://scdps.sc.gov)

**National Hurricane Center (NHC)**  
[hurricanes.gov](https://hurricanes.gov)

**The Official Website of the State of S.C.**  
[sc.gov](https://sc.gov)

**S.C. Department of Insurance**  
[doi.sc.gov](https://doi.sc.gov) ▪ 803-737-6160

**American Red Cross**  
[redcross.org](https://redcross.org) ▪ 1-866-438-4636

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**  
[fema.gov](https://fema.gov) ▪ [ready.gov](https://ready.gov)

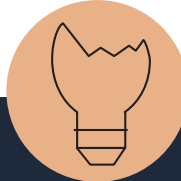
**S.C. Department of Public Health (DPH):**  
Care Line (general questions), 1-855-472-3432  
Medical Equipment Power Shelters, 833-351-9990

**S.C. Salvation Army**  
[salvationarmyusa.org](https://salvationarmyusa.org) ▪ 704-522-4970

**S.C. Department of Transportation**  
[scdot.org](https://scdot.org) ▪ 855-GO-SCDOT ▪ 855-467-2368

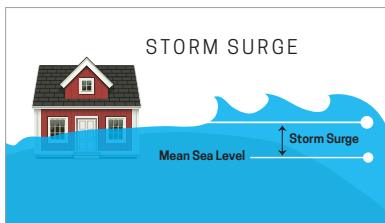
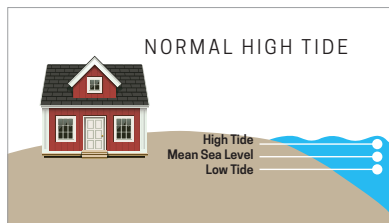
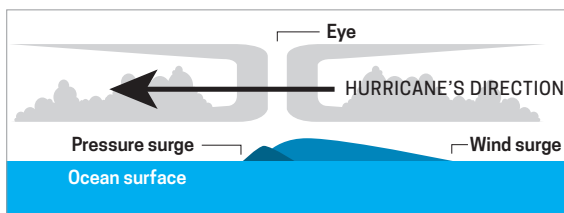
# PREPARE

**PREPARE FOR THE WIND...** The **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale** estimates the potential property damage caused by a hurricane's sustained wind speeds. Category 3 and higher hurricanes are major, with the potential for significant loss of life and property damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are also dangerous and require preventative measures.

| <br>STORM<br>LEVEL |   <br>DAMAGE | <br>WINDS | <br>POWER<br>OUTAGES |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CATEGORY<br><b>1</b>                                                                                | <b>SOME DAMAGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Some damage to roofs, siding, gutters, and trees.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                            | <b>74–95</b><br>MPH                                                                         | Could last <b>several days</b> .                                                                        |
| CATEGORY<br><b>2</b>                                                                                | <b>EXTENSIVE DAMAGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Material damage to buildings.</li><li>Trees with shallow roots will be snapped or uprooted.</li></ul>                                                                                             | <b>96–110</b><br>MPH                                                                        | Near total power loss that could last <b>several days to weeks</b> .                                    |
| CATEGORY<br><b>3</b>                                                                                | <b>DEVASTATING DAMAGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Extensive structural damage to houses.</li><li>Trees will be snapped and uprooted.</li></ul>                                                                                                    | <b>111–129</b><br>MPH                                                                       | Outages can last for <b>several days to weeks</b> .                                                     |
| CATEGORY<br><b>4</b>                                                                                | <b>CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Buildings will sustain major structural damage.</li><li>Affected areas will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.</li></ul>                                                                    | <b>130–156</b><br>MPH                                                                       | Outages could last for <b>weeks to possibly months</b> .                                                |
| CATEGORY<br><b>5</b>                                                                                | <b>CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Many framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse.</li><li>Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.</li></ul>                                  | <b>157+</b><br>MPH                                                                          | Outages will last for <b>weeks to possibly months</b> .                                                 |

## RUN FROM THE WATER

Storm surge inundation is the abnormal rise of water above predicted tide levels. It is produced by a storm's winds and pressure pushing the water onto normally dry ground and is expressed in terms of feet above ground level. *During a hurricane, storm surge flooding poses a greater threat to life and property than high winds.*



### Storm surge 1-3 ft. above ground level:

- Could knock you off your feet
- Can cause cars to stall or be swept away
- Not passable to light vehicles

### Storm surge 4-6 ft. above ground level:

- Evacuate if ordered
- Move to higher ground if predicted
- Can enter homes
- Floating cars and debris

### Storm surge 7-9 ft. above ground level:

- Evacuate
- Fills first floors of homes and business
- Can't see what's in the water

### Storm surge 10 ft. above ground level:

- Deadly and destructive
- Evacuate
- Can overwhelm whole coastal cities and towns
- Covers one-story homes

## POWER POINTERS

- Start preparing for a power outage now.
- Visit [scemd.org](http://scemd.org) for a list of all South Carolina power utilities, complete with their outage reporting information.
- **Downed Power Lines:** Never touch a downed power line or any objects, such as tree limbs, that are in contact with it.
- **Gas Leaks:** If you detect the smell of gas, evacuate immediately and call 9-1-1 and your gas provider.
- **Generator Safety:** Only use generators with professional installation when connecting them to your home's electrical system. Improper use can pose risks to you, your neighbors, and utility workers. For safety, plug appliances directly into the generator.
- **Refrigerators and Freezers:** Keep the doors closed as much as possible to preserve cold air and prevent food from spoiling quickly.
- **Cooking Precautions:** If the power goes out while cooking, turn off the stove and remove cookware from the burners and oven to prevent accidents.



### START PREPARING FOR A POWER OUTAGE NOW.

VISIT [SCEMD.ORG](http://SCEMD.ORG) TO FIND A LIST OF ALL POWER UTILITIES SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA, COMPLETE WITH THEIR OUTAGE REPORTING INFORMATION.

## HURRICANE NAMES

2025

**Andrea** (AN-dree uh)

**Barry** (BAIR-ree)

**Chantal** (shahn-TAHL)

**Dexter** (DEHK-ster)

**Erin** (AIR-rin)

**Fernand** (fair-NAHN)

**Gabrielle** (ga-bree-ELL)

**Humberto** (oom-BAIR-toh)

**Imelda** (ee-MEHL-dah)

**Jerry** (JEHR-ee)

**Karen** (KAIR-ren)

**Lorenzo** (loh-REN-zoh)

**Melissa** (meh-LIH-suh)

**Nestor** (NES-tor)

**Olga** (OAL-guh)

**Pablo** (PAHB-lo)

**Rebekah** (reh-BEH-kuh)

**Sebastien** (sus-BASH-chuhn)

**Tanya** (TAHN-yuh)

**Van** (van)

**Wendy** (WEN-dee)

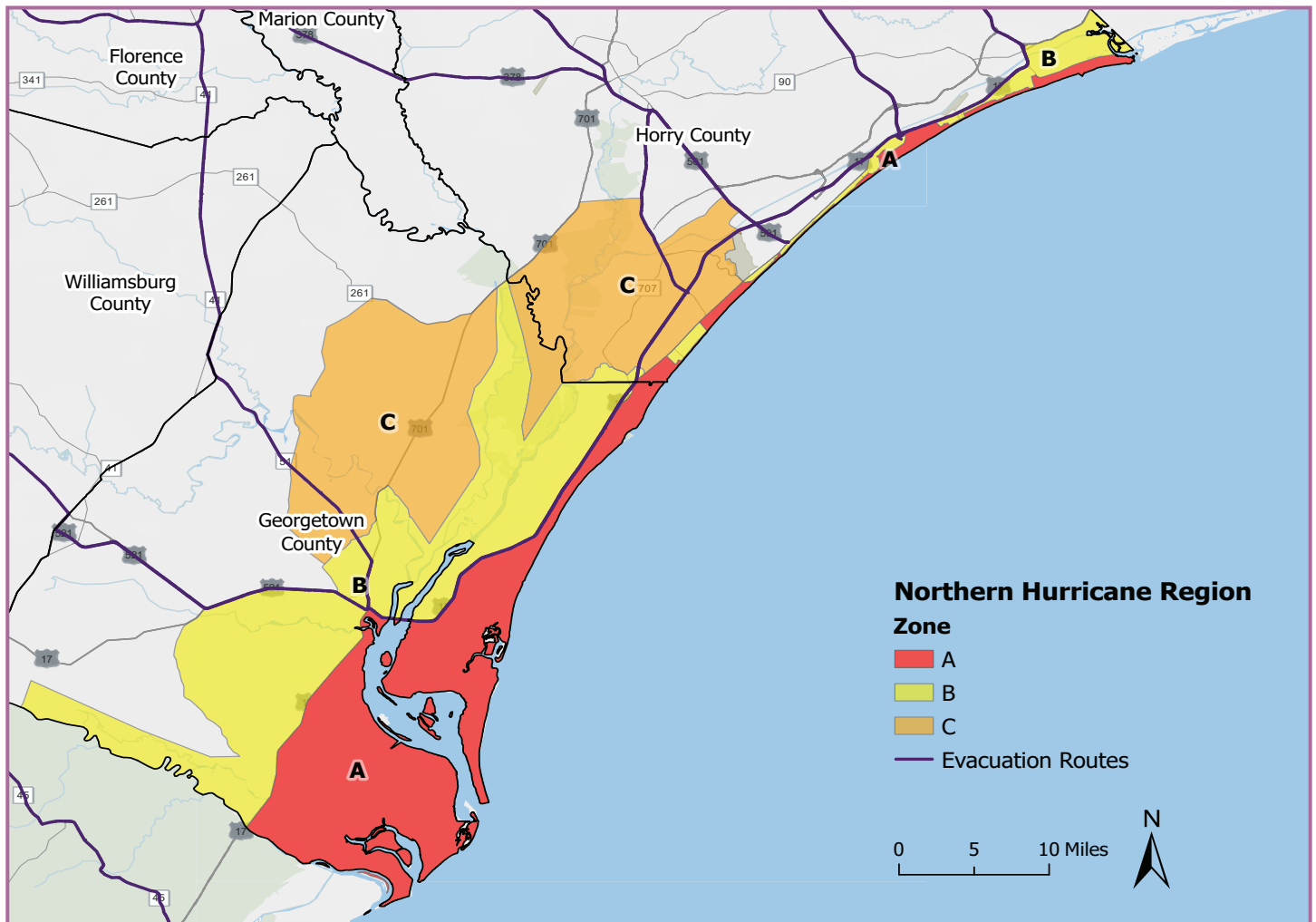
If there are more than 21 named storms in the Atlantic Ocean during a hurricane season, additional storms will take names from a supplemental list.



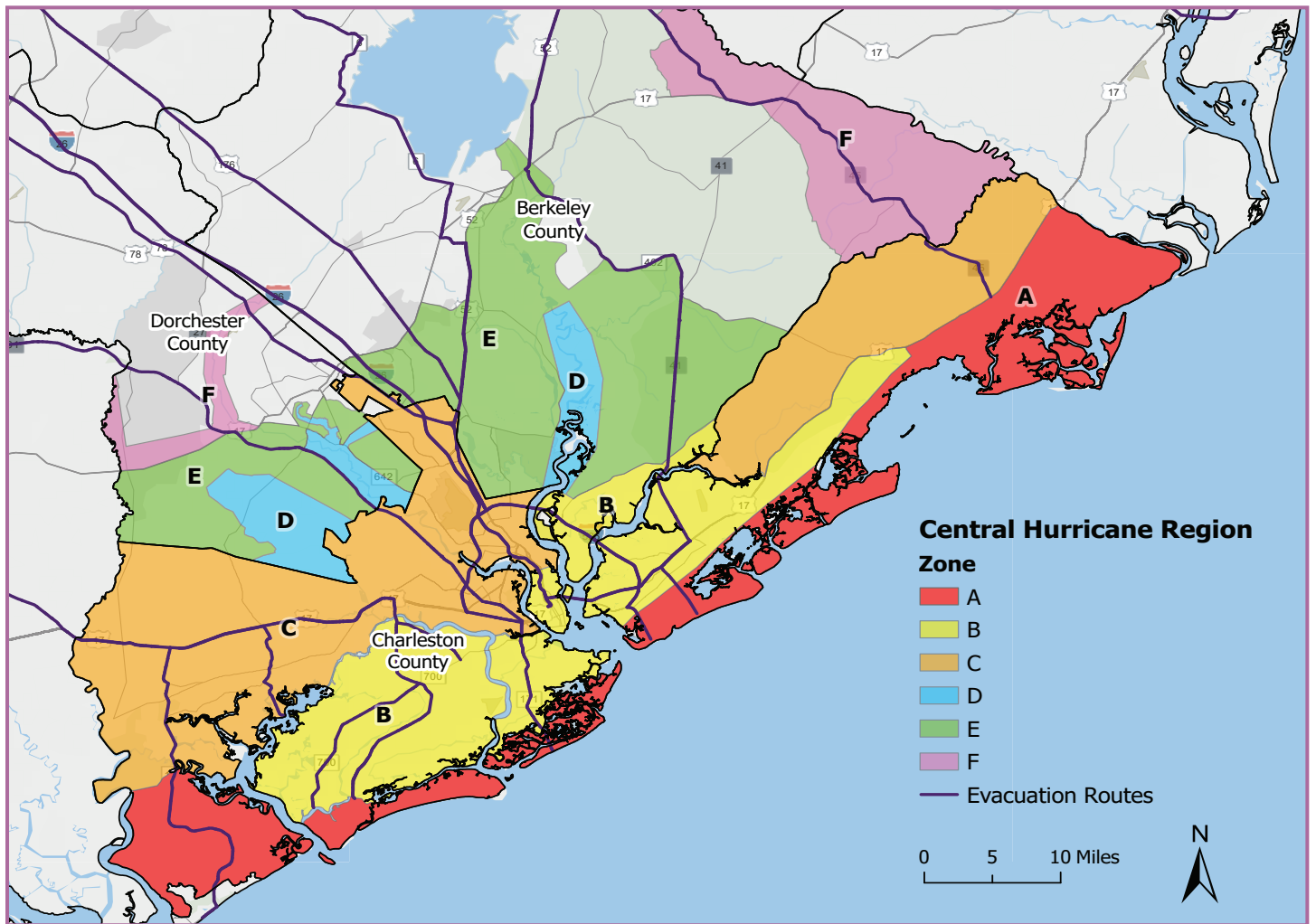
Evacuation zones show areas that are most vulnerable to storm surge. Use the maps available at [hurricane.sc](http://hurricane.sc) to identify your designated zone and incorporate it into your evacuation plan. For more details, visit the [KNOW YOUR ZONE](http://hurricane.sc) page at [hurricane.sc](http://hurricane.sc).

*Some areas may be inaccessible even after the official evacuation order is lifted. Keep tuned to your local TV and radio stations and continue to monitor social media for recovery information.*

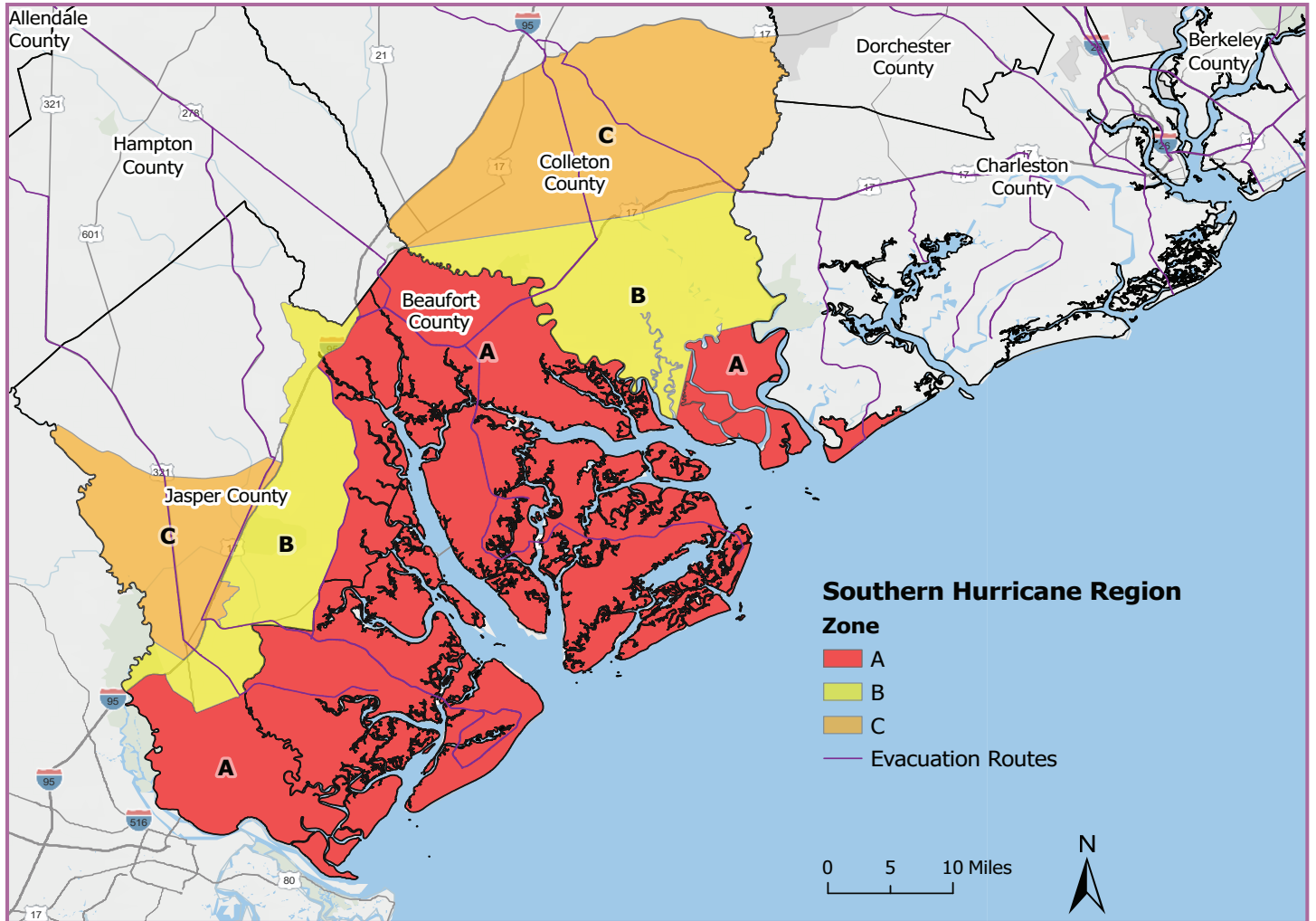
## NORTHERN COAST



# CENTRAL COAST



# SOUTHERN COAST



# EVACUATE

 INTERSTATE  U.S.  S.C.  SECONDARY

 ..... INTERSTATE ROUTES

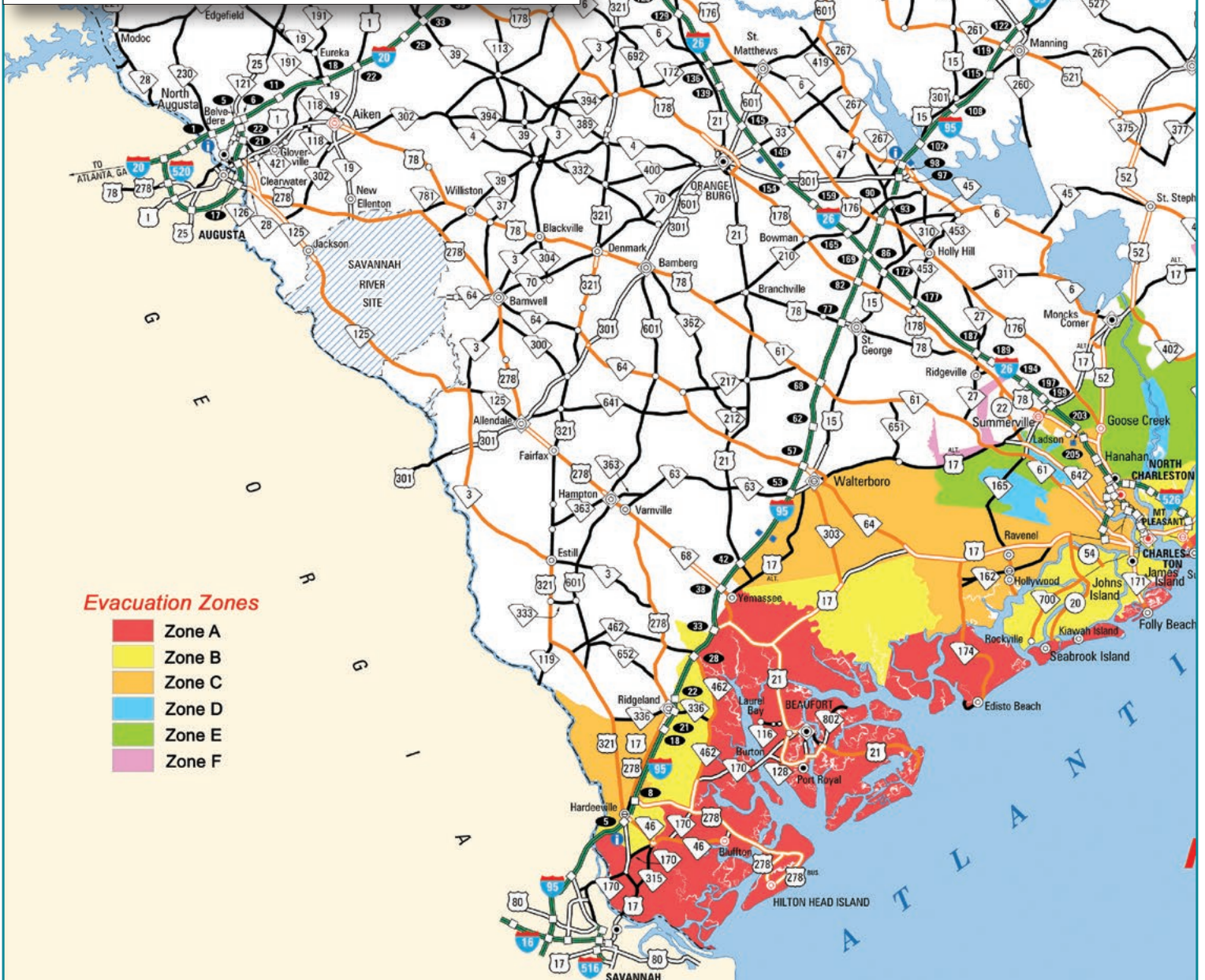
 ..... EVACUATION ROUTES

 ..... OTHER ROUTES

EXIT NO.  ..... FULL INTERCHANGE

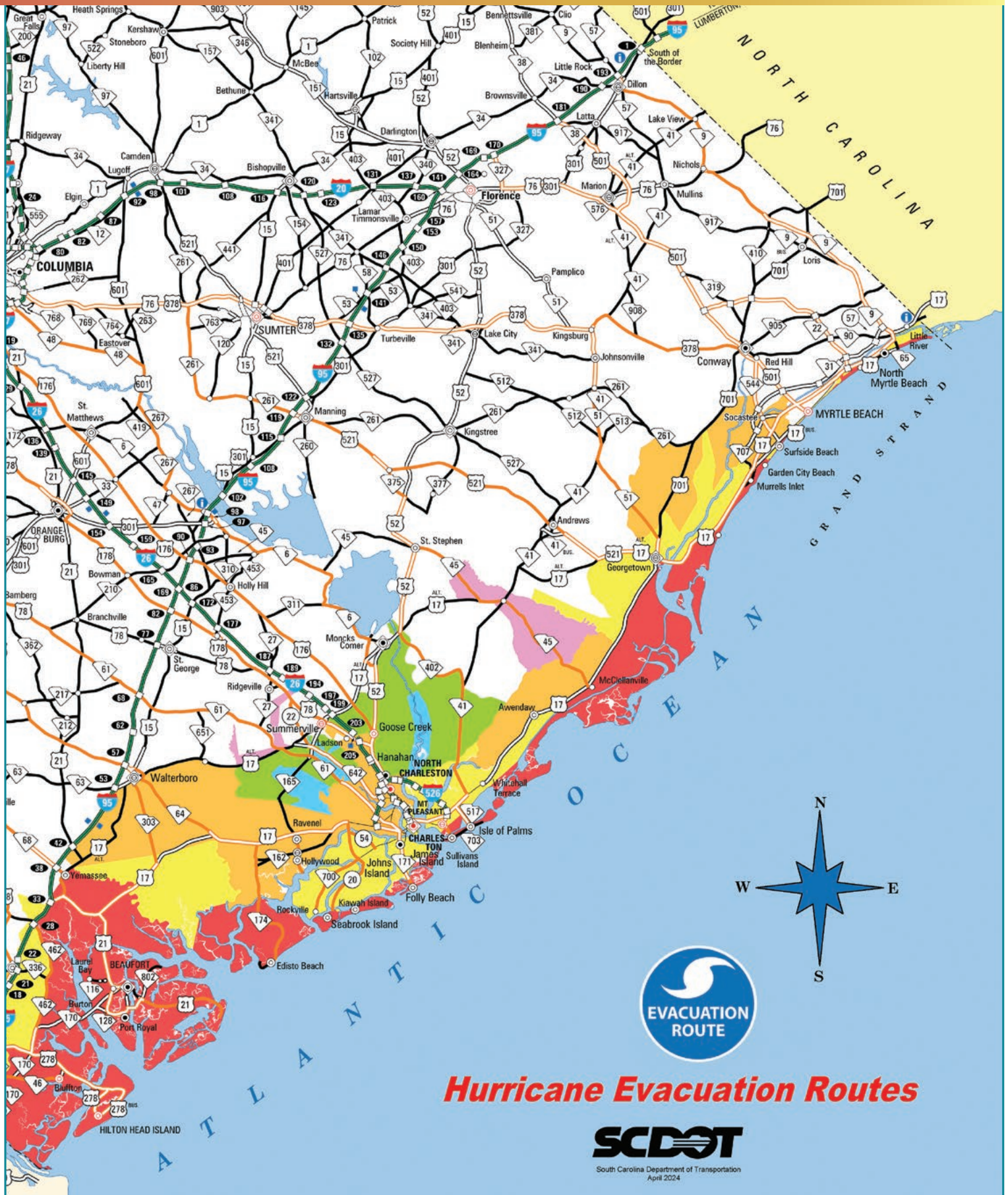
 ..... WELCOME / TRAVEL INFO. CENTER

 ..... REST AREAS



## Evacuation Zones

-  Zone A
-  Zone B
-  Zone C
-  Zone D
-  Zone E
-  Zone F



# EVACUATION ROUTES & LANE REVERSALS

## CHARLESTON AREA

### Edisto Island, Adams Run

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

### Yonges Island, Meggett, Hollywood, Ravenel

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

### Johns Island, Kiawah Island & Seabrook

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

### James Island & Folly Beach

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

### Awendaw & McClellanville

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

### City of Charleston

- The west side of the city (West Ashley) will use **SC 61** to **US 78**, and continue towards Aiken.
- Downtown will use the normal lanes of **I-26**.

### North Charleston

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

### East Cooper

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

### Daniel Island

- Use **I-526** or Clements Ferry Road as conditions warrant.

# EVACUATION ROUTES & LANE REVERSALS

## HILTON HEAD ISLAND, BLUFFTON & BEAUFORT AREAS

## GRAND STRAND AREA

### Hilton Head Island

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

### Bluffton (SC 46):

- Take **SC 46** toward Hardeeville.
- Turn right onto Plantation Drive (**SC 46**), then right onto **US 321**.
- Follow **US 321** to Estill and turn left onto **SC 3**.
- Take **SC 3** to **SC 125**, turning left.
- Continue on **SC 125** toward North Augusta, merging with Hilton Head and Beaufort traffic at **US 278** in Beech Island.
- Follow **SC 125/US 278** to North Augusta.

### Beaufort

#### **TWO-LANE EVACUATION:**

Evacuees will use the two present northbound lanes on **US 21** to **US 17**. Upon reaching **US 17**, the right lane will be directed to **US 17** north to **SC 303** to Walterboro. The left lane will be directed to **US 17** south, then to **US 17 Alt/US 21** to Yemassee and then ultimately to North Augusta.

#### **THREE-LANE EVACUATION:**

Under certain conditions, a third northbound lane will be formed by reversing flow in the inside southbound lane of **US 21** at **US 21 Business** west of Beaufort, accommodating traffic from **US 21**. This reversed lane will be directed to **US 17** southbound and eventually **I-95** northbound at **exit 33** (Point South). The remaining two lanes will be used as described above for the two-lane evacuation.

### North Myrtle Beach & Northward

- Use **SC 9** to proceed to **I-95**.

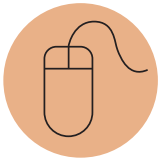
### Myrtle Beach

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

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

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

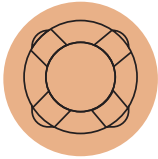
## ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEEDS



**Digitize Important Documents:** Save electronic copies of medical records and identification to keep them safe and accessible, even if paper documents are lost or damaged during emergencies.



**Label Your Belongings:** Add your name and contact information to your items in case they are misplaced during evacuation, sheltering, or consolidation.



**Seek Help If Needed:** Some of your local emergency management offices may have a list of community members who require additional assistance.



**Have a Plan and Communicate It:** Know your plan, share it with others, and leave early to safely reach your destination safely ahead of storms.



**Prepare for Specific Needs:** Review the hurricane preparation list in this guide and account for additional necessities such as medical equipment backups, hearing aid batteries, oxygen tanks, and special dietary items.

## INSURANCE



FOR QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT THE SC DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE WEBSITE [DOI.SC.GOV](https://doi.sc.gov) OR CALL THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES (TOLL-FREE): **1-800-768-3467**

### Insurance Preparation:

- **Review Your Policy:** Ensure your coverage is adequate. Understand the difference between **replacement cost** and **actual cash value**. To learn more, visit [doi.sc.gov](https://doi.sc.gov) or speak with your insurance agent or company representative.
- **Know Your Deductibles:** Familiarize yourself with your policy's deductibles and the steps to take if your property is damaged. Contact your insurance provider immediately after any damage occurs to discuss your deductible and associated out of pocket expenses to determine whether it makes sense to file a claim. In many instances, damages may fall below the policy deductible or otherwise not be covered by the policy.
- **Flood Insurance:** *Standard homeowners' and renters' policies do not cover flood damage. You will need to purchase a separate flood insurance policy to protect against flood risks.* Visit [floodsmart.gov](https://floodsmart.gov) for more information.
- **Document Your Belongings:** Create an inventory list of valuables, including furniture and electronics. Take photos for a visual record of your property. Save these items in a secure and waterproof location.
- **Evacuation Essentials:** If you evacuate, carry important documents like insurance policies, IDs, and medical records. It is always a good idea to have a digital copy saved securely in the event you're unable to access your hardcopies.

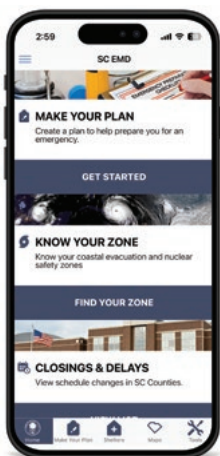
### Ways to Save on Insurance Costs:

- **Catastrophe Savings Account:** Open a state income tax-free savings account to cover qualified expenses like deductibles.
- **Premium Discounts:** Homes with storm-resistant upgrades may qualify for insurance premium discounts.
- **Tax Credits:** You **may** qualify for state income tax credits if you have purchased materials and retrofitted your home making it stronger and more resilient to hurricanes and severe wind storms.
- You can learn more about each of these by visiting the SC Department of Insurance's website at [doi.sc.gov](https://doi.sc.gov).

## GET THE APP

Use the South Carolina Emergency Management Division's official app to prepare for emergencies.

Available to download from the Apple App Store or Google Play (iPhone and Android compatible).



- **View Know Your Zone** evacuation maps
- **Customize and build a personal emergency plan**
- **Share your locations with emergency contacts**
- **Keep track of your disaster supplies kit**
- **Use the emergency alert whistle and strobe light**
- **Document storm damage**

# PETS

Including your pets in your family emergency plan is essential. Your veterinarian can assist you in preparing for emergencies to ensure their safety and well-being.

## IMPORTANT TIPS:

### > BEFORE

- Keep a disaster “GO KIT” for each of your pets in a location that is easily accessible. The kit should contain a cage or carrier that is large enough for your pet to stand and turn around in, a leash and harness, food and water bowls, enough food and water for 3 days, medications, health records and care instructions, microchip numbers, and a litter box with litter and clean-up supplies.
- Keep your pets’ immunizations up to date, especially for rabies. Keep copies of all important medical records.
- Choose identification methods like microchipping or ID tags on your pet’s collar. **Take photos of yourself with your pets to prove ownership in case you become separated.**
- Evacuate with your pets outside of the evacuation zone whenever possible. Avoid relying on emergency shelters for pets unless necessary. Consider boarding facilities, veterinary clinics, pet-friendly hotels, or the homes of friends and family as alternatives.
- Counties may have temporary shelters for pets. Open shelters will be listed on the South Carolina Emergency Manager mobile app and [scemd.org](http://scemd.org).

### > DURING

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



**ANIMAL RESCUE MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY  
AFTER A HURRICANE.**

### > AFTER

- If your pet is lost, contact your veterinarian, animal control organization, or county and state emergency managers for assistance searching lists and databases of found and sheltered animals during the hurricane.
- Familiar landmarks and scents may be unrecognizable after a hurricane, causing your pet to become lost and confused.
- Monitor your pets closely after an emergency. Even pets that are usually calm and friendly may become defensive or aggressive. Always keep dogs on a leash and ensure they are in a secure, fenced yard with access to water and shelter.

## OTHER RESOURCES:

**Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health:**  
803-788-2260  
[clemson.edu/LPH](http://clemson.edu/LPH)

**South Carolina Department of Agriculture:**  
803-734-2210  
[agriculture.sc.gov](http://agriculture.sc.gov)

**Charleston Animal Society:**  
843-747-4849  
[charlestonanimalsociety.org](http://charlestonanimalsociety.org)

**S.C. Association of Veterinarians:**  
1-800-441-7228  
[scav.org](http://scav.org)

# EVACUATION ACTIONS

## > BEFORE

### BE PREPARED

Contact your local emergency management office to assess your vulnerability to hurricanes. Hurricanes bring high winds, tornadoes, heavy rains, and flooding to inland areas, in addition to storm surge.

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

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- **KNOW** where you will go. Follow official hurricane evacuation routes.
- **STAY** tuned to your local TV or radio stations for emergency information.
- **CHARGE** your mobile devices and bring extra chargers.
- **TURN** off gas, electricity, and water.
- **MAKE** arrangements for pets. They may not be allowed in most shelters.
- **FUEL** up and service family vehicles.



IN ADDITION TO THE ITEMS LISTED IN YOUR BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT, ALSO CARRY ROAD MAPS, JUMPER CABLES, AND A TIRE REPAIR KIT.

## > ON THE ROAD

### LEAVE EARLY, TAKE YOUR TIME

The South Carolina Emergency Response Team has partnered with the petroleum industry to ensure increased fuel availability at select gas stations along major evacuation routes. Rest areas along I-26 will be equipped with additional facilities to accommodate drivers more efficiently. Weigh stations managed by the SC Department of Public Safety will also serve as comfort stations. Be cautious with GPS directions, as it may guide you to closed roads. Always follow official evacuation routes.



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

## > DURING

### PROTECT YOURSELF

- During a power outage, it's important to stay informed by tuning into local TV and radio stations. Use a battery-operated, solar-powered, or hand-crank radio or TV to stay connected.
- Stay indoors in a sturdy structure, away from windows and doors—even if they are covered. Seek shelter in an interior room, closet, or under the stairs on the first floor.
- Hurricanes often spawn tornadoes. If the “eye” of the storm passes over your area, be ready for severe conditions to return quickly, with winds coming from the opposite direction.
- Minimize non-emergency calls to reduce network congestion. Keep calls brief and wait at least 10 seconds before redialing. For non-emergencies, consider sending text messages instead.

# SEEKING SAFETY

Be prepared for evacuation with a clear plan. Consider staying with family, friends, or booking a hotel inland. If those options aren't available, emergency shelters will be provided by the SC Department of Social Services and the American Red Cross, as directed by local officials. Keep in mind that these shelters may lack cots, blankets, and other amenities, and may not have food for specialty diets. If using a shelter, bring essentials from your disaster kit, such as sleeping bags, pillows, and cots.

*For those with medical equipment requiring electricity, or who need space for a hospital bed, the SC Department of Public Health (DPH) offers Medical Equipment Power Shelters (MEPS) with generator power and extra space. Staff in these shelters are trained to provide CPR for medical emergencies while calling 911, but they do not provide any other medical care and may not be licensed health care workers. For*



*this reason, a caregiver is generally required to come with the person seeking shelter. Bring medications, medical supplies, special foods, and comfort items. Access these shelters by calling 833-351-9990, where transport arrangements can be made if needed.*

# RETURNING HOME

→ RETURN HOME ONLY AFTER LOCAL AUTHORITIES ADVISE IT IS SAFE TO DO SO. ←



**SOME AREAS MAY BE INACCESSIBLE EVEN AFTER THE OFFICIAL EVACUATION ORDER IS LIFTED.**  
STAY INFORMED BY TUNING INTO LOCAL TV, RADIO STATIONS, AND MONITORING SOCIAL MEDIA FOR RECOVERY UPDATES.

## Avoid Downed and Sagging Power Lines

- Report any downed power lines immediately to power companies, police, or fire departments.

## Be Alert for Driving Restrictions

- Avoid flooded or washed-out roads, including bridges. Always follow the instructions of local public safety officials.

## Enter Your Home Cautiously

- Open doors and windows to ventilate and dry your home.
- Use flashlights to inspect for damage.
- Only use the telephone for emergency calls.
- Do not use candles or open flames.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage.
- Watch out for snakes, insects, and other animals that may seek higher ground after flooding.

## Take Photos of Damage

- Photos will help with insurance claims. Contact your insurance agent immediately to report the damage.

## Inspect Utilities

- **Gas Leaks**
  - > If you smell gas or hear a hissing sound, open a window and leave the building immediately. If possible, turn off the gas at the main valve. Call your utility provider from a safe location to report the leak. Only a professional should turn the gas back on.
- **Electrical Damage**
  - > Look for sparks, frayed or broken wires, or a burning smell. Turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you must step in water to access the panel, consult an electrician first.
- **Water and Sewage Lines**
  - > Avoid using toilets if sewage lines are suspected to be damaged. Contact a plumber for assistance. For damaged water pipes, contact the water company and avoid using tap water.
  - > Contact your water provider for the status of your drinking water. If you use a private well and it was flooded, call the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services private well hotline at 1-888-761-5989. If your water or sewer lines may be damaged, contact a plumber.

## Stay Informed

- **Monitor Radio, TV, and Social Media:** Stay updated on recovery efforts, official announcements, and assistance options.
- **Let A Relative Know You Are Home:** Tell family or friends how to contact you, especially if phone service is out.



LOCAL OFFICIALS WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN PROPERLY DISPOSE OF STORM DEBRIS AND DAMAGED PROPERTY.

**NEVER TRY TO MOVE OR DRIVE AROUND BARRICADES.**

# BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT



- **"South Carolina Hurricane Guide"**



- **Portable radio with extra batteries**



- **First Aid Kit**  
(including prescription medications)



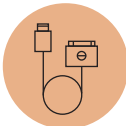
- **NOAA Weather Radio**



- **Flashlight(s) with extra batteries**



- **Cash**  
(enough to fill up a vehicle with gas)



- **Mobile device chargers**



- **Bottled water**  
(2 gallons per person per day)



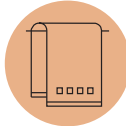
- **Plastic dishes, eating utensils**



- **Bedding & clothing for each family member**



- **Rain jackets, pants, boots**



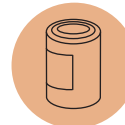
- **Blankets, towels**



- **Baby supplies**  
(food, diapers, medication)



- **Hand sanitizer**



- **Non-perishable food**  
(for at least 3 days)



- **Pet supplies**  
(food, leash, carrier, vaccination records)



- **Soap, shampoo, other personal hygiene items**



- **Sunglasses, mosquito repellent, sunscreen**



- **Important documents**  
(driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, medical records, family pictures, etc.)



- **Toothbrush, toothpaste**

## 2025 S.C. HURRICANE GUIDE

*This Hurricane Guide was developed by the South Carolina Emergency Management Division as a public service in collaboration with various state, local, federal, and volunteer agencies. Key partners include the South Carolina Department of Transportation, South Carolina Department of Public Safety, National Weather Service, Clemson University Extension Service, South Carolina Department of Insurance, South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross, and more.*

*Special thanks to the organizations below for their generous financial contributions, which made this printing possible.*



Visit **Hurricane.sc** to learn about your updated hurricane evacuation zone and start your hurricane safety plan. You can find all the information in the South Carolina Hurricane Guide and much more at **Hurricane.sc**, your go-to online resource for hurricane preparedness in South Carolina.

For accurate, up-to-date information, rely on verified sources such as **scemd.org** and **hurricane.sc** to make informed decisions and avoid misinformation, rumors, and false information.