

Getting Ready for the Hurricane

(Additional info you should know)



WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED:

- Keep tuned to a local radio or television station for the latest National Weather Service advisories, as well as special instructions from local government.
- Review your current *Disaster Evacuation & Recovery Guide*
- Many people board their windows or protect them with storm shutters. (If you plan to install storm shutters, please check with the Indigo Run ARB for guidelines.) Windows are broken mainly from wind-driven debris. Wind pressure may break large windows, garage doors, and double-entry doors. The taping of windows does not keep the glass from breaking; it merely keeps broken glass in a more confined area. If desired, install hurricane shutters/window boards on all unprotected windows. This may prevent tree limbs or debris from breaking windows.
- Secure outdoor objects that might become flying debris. Garbage cans, garden tools, toys, signs, porch furniture, and a number of other harmless items become deadly missiles in hurricane winds.
- **LEAVE EARLY.** When a voluntary evacuation is recommended, leave the Plantation quickly with a specific plan and a set destination. When a mandatory evacuation is ordered, you must exit by the Main Gate and go left onto 278 West with three lanes going over the bridge. The left lane must turn on Route 46 to I-95. At this point, expect lengthy delays. Your best bet is to leave during the voluntary phase.
- **BE AWARE** that some areas may flood long before the arrival of the storm. Your escape may be further complicated by the fact that the high density population of the Hilton Head Island area may require evacuation orders to be issued earlier than one day before the storm's arrival. Don't get caught by the hurricane in your car on an open coastal road.
- If the Beaufort County Emergency Management Department advises evacuation of your area, **DO SO IMMEDIATELY.** Keep your car radio on to listen for further instructions, such as the location of emergency shelters.

- Be alert to tornado watches and warnings as tornadoes are often spawned by hurricanes. Should you receive a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately in an interior bathroom or small hall, preferably at or below ground level.
- Learn local evacuation routes and safe routes inland.
- Trim back dead wood from trees.
- Check for loose rain gutters and downspouts.
- Listen for weather updates and local information on:

98.3 FM	WGCO
98.7 FM	WYKZ
106.9 FM	WWVV
107.9 FM	WLOW
- Prepare evacuation supplies (see list in Disaster Evacuation & Recovery Guide).

WHAT TO PACK:

- Prepare to be gone for at least 48 hours. Keep your disaster supply kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you need to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept.
 - Cash and Credit Cards
 - I.D. and Driver's License
 - Insurance policy, Name of Agent and Telephone Number
 - Cell Phone (and car charger, if have)

WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED:

- Remember, if you stay, government officials, emergency officials, emergency responders, and aid agencies cannot and will not do everything for you. You must take responsibility for yourself, your family, your loved ones, pets, friends and neighbors by being properly prepared ahead of time, acting responsibly and promptly, and following instructions.
- Move outdoor objects such as porch furniture, grill, garbage cans, hanging plants, etc., into garage or house.
- Store drinking water in clean containers and fill bathtubs with water should the water supply be contaminated.
- Park extra vehicle(s) in garage.
- Leave a message on your answering machine so relatives and friends know when you left and where you are going. Know answering machine codes so you can retrieve messages and change recording.

- If you have a swimming pool, cover the pump filter.
- If told to do so, shut off water, electricity and gas.
- Lock doors and windows before you leave.
- Complete and drop off Indigo Run Evacuation Checkout Form (available online at www.indigoruncoa.org or distributed by Security at Gate as you are leaving).
- Make arrangements for family members who need help in evacuating. If you need additional assistance, contact Hilton Head fire and Rescue Headquarters located at 40 Summit Drive, Hilton Head Island (call 682-5156 or 682-5119), or in extreme cases, call 682-5152 to speak with the Operations Chief.

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY HOUSEHOLD PETS?

- Contact the Beaufort County Animal Control Office at 843-846-3905 for information on caring for your pets during hurricanes.
- If you plan to use an emergency public shelter, you should make other arrangements for your pet's protection and safety. The shelters will not allow pets.
- Ask dependable friends or relatives who live further inland, away from the coast or river areas, if you and your pet(s) could stay with them during a storm emergency.
- Call motels if you plan to leave your house and take your pet with you during an evacuation. You may wish to check with several local motels away from the coast and river areas. Ask if they allow pets, and if so, if there are any restrictions on size and number of pets allowed.
- Do not leave any pets outside or tied up during a hurricane.
- Make certain pets are wearing collars with current ID. Use adhesive tape and an indelible pen if ID is not current and tape to pet's collar.
- Pack a pet disaster kit in advance. It should include:
 - Pet food
 - Food and water bowls
 - Medications
 - Medical records
 - Motion sickness pills for travel
 - Sturdy leashes and/or pet carrier
 - Current photo in the event of loss and a pet bed and toys, if space is available

DURING THE HURRICANE:

TAKE COVER

- Remain indoors during the hurricane. Blowing debris can injure and kill. Travel is extremely dangerous. Be especially aware of the "eye" of the hurricane. If the storm center passes directly over head, there will be a lull in the wind lasting for a few minutes to a half hour or more. At the other side of the eye, the winds will increase rapidly to hurricane force and will come from the opposite direction.

STORM SURGE

- Storm surge is a great dome of water often 50 miles wide, which sweeps across the coastline near where the eye of the hurricane makes landfall. The surge, aided by the hammering effect of breaking waves, is like a giant bulldozer sweeping everything in its path. The stronger the hurricane, the higher the storm surge. This is unquestionably the most dangerous part of the hurricane. Nine out of ten hurricane fatalities are caused by the storm surge.

FLOODS

- The floods and flash floods brought by the torrential rains of a hurricane are dangerous killers. Even though hurricanes weaken rapidly as they move inland, the remnants of the storm can bring 6 to 12 inches of rainfall to the areas it crosses. The resulting floods have caused great damage and loss of life.

WINDS

- The winds of a hurricane (74 miles per hour or more) can be very dangerous. For some structures, wind force is sufficient to cause destruction. Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to hurricane winds that can spawn tornadoes, which contribute to incredible destruction. The greatest threat from hurricane winds is their cargo of debris – a deadly barrage of flying missiles such as lawn furniture, signs, roofing, trees, siding, etc.

If a hurricane hits, don't expect recovery to be quick or easy.

REENTRY

- Evacuees could be kept out of their neighborhoods for several days – maybe even a week or more – so emergency workers can assess damages. Any residents who stay can expect to be without power, phone and water for several days to a week or more.
- If you stay, government officials, emergency responders, and aid agencies cannot and will not do everything for you. You must take responsibility for yourself, your family, your loved ones, pets, friends and neighbors by being properly prepared ahead of time, acting responsibly and promptly, and following instructions.
- State and Federal disaster assistance will seldom completely compensate you for all your losses. In many cases, the assistance will come in the form of low-interest loan.

- All the important information you will need prior to and during a hurricane will be available from newspapers, radio, television, and weather alert monitors. Do not call 911 for information.
- When you are allowed back into your home, it will take time for relief assistance to start, for all utilities to be turned on, and for life to return to normal. Be patient.
- After a storm, be wary of strangers who want to sell you something or do work on your property. Hurricanes bring out con artists and crooks. Follow the recommendations of your insurance company.

To obtain current information:

1. Beaufort County Emergency Management: Hurricane Hotline: 1-800-963-5023
2. Indigo Run's Website: <http://www.indigoruncoa.org>
3. www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov
4. www.bcgov.net
5. Island Packet/Gazette Hotline: 1-866-706-8223
6. SC DOT Traffic Info: 1-888-877-9151