

ISLE OF PALMS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN

ORGANIZATION

The Isle of Palms Hurricane Preparedness Committee is a group operating under the authority of the Mayor and City Council of Isle of Palms.

Because of its very low elevation and large number of trees, Isle of Palms is particularly vulnerable to the danger from torrential rains, which precede tropical storm winds by more than 24 hours. These rains may cause trees to fall and block roadways. Combined with high tides, these rains may make exiting from the island impossible. Because of this vulnerability, the Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Agency may recommend early voluntary evacuation of the island before the arrival of tropical storm winds.

Of particular concern is the Sullivan's Island Causeway to Mount Pleasant. This roadway has an elevation of only a few feet above sea level and could quickly become submerged.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVACUATION

It is up to the individual resident or guest as to whether he or she will evacuate when voluntary evacuation is recommended. Recommendations will always be on the safe side, and it may turn out that evacuation was not necessary. Hurricanes behave erratically and strength, speed and direction can change from hour to hour.

The Governor or the Mayor may order MANDATORY evacuation.

Absentee owners or rental should leave a copy of this plan in their units for their personal or houseguests' use.

Rental agencies should develop their own policies and plans with respect to notification of guests when storm alerts are announced. Rental agencies can get storm updates by calling the MEOC.

TERMS

Hurricane: Once a tropical storm's constant wind speed reaches 74 mph or greater it is classified as a hurricane.

Hurricane Watch: An announcement that a hurricane or hurricane conditions pose a threat to a coastal area, generally within 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning: A warning that a hurricane is expected in a specified coastal area within 24 hours. When a hurricane warning is issued, all precautions should be taken immediately. If the hurricane path is unusual or erratic, the warning may be issued only for a few hours before the beginning of hurricane conditions.

Small Craft Advisory: When winds of 29-38 mph or hazardous wave conditions threaten a coastal area, small craft operators are advised to remain in port or not venture into the open sea.

Storm Surge: The combination of storm surge, battering waves and high tide are often the hurricane's most dangerous killer. Nine out of ten hurricane fatalities are caused by the storm surge.

SAFIR/Simpson Hurricane Scale Categories:

Category Winds Storm Surge Barometer

- 1 Minimal 74-95 mph 4-5 feet above 28.94
- 2 Moderate 96-110 mph 6-8 feet 28.50-28.91
- 3 Extensive 111-130 mph 9-12 feet 27.91-28.47
- 4 Extreme 131-155 mph 13-18 feet 27.17-27.88
- 5 Catastrophic over 155 mph over 19 feet below 27.17

PERSONALIZING YOUR HURRICANE PLAN

1. As you plan to evacuate the area, list the roads that you selected for voluntary evacuation.

_____ to _____ then

_____ to _____ then

_____ to _____

2. Determine where the family is going to go. The National Weather Service recommends evacuation as far as 200 miles inland.

Motel/Hotel...Home of relative or friend...Public Shelter

_____ Tel.# _____

3. Do you have special transportation problems such as a family member who is not ambulatory? If so, be sure to discuss this with the Fire Department Secretary (843-886-4410) and make any necessary arrangements. Use the reverse side of this paper to write down what arrangements you have made and the names and phone numbers of the contacts.

4. Review your current insurance coverage with your agent at the beginning of hurricane season. When a storm is approaching, it may be too late to increase coverage.

5. Secure important papers you plan to take with you (birth certificates, insurance papers, etc.). Place in a watertight container, such as a Ziplock bags.

6. Register now for re-entry passes. Passes are available at City Hall (843-886-6428) throughout the year. Decals will NOT be issued within 18 hours of landfall. New decals will be issued beginning January 2004 and you must get new decals every five years. Previous decals will be void.

PROCEDURE FOR STORM ALERTS

Each family or individual should maintain a personalized hurricane preparedness plan. The Isle of Palms hurricane preparedness program foresees the following three stages:

- 1. Storm alert
- 2. Voluntary evacuation
- 3. Mandatory evacuation.

STORM ALERT...STAGE ONE

AREA ACTION

The National Weather Service office in Charleston will identify all storms, which present a danger to the area and alert the Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Agency, which alerts all municipalities, and County agencies. Off duty police and firemen will be recalled to duty. The County Emergency Preparedness Headquarters will commence 24 hour operation.

LOCAL ACTION

As soon as the Mayor (or Council's designee) of Isle of Palms notifies the chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of a storm alert, the following actions will be set in motion:

A. Municipal Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) will be established at Police Headquarters; Phone 843-886-6522, and will be staffed on continuous basis until the alert is over, or until a mandatory evacuation is ordered.

B. Emergency personnel will be called in to the MEOC and brought up to date on storm progress and probable strength and landfall.

C. The MEOC will alert island businesses and rental agencies. Island businesses are responsible for alerting their employees. Rental agencies will be responsible for alerting their guests.

D. Storm notices will be provided by the MEOC to Wild Dunes security. Wild Dunes security will distribute to all vehicles passing through their gates.

E. SCE&G- once a voluntary evacuation has been called, and at such time as they are informed by Isle of Palms MEOC that evacuation is essentially complete, SCE&G may turn off all power to Isle of Palms at its substation. This is necessary to minimize the fire threat and mitigate unnecessary loss.

EVACUATION PLANS

THINGS TO DO DURING STORM ALERT PERIOD

AT THIS POINT IN TIME, YOU SHOULD BEGIN TO CONSIDER EVACUATION AND BEGIN MAKING PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS.

ACTION

PERSON ASSIGNED

1. Check on official bulletins and storm progress

2. Fuel and service automobiles

3. Notify neighbors and next of kin of plans

4. Conduct banking

5. Fill prescriptions

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 6. Persons to Notify | Phone Number |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

7. In flood prone structures, move light weight objects upstairs or put on bed or cabinet top.
8. Fill containers with at least 3 days supply of drinking water and put them in a high place. One gallon per person for each day is recommended.
9. Fill bathtub with water to use for flushing toilet.
10. Turn your freezer to maximum cold to minimize food losses. (SCE&G could turn off power at any time).
11. Check and replenish supply of prescription medications. You should have a minimum of 2 weeks supply.
12. Turn off LP Gas at tanks. Call Fire Dept in advance to learn how, at 843-886-4410

ACTION:

Inventory available supplies and prepare a list of things to buy.

Food Items should be easy to prepare things, which require no cooking, and no refrigeration. Food supplies should be sufficient to feed your family for one week.

| FOOD ITEM | AMOUNT |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Peanut butter | _____ |
| Bread | _____ |
| Soft drinks | _____ |
| Baby formula | _____ |
| Crackers | _____ |
| Pet food/pet needs | _____ |
| Water | _____ |
| Canned tuna fish | _____ |

| NON-FOOD ITEMS | AMOUNT |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Paper plates/cups | _____ |
| Plastic trash bags | _____ |
| Plastic utensils | _____ |
| Duct/masking tape | _____ |
| Diapers | _____ |
| Paper towels/Napkins | _____ |
| Cooler | _____ |
| Manual can opener | _____ |
| Hygiene products | _____ |
| Toothbrush/paste | _____ |
| Alternate cooking source | _____ |

Towelettes (wet) _____
Matches, sterno _____

FIRST AID SUPPLIES AMOUNT

Band-Aids _____
Aspirin _____
Prescription Medication _____
Tape/Gauze _____

BATTERIES FOR TYPE AMOUNT

Flashlight _____
Lanterns _____
Smoke detector _____
Portable TV _____
Radio _____

Do not stay home without a battery operated smoke detector. If you do not have one, please notify the Fire Department 886-4410 for a smoke detector and installation.

PERSONAL ITEMS (To pack & take with you if you evacuate. Close toed comfortable footwear should be worn.)

Eye glasses _____
Camera _____
Rain suit _____
Insurance papers _____
Small valuables _____
Photographs/albums,etc _____
Clothing for several days _____
Credit Cards/Cash _____
Birth certificate/shot records/drivers license, etc. _____

SECURE LIGHTWEIGHT OBJECTS

Lawn furniture _____
Trash cans _____
Toys _____
Boats _____

Heavy objects that cannot be moved should be tied down. Taping and boarding of windows and wedging of sliding glass doors should be accomplished before the strong winds arrive.

MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PETS

Prepare a supply of towels, blankets, throw rugs and plastic waterproof covering in case leaks or water seepage occur.

REMEMBER TO STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS WHILE INSIDE.

VOLUNTARY EVACUATION...STAGE TWO

Based on National Weather Service forecasts the County Emergency Preparedness Agency may issue a recommendation to evacuate barrier islands such as Isle of Palms. Once this recommendation is issued the following action will be taken:

- A. Radio and TV will broadcast the recommendation.
- B. Wild Dunes Security will issue leaflets to all vehicles passing through the gate advising of the recommended evacuation.
- C. The Island Fire Department will dispatch trucks throughout the island broadcasting the recommendation for voluntary evacuation.
- D. The MEOC will notify island businesses and rental agencies.

IF YOU NEED HELP DURING EVACUATION

Should assistance be needed for removal of a tree or other object blocking a road or driveway, call the MEOC at 886-6522 and report the need. All requests for this type of assistance will be handled through the MEOC.

IF YOU HAVE ANY TYPE FIRE/POLICE/MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Call 911 for emergencies.

During an actual alert:

1. Put food and water out for the family pets if you can't take them with you. Pets are not allowed in public shelters.
2. Place bath towels and throw rugs around windows and doors to reduce water seepage.
3. Place insecticides and herbicides in watertight containers and in a high spot.
4. Unplug small appliances and place them in plastic trash bags or other waterproof containers.

Toaster _____
Coffee maker _____
Computers _____
Radio/TV _____
Microwave _____

5. Place waterproof plastic coverings over items, which may be damaged from leaking or damaged roofs.

Piano _____
Lamps _____
Paintings _____
Furniture _____

6. Turn off ONLY IF YOU KNOW HOW...

Main Electric Breaker _____
Gas _____
Water _____
Hot Water Heater _____

If you are in need of instructions, call the Fire Department at 843-886-4410.

7. Lock all windows and doors.

USE DESIGNATED EVACUATION ROUTES (see last page)
WATCH FOR DANGLING ELECTRIC WIRES & FLOODED LOW SPOTS
DRIVE SAFELY

MANDATORY EVACUATION...STAGE THREE

If and when mandatory island evacuation is ordered the following actions will be taken:

A. Police will restrict Island access at the Breach Inlet Bridge and IOP Connector to all except emergency and official vehicles. Emergency and official vehicles do not include private vehicles.

It is possible that by the time a mandatory evacuation order is issued authorities will already be blocking island-bound traffic from the Mount Pleasant causeways.

B. Providing it is safe to do so, and manpower is sufficient, the fire and police departments will have personnel go door to door to advise citizens of mandatory evacuation.

C. The electronic media will broadcast the evacuation order.

D. Residents and guests should also know that if they wait for an evacuation order, it is very unlikely that they will be able to evacuate to a location of their choice, but will be directed to the nearest available public storm shelter. **MAKE PLANS NOW.**

E. The Mayor's office and the MEOC will remain at City Hall (1207 Palm Blvd.) as long as it is deemed prudent. In the event of a mandatory evacuation, the MEOC will relocate to the Charleston County Satellite Complex on Iron Bridge Road in Mount Pleasant. (Across the street from BiLo, on the other side of the IOP Connector.)

F. The island Fire and Police Department personnel will remain on the island until they must evacuate for the safety of personnel and equipment.

Residents and guests must understand that once the Fire and Police departments evacuate:
THERE WILL BE NO FIRE, POLICE OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE ON THE ISLAND AND accesses will be blocked.

AFTER THE STORM

There are two storage facilities for deadly CHLORINE GAS used for water purification on the island. There are at least four other locations where the gas is used and smaller amounts are on hand. There are also thousands of bottles of butane and propane gas used for home heating and outdoor grills, etc.

Since no one can predict the devastating forces of a hurricane, earthquake or other natural disaster, the fire department, police department, public officials, and members of the disaster preparedness committee will be allowed immediate access to the island TO CONDUCT A SAFETY INSPECTION OF THE ABOVE STORAGE FACILITIES AND TO EVALUATE SAFETY CONDITIONS.

Designated engineers will make visual inspections of the building exteriors and report their findings to the MEOC.

All residents will be granted full access to the island immediately upon determination that no abnormally dangerous conditions exist from either the chlorine or explosive gases.

In case return to the island is delayed for any reason, a video and photography recording team will be promptly dispatched around the island to photograph streets and areas as the roadways are cleared and access is available. Videotapes and photographs will be forwarded to the island information center in Mount Pleasant where they will be available for viewing by island residents on a continuous basis. Location of this information center will be announced at the time it is established.

The fire department, security forces, SCE&G, public works personnel and disaster survey personnel have first priority on the island. Cooperation is essential for a quick and orderly return to the island.

The Isle of Palms Water Commission monitors supplied water on a continuous basis and are prepared to re-chlorinate as necessary. In cases where pipes are broken, water may be shut off or may not be drinkable. DO NOT drink City water until it is determined it is safe to do so. If after returning home, you have any questions about the condition of the water supply, call the Isle of Palms Water Company at 886-6148 for information. Water supplies may be limited and pressure low.

Use water sparingly as sewage and water systems may not be functioning properly or at full capacity.

Electric power may be badly affected by a storm, so be prepared to function for several days with intermittent or no power. STAY AWAY from downed power lines as power could be turned on to them at any time and possibly without warning.

Do not connect personal generators into circuit. This may prove to be very dangerous. As electrical power comes on, please be cautious. Power may fluctuate widely and these surges can damage air conditioners and other appliances, reassuring the necessity to turn off main breaker before leaving your residence.

Power will first be restored to the City buildings and important support complexes, then to residences. If your meter has been damaged, it will be necessary for the property owner to have an electrician repair it before power can be restored.

When you return, be very watchful for animals, snakes and insects, (such as bees, wasps, etc.) which may have taken refuge in your garage, storage area or home. Even domesticated pets may be disoriented and harm you. Exercise caution during clean-up efforts.

Debris should be placed on the front of your property so it will not obstruct the roadways, street, or fire hydrants. Debris may not be removed for some time and residents will be

informed of any disposal policies and procedures as they develop. Debris may be delivered to a burn site, but is not to be burned on private property.

To maintain safety and security of property and residents the Mayor may initiate a curfew.

To facilitate recovery:

1. Avoid Island travel to keep roads open for cleanup crews.
2. Drive defensively; vehicles involved in Island cleanup have the right-of-way.
3. Keep storm drains, roads, and electrical poles clear of logs and debris.
4. Inspect for water and gas leaks. Contact fire department if gas leak found (dial 911). For water leak, call 843-886-6148.
5. Stay away from downed power lines and assume they are live.
6. Coordinate through volunteer groups to expedite services and ensure fair prices.
7. Discourage non-residents from unnecessary visits to the island until resources and road capacity are restored.
8. Above all--PLEASE BE PATIENT.