

A satellite image of a hurricane, showing a clear eye and a dense, swirling cloud structure over the Atlantic Ocean. The landmasses of North and South America are visible in the upper left and lower left corners, respectively, with green and brown terrain. The ocean is a deep blue.

Hurricane Preparedness

Chatham Emergency Management Agency

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HURRICANE BASICS

Tropical Storm Watch:

A Tropical Storm Watch is issued when there is a **possible threat** of tropical storm conditions (winds 39-73 mph) occurring in a specified area within **48 hours**. Within this time period, an evacuation or mandatory evacuation order may be given by local officials.

Tropical Storm Warning:

A Tropical Storm Warning is issued when tropical storm conditions are **expected** within a specified area within **36 hours**.

Hurricane Watch:

A Hurricane Watch is issued when there is a **possible threat** of hurricane conditions (winds 74 mph or greater) occurring in a specified area within **48 hours**. Within this time period, an evacuation or mandatory evacuation order may be given by local officials. It is advised that you take the necessary steps to protect your life and property for the possible impact of hurricane or tropical storm force winds.

Hurricane Warning:

A Hurricane Warning is issued when there is an **expected** threat of hurricane conditions occurring in a specified area. The National Hurricane Center will issue a Hurricane Warning when **tropical storm force winds** are expected within **36 hours**. If ordered to do so, you should evacuate immediately.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Categories:

This scale is based solely on a storm's sustained wind speed. Please Note: There are several factors that make a hurricane dangerous. Your evacuation decision should **NOT** be based on where a particular storm falls on this scale or on the storm's category alone.

1 74-95 mph Some Damage	2 96-110 mph Extensive Damage	3 111-129 mph Devastating Damage	4 130-156 mph Catastrophic Damage	5 157+ mph Catastrophic Damage
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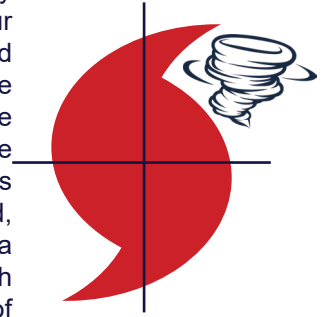
Primary Threats:

Strong Winds
Tornadoes
Storm Surge
Heavy Rainfall and Flooding
Lightning

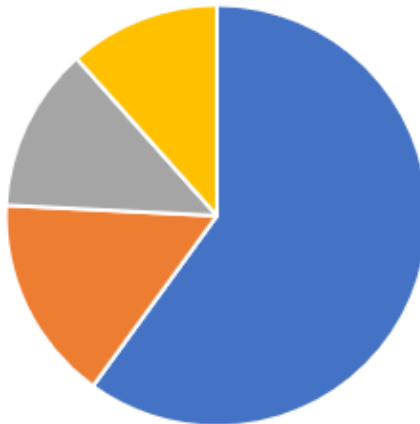


Understanding Tropical Cyclones:

Tropical Cyclones move in a counter-clockwise motion. To better understand the impacts that a storm may bring, think of a storm in four quadrants, or split into four sections. The forward, right-hand quadrant is considered the “deadly” or most dangerous part of a storm because that is where the most action happens. As the hurricane or tropical storm sits over warm water (in a circle like motion) it moves water around in the ocean and pushes it on to land. This primarily happens in the forward, right-hand quadrant of the storm. If we are expecting a direct hit or if a storm is supposed to hit slightly south of us, say in Brunswick, Georgia, we could see some of the worst impacts including storm surge and tornadoes.



Primary Threat- Water:



- Freshwater Flooding
- Wind
- Surf/Rip Currents
- Storm Surge

U.S. Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Deaths 2013 - 2022

Contrary to popular belief, wind is **NOT** the greatest threat to life during a hurricane or tropical storm. Water accounts for approximately 90% of direct deaths associated with a tropical system.

Most of the water related deaths depicted above are from individuals that attempted to drive through or walk through flood waters. Always remember, **Turn Around, Don't Drown!** It may save your life!

TORNADOES

A majority of tropical cyclones produce at least one tornado. These tornadoes are most commonly seen in the upper, right-hand quadrant of a tropical system and are often short-lived.

Tornado Watch:

Be Prepared! A Tornado Watch means that tornadoes are possible in the watch area and that conditions are favorable for tornadoes. Keep in mind, Tornado Watches typically cover a large area, maybe even multiple counties. Be sure to monitor local news so that you are aware if a Tornado Warning is issued.

Tornado Warning:

Take Action! A Tornado Warning means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is imminent danger to life and property. Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows. If in a mobile home, a vehicle, or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris. Warnings are typically for a smaller geographical area.

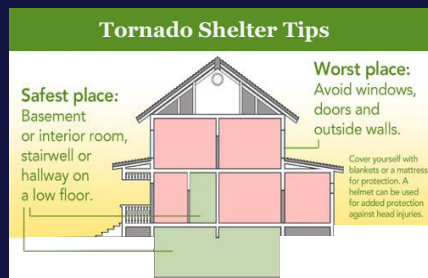
DURING A TORNADO WARNING, WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE:

AT HOME: Seek shelter immediately on the lowest level of your home and in an interior space. A basement is your best option, as it is low and underground. If you do not have a basement, find shelter in an interior closet or in a bathroom. The plumbing in the bathroom helps to keep walls intact. Cover your body with a mattress or soft material.

IN THE OFFICE: Shelter immediately in a basement or under a stairwell. If these are not available, go to an interior, windowless room, closet or bathroom. Cover your body with any substantial objects that will offer protection from debris.

IN A MOBILE HOME: DO NOT STAY IN YOUR MOBILE HOME! Go to a nearby sturdier building, preferably one with a basement. If there is no shelter nearby, leave your mobile home and lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine, or culvert. Shield your head!

IN A VEHICLE: A vehicle can be easily picked up and tossed around, causing severe injury or death. Leave your vehicle as soon as you can. Relocate to either a sturdy building or a low-lying ditch. Do not attempt to seek shelter under an overpass and do not try to outrun a tornado. The storm is unpredictable and can rapidly change directions or paths.



STORM SURGE

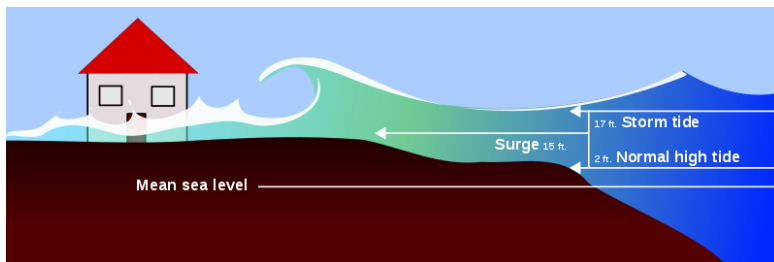
Storm Surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tides (normal daily tides). Storm surge is produced by water being pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds moving cyclonically around the storm. Storm surge is not necessarily associated with a category storm and can vary depending on the size, intensity and forward speed of a tropical cyclone.

Storm Surge Watch:

A Storm Surge Watch is issued when there is a possibility of life threatening inundation (flooding) from rising water moving inland from the shoreline within **48 hours**. Think of storm surge as water that naturally rises from the ocean during a tropical system. This is caused by the wind driven forces created by a tropical system. The watch may also be issued for locations that could potentially be isolated by rising waters inland.

Storm Surge Warning:

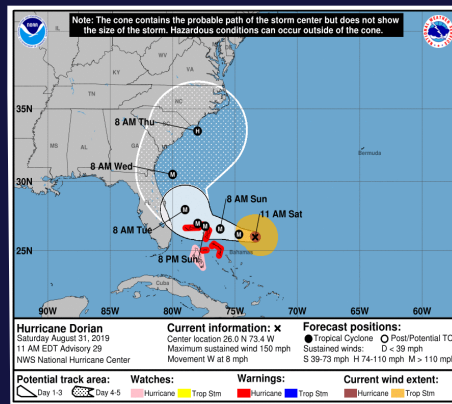
A Storm Surge Warning is issued when there is a danger of life-threatening inundation (flooding) from rising water moving inland from the shoreline, caused by a tropical system, within **36 hours**. Immediate action needs to be taken to protect life and property.



Factors That Influence Storm Surge:

1. Storm Intensity
Stronger storms and stronger winds will produce a higher surge.
2. Storm's Size
A larger storm will produce higher surge because winds are pushing on a larger area of the ocean.
3. Storm Forward Speed
Slower Systems have the potential to produce a higher surge further inland because water has time to get into the bays, sounds and other enclosed bodies of water.
Faster Systems have the potential to produce a higher surge along the open coast like Tybee Island and other coastal areas.
4. Angle of Approach
Areas with a direct hit or a hit from the upper, right-hand quadrant of the storm will likely see higher storm surge.

CONE OF UNCERTAINTY



Over the last several hurricane seasons, you have likely seen this graphic as a storm approaches our community. Many believe they understand this graphic, but FUN FACT, this graphic is NOT meant for the general public! That's right! This is actually a tool to help Emergency Managers understand where the center of the storm may go and should only be used as a planning tool and NEVER as the determining factor on whether you or your family should evacuate. Let's discuss what this graphic ACTUALLY tells us and what it does not!

What is DOES tell us:

- The cone ONLY tells you where the **EYE OF THE STORM MAY GO**.
 - The cone does not show the entire area that may have impacts, it only highlights the area where the eye may go.
 - Impacts can and **likely will** extend beyond the boundaries of the cone.
 - Approximately 60% of the time, the storm's eye will fall **SOMEWHERE** inside the cone
- The graphic shows the forward speed and direction of the storm, at that moment in time.
- The graphic depicts current watches and warnings.

What it DOES NOT tell us:

- The **SIZE** of the storm.
 - Note- the size of the cone is based off of the last five years of statistical errors from the National Hurricane Center and is the same size for the entire hurricane season.
 - Reminder: Impacts can and likely will extend beyond the boundaries of the cone.
- Projected **IMPACTS** to OUR area.
 - To better understand the impacts to our area, you will need to visit Charleston's National Weather Service pages or visit CEMA's social media pages.

CREATING YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY KIT

A kit should be tailored to the needs of your family and any likely events that may occur in your area (hurricanes, tornadoes, man-made emergencies, etc). Each item should be listed in detail in a printed contents document. If you take something out or add something in, be sure to update your list! On the back, put important numbers such as family member's cell/home phone numbers, close neighbors' contact information, utility provider's information, insurance policies, etc.

PERSONAL HYGIENE SUPPLIES

- Soap
- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Feminine products
- Wash cloths
- Comb & brush
- Sunscreen
- Hand lotion
- Floss
- Tissues
- Lip balm

PET SUPPLIES

- Medication
- Medical records
- Identification tags
- Leash & collar
- Food/serving bowls
- Bedding/comfort items

FIRST AID SUPPLIES

- Aspirin
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
- Ibuprofen (Advil)
- Imodium (A-D)
- Burn cream
- Hydrocortisone cream
- Triple antibiotic (Neosporin)

FIRST AID SUPPLIES (continued)

- Cough drops
- Earplugs
- Instant ice pack
- Tweezers
- Gauze pads & rolls
- Digital thermometer
- Cotton balls
- Bandages
- Nail clippers
- Basic first-aid guide
- Medications
- Moist towelettes
- Non-latex gloves
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Children's Tylenol

GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Change of clothing for each member of the household
- Food and snacks (enough to last the entire family 3-5 days)
- Water (recommended 1 gallon of water per person, per day)
- AM/FM/Weather radio
- Flashlight

GENERAL SUPPLIES (continued)

- Extra batteries (for flashlight and radio)
- Manual can opener
- Duct tape
- Mylar blankets
- Work gloves
- Lighter or matches
- Glow sticks
- Scissors
- Trash bags
- Notebook & pencil
- Whistles & lanyards
- Sewing kit
- N95 dust masks
- Zip ties
- Small tarp
- Safety goggles
- Hand soap
- Hand sanitizer (Should be at least 60% alcohol)
- Cleaning supplies
- Disinfectant wipes
- Disposable gloves
- Cash (if possible)
- Vital medical records and important paperwork for each family member
- Cell phone charger



Insurance is one of the best ways to protect your home and your possessions from a natural or man-made disaster. There are several types of insurance that you may want to consider. Whether you own your home, rent a home/apartment or live with friends or family, it's important to know your options are and how you can protect your things!

Homeowners Insurance:

This type of insurance covers losses and damages to your private residence and its contents, such as furniture, valuables, clothes, and electronics. The amount of coverage it provides varies depending on the type of policy you buy, its liability limits, your deductible, property value, etc. Most policies do not cover motorized vehicles or losses from natural disasters, like floods or earthquakes. You can usually buy coverage for these things in a separate policy. Generally, a home insurance policy covers:

- Property damage to your home and other detached buildings
- Contents and personal belongings
- Additional costs to live somewhere else if your home is uninhabitable
- Personal liability to protect you from a claim or lawsuit if someone has an accident on your property that causes personal injury or damage to their property

Coverage for Natural Disasters:

It's not always easy to understand what disasters a homeowners insurance policy covers. Some policies may cover certain kinds of damage, but not others. Your coverage can also vary depending on where you live, how your home is built, the options you choose and more.

Information sourced from www.nerdwallet.com

Renters Insurance:

Renters insurance is a policy designed for people who don't own their own home. It covers your personal belongings in case of disaster and pays settlements if you're found at fault for injuries or property damage to others.

A standard renters policy covers your personal items, pays your expenses if you need to relocate temporarily during covered repairs and includes liability insurance in case you are sued for negligence. Below are the four types of coverage included in most renters insurance policies.

Type of Coverage	What it Covers
Personal Property	Covers your clothing, furniture, electronics and other belongings
Additional Living Expenses	Pays for hotel stays, restaurant meals or other expenses if you have to live elsewhere while your home undergoes covered repairs
Liability	Pays out if you are responsible for injuries to other people or damage to their property
Medical Payments	Covers injuries to other people in your home, regardless of fault

Most insurance companies offer two reimbursement options for your renters policy:

- **Replacement Cost Policies:** This means that the insurance company would pay for the actual cost of replacing your possessions with new ones. For example, if your TV is ruined, you would get enough to buy a new, similar TV.
- **Actual Cash Value Policies:** This means that the insurance company would pay to replace your belongings based on their value at the time they're damaged or stolen. That means that if your ruined TV is a couple of years old, your claim check would be enough to buy a 2-year-old TV. To get a new TV, you'd pay the difference yourself.

**Replacement cost coverage is more expensive, but if you think you'll want brand-new items to replace those lost in a disaster, it may be worth spending the extra money.

What Homeowners and Renters Insurance DO NOT Cover:

Most homeowners and renters insurance policies will not cover damage from earthquakes or floods. You will have to pay for repairs yourself if you experience flood damage in our community, which is possible given our entire county is within an evacuation zone. Flood Insurance is your best option and it is available for both home owners and renters!

An illustration of a city scene with buildings, trees, and a house, partially submerged in floodwater. Rain is falling from a dark, stormy sky. The word 'FLOOD' is written in large, bold, blue letters at the top.

FLOOD

UNDERSTANDING FLOOD INSURANCE

No home is completely safe from flooding. When just one inch of water in a home can cost more than \$25,000 in damage, flood insurance can be the difference between recovery and financial devastation. Don't delay! Flood insurance takes 30 days to activate!

Types of Flood Insurance:

With flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), there's no need to shop around for the lowest rate.

The NFIP partners with more than 50 insurance companies and thousands of independent agents across the country to offer the same affordable NFIP rates and crucial insurance coverage.

No matter what insurance provider you use or what state you live in, you will get the coverage you need at a rate you can trust.

Get the coverage that's right for you. Whether you're a homeowner, business owner, or renter, the NFIP offers flood insurance coverage to help you protect the life you've built. Work with your insurance agent to learn more about coverage amounts, deductibles and policy costs.

INSURANCE

An illustration of a city skyline under a rainy sky. In the background, there are several white buildings of varying heights, some with windows. In the foreground, there are two shops with red and white striped awnings and arched windows. There are also two green trees with brown trunks. The sky is dark blue with white rain streaks falling diagonally.

HOMEOWNERS:

If you own your home – including condominiums and townhouses – the NFIP offers flood insurance policies to cover your home’s structure and belongings.

What’s covered:

Your foundation, electrical and plumbing, furniture, appliances, electronics, personal belongings and more.

Coverage limits:

\$250,000 for the building and \$100,000 for the building’s contents. These are typically purchased separately with separate deductibles.

Live outside of the high-risk flood zone? Ask your agent about discounted flood insurance rates.

RENTERS:

If you’re a renter, the NFIP offers affordable, renters flood insurance to protect the things you care about in the event of a flood. Ask your landlord to be sure he/she has coverage for your building.

What’s covered:

Your furniture, clothes, television, computers, rugs, artwork and more.

Coverage limits: \$100,000 for contents-only coverage.

Starting policy costs: \$99/year

Live outside of the high-risk flood zone? Ask your agent about discounted flood insurance rates.

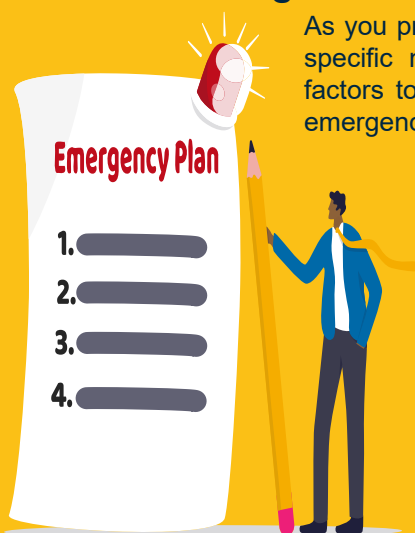
CREATING YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Make your plan TODAY! The information in this booklet will help you understand the hazards in our community and give you all of the tools you need to create the perfect emergency plan for your family! The first step is a family meeting to discuss some important questions. If you have children, be sure to include them. Empower your kids to get involved and understand the importance of creating an emergency plan. Take a look at these great questions to get your family started!

1. How will we receive emergency alerts and know what is happening in our community?
2. What is our shelter plan? Not every storm will require an evacuation. Do we feel safe staying in our home during a high wind event inside Chatham County? If not, where can we go?
3. When will we evacuate? Every family has a point that they will choose to evacuate- what is ours?
4. What is our evacuation plan? If it is not safe to stay in Chatham County, where will we go? Do we have a back-up plan if our first choice falls through? Will we stay in a hotel, with friends/family or in a shelter?
5. How will we evacuate? Do we have a reliable vehicle that is capable of transporting our entire family (pets included) safely? Do we need to use public transportation to evacuate (Evacuation Assembly Area)?
6. What is our family communications plan? Do we all know how to get in touch with one another if our phones are not working? Do we have a pre-established place to meet if we cannot get in touch with one another?

Other Planning Considerations:

As you prepare, tailor your plans and supplies to your specific needs and responsibilities. Here are some factors to keep in mind when developing your family emergency plan:



- Locations frequented
- Dietary needs
- Medical needs, including prescriptions and medical equipment
- Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
- Languages spoken
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Pets or service animals
- Households with school-aged children



The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) is one of the best places to look for quick tips to fortify your home. Preparing your home for hurricanes can mean the difference between minor damage and complete destruction. Strengthening your home to withstand high winds can be as easy as the ABCs!

ANCOR

- Replace gravel/rock landscaping material with fire treated, shredded bark or other lightweight mulch to eliminate the potential for wind-borne missiles.
- Trim and anchor down trees and foliage
- Strengthen your soffits by applying a bead of polyurethane sealant between the wall and the trim into which the soffit panels are inserted.
- Secure an inspection to make sure your home has wall-to-foundation (anchor bolts/rebar) connections.

BRACE

- Bolt all doors with foot and head bolts with a minimum one-inch bolt throw length.
- Reinforce the garage door and tracks.
- Brace all gable end walls with horizontal and/or diagonal braces.

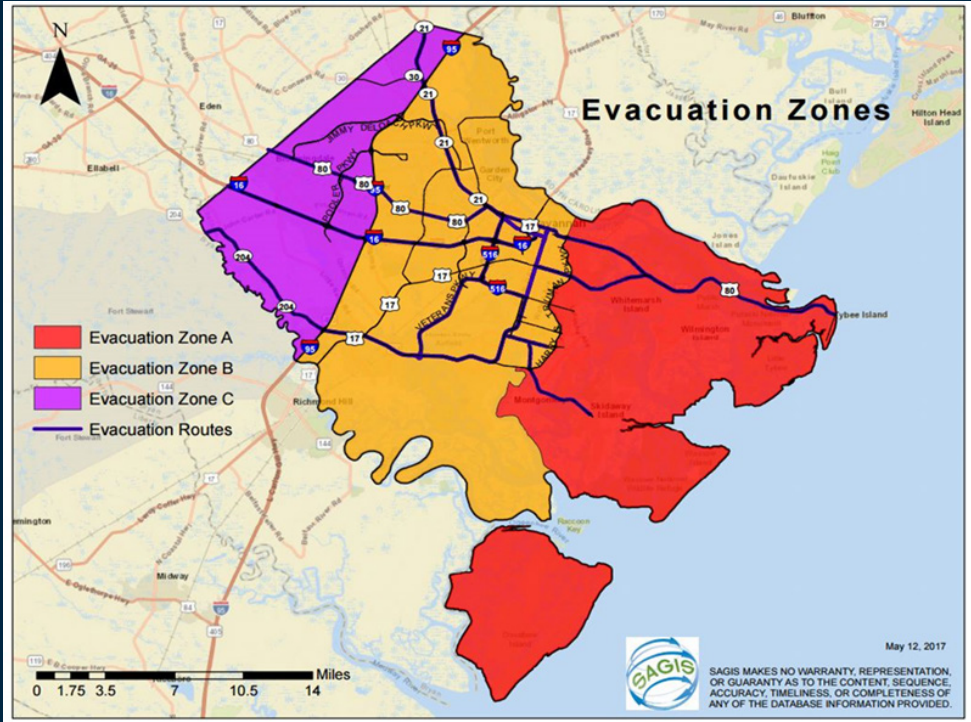
COVER

- Cover all large windows and doors, especially patio doors, with securely fastened, tested, and approved impact-resistant shutters with proper mounting hardware or replace them with impact-resistant window and door systems, if feasible.
- Make sure all doors and windows are properly caulked and/or weather-stripped to reduce potential water intrusion.
- Install a roof covering that is rated for high wind and impact from hail or debris.

STRAP

- Tie down any free-standing fixtures in your yard.
- Fasten rafters/trusses to walls with hurricane straps/clips.

CHATHAM COUNTY HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONES



In 2017, Chatham County developed new evacuation zones to ensure an efficient exit for all residents that are in the target area.

Evacuation Zone A	Areas east of the Truman Parkway and the Vernon River
Evacuation Zone B	Areas west of the Truman Parkway, but east of Interstate 95
Evacuation Zone C	Areas west of Interstate 95

For an interactive map on the evacuation zone for your area, please visit:
<https://public.sagis.org/evaczones/>

This will allow you to type in any address in Chatham County and easily identify the correct evacuation zone.

EVACUATION TERMINOLOGY

To better prepare for hurricane season, we are encouraging residents to learn the terminology that County officials will use during an evacuation. Knowing the difference between an evacuation order and a mandatory evacuation order will significantly affect how communities and residents will react and prepare for the threat of a hurricane.

An **Evacuation Order** will be issued when local officials feel it may be in your best interest to evacuate the target area. An Evacuation Order is a general statement used to encourage residents to evacuate.

A **Mandatory Evacuation Order** is an executive directive requiring all residents, visitors, businesses and others in the target area to evacuate. Personal discretion is not an option.

EVACUATION ROUTES AND CONTRAFLOW

I-16 Contraflow:

Normally I-16 carries traffic in both directions between Macon and Savannah. In the event of a mandatory evacuation from coastal Georgia, I-16 eastbound lanes may reverse to become “contra-flow” lanes. All I-16 lanes will allow only westbound traffic from Savannah to U.S. 441 in Dublin, a distance of 125 miles.

There is normal access to all surface roads from the regular West-bound lanes. Additionally, for your convenience, the following exits will be available to motorists choosing to travel in the contraflow lanes (normal East-bound lanes converted to West-bound lanes). **Please note, once you exit the contraflow lane, you will not be able to re-enter the contraflow lane.** Once you merge back on to I-16, you will enter the standard west bound lane.



- Exit 143 - SR 30 in Bryan County
- Exit 116 - US 301 in Bulloch County
- Exit 104 - SR 23/121 in Candler County
- Exit 90 - US 1 in Emmanuel County
- Exit 71 - SR 15 in Treutlen County
- Exit 67 - SR 29 in Laurens County
- Exit 51 - US 441 in Laurens County

When trying to determine the best evacuation route to take, be sure to use all of the technology available to you. There are several phone apps, like Waze or Google Maps, that will help you navigate around traffic. Planning your route out ahead of time is always the best place to start, but using an app or other GPS device may help you avoid unnecessary delays.

NEED ASSISTANCE EVACUATING ?

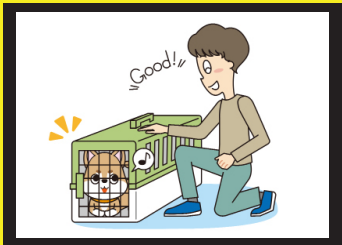


Evacuation Assembly Area Fast Facts:

- Some residents may need assistance evacuating our community during a mandatory evacuation. For residents that do not have transportation resources out of the county, there is a government assisted evacuation process called the Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA). Residents can travel via Chatham Area Transit (CAT) buses to a designated facility. The facility will be announced at the time of the evacuation, but it will be accessible from a CAT route.
- Once at the designated facility, residents will be registered with their family and will board a bus headed to an inland county shelter. Not all EAA evacuees will go to the same inland county shelter. If residents would like to be grouped together and shelter at the same location, they should arrive at the EAA at the same time.
- This mode of evacuation is for residents with no other transportation resources and should be considered as a last resort. Residents will be evacuated to a shelter environment and should bring items that will allow them to be comfortable in that type of environment.
- Only one to two hand carry bags will be permitted per individual evacuating through this process. Consider packing extra clothing and comfort items, such as a pillow.



Evacuation Assembly Area with Pets:



- Pets are permitted at the Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA) and pet owners are encouraged to bring their animals to the EAA rather than leaving them at home during a storm.
- All pets will need their current immunization or shot records to be able to board the pet bus and shelter with other animals.
- Pets should be restrained in a carrier, or on a leash prior to coming to the EAA for evacuation.
- Pets will be loaded on to a separate bus and will be housed in a separate facility than their human counterparts. Please note that this does not apply to service animals. Service animals will be housed with their owner.

HURRICANE REGISTRY

FOR THOSE WITH FUNCTIONAL, ACCESS, OR MEDICAL NEEDS

The Chatham County Department of Public Health and the Coastal Health District encourage those with functional, access, or medical needs to apply to the Hurricane Registry before another storm threatens the Georgia coast. Residents should plan ahead and call today!



These residents are those that may need transportation or medical assistance and have no resources such as family members, neighbors, or friends to help them evacuate if a hurricane is threatening our area. Residents must apply to be on the Registry. Those who meet the criteria and are put on the Registry will be evacuated when there is serious threat of a hurricane.

Those with functional or access needs - including children or adults with physical, sensory, or intellectual disabilities who need assistance with the activities of daily living including eating, taking medication, dressing, bathing, communicating, transferring from bed to chair and chair to bed, and toileting - will be evacuated to a gymnasium type setting far enough inland so that they are safe from the storm. The accommodations at the shelter will be basic and the shelter may be several hours away.

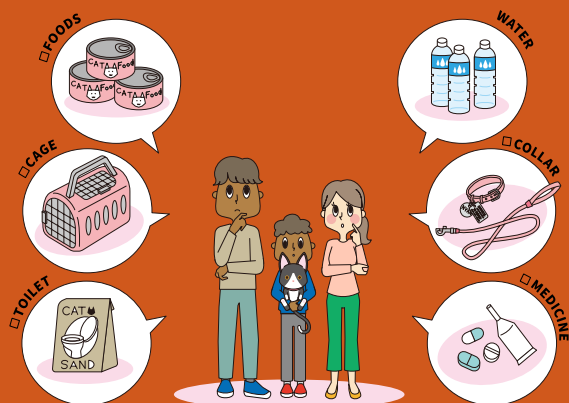
Those with medical needs - including those who need the help of trained medical professionals for things like IV medication or who may be dependent on a respirator or other medical equipment may be taken to a safe inland location.

The Registry is truly a last resort, but it is important that CEMA and Public Health officials have a list of residents who have certain needs and absolutely no other way to evacuate to ensure their safety and well-being.

The time to apply for the Registry is NOW! It is important to note that Registry applications will no longer be accepted 72 hours prior to the arrival of tropical storm force winds. Therefore, you cannot wait until a storm is approaching to apply.

To apply, residents can call toll-free: **1-833-CHD-REGISTER (1-833-243-7344)**

EVACUATING WITH ANIMALS



As we have discussed, a family emergency plan and an evacuation plan are essential to keeping your family safe in a potential disaster. If you have pets, that plan should include them!

Find a Safe Place:

There are several steps you can do today to ensure that you and your animal(s) find a safe place to stay during an emergency situation.

- Contact hotels and motels outside of the immediate area to check policies on accepting pets. You can visit sites like www.BringFido.com to find pet friendly hotels, restaurants and other places in your target destination. Also, please note- even during a mandatory evacuation, hotels are not required to allow pets in their facility. You need to call ahead of time and ask about their pet policy and plan accordingly.
- Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians outside of the area and in your evacuation target area to use as an emergency back up.

Make a Disaster Kit for Your Pet:

Just as you have important paperwork and key items packed in your emergency kit, your pet should too! Keep a kit, packed with essential items and paperwork, ready for your pet in case you need to leave in a hurry. Items in your kit may include:

- Medication and medical records
- Food and water (with bowls)
- A favorite toy or blanket
- A current photo
- Leashes/harness/muzzle
- Carriers for transporting
- Cat litter and litter box
- Your veterinarian's contact information

If You Evacuate, Take Your Pet!

Often, after disasters, thousands of household animals are left to fend for themselves and are lost, injured or killed. Make a plan and take your animal with you!

STAYING INFORMED DURING HURRICANE SEASON



In this day and age, it is pretty simple to stay “in the know”. BUT, are you receiving the most accurate information and is your source credible? Especially during an emergency event, the spread of disinformation is rampant. Take some time now to learn about the various options available to help you stay informed this hurricane season and throughout the year!

CEMA Alerts:

CEMA Alerts can be received as a text message or email. In rare occurrences, though, they can also be issued as a phone call to get an individual’s immediate attention. This system, powered by Rave Alert, allows you to get direct communication from the CEMA office. Alerts are issued about severe weather, major road closures, missing persons and other emergency related concerns. To register for CEMA Alert text messages, Text **CEMA** to **77295**

To register for CEMA Alerts via email, visit www.ChathamEmergency.org and click on the CEMA Alert button in the top right-hand corner of the screen. That will take you to a separate screen from Rave Alert. You will then create a username and password and set up your profile. All of the information in your profile is confidential and could be used by 911 when dispatching a call from your registered phone number. Also, when registering this way, please note that there are several lists you can opt in to including lists from the City of Savannah and Chatham County Mosquito Control. CEMA is just one of the many County and City of Savannah departments to use the Rave Alert platform.

Disaster Website:

When there is a large, active threat to our community, regular updates will be sent to our Chatham County Disaster Website: Ready.ChathamCountyGA.gov

Once we reach a certain point in the emergency event, CEMA’s website, as well as the County’s website, will automatically re-direct to the disaster site to ensure that residents are receiving the most accurate and timely information available.

This site will also contain relevant information for the County’s municipalities and other critical partners such as the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, major hospitals, the Coastal Health District and others. The idea of this website is to provide Chatham County residents a one-stop shop for all of the emergency and/or recovery information that they may need.



Social Media:

There is no denying that social media plays a large role in how our community stays informed both during a disaster and throughout the year. It is a GREAT way to stay informed! However, there are a few things to think about before choosing to receive information exclusively from your social media feeds:

1. Is the person/social media page you are receiving information from a credible source? Sample credible sources are: the National Hurricane Center, the National Weather Service, your local TV station meteorologist, etc.
2. Does this source provide you with timely and accurate information? When a storm is approaching, it can be dangerous to be looking at outdated and inaccurate information.
3. Does this source answer your questions in a timely manner? If you had a specific question or a concern about something that was shared, would you trust them to answer you appropriately?

During an emergency event, CEMA's social media pages are monitored regularly and staffed with individuals that should be able to provide you with the information you need to make informed decisions.

Find us on social media sites: **@ChathamEMA**

CEMA Phone Number:

If social media or online websites are not for you, that is just fine- we have a phone number available! If you have questions about a storm or even how to prepare before a storm strikes, feel free to give CEMA a call. Our office phone number, both during an emergency and throughout the year, is **912-201-4500**.

NOAA Weather Radio:

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24/7.

RE ENTRY TO CHATHAM COUNTY

Following an evacuation, there is an immediate desire to return to Chatham County to assess property and potential damages. However, there is a process that must be followed to ensure the safety of all of those involved.



Phase 1- Render Safe Taskforce:

Phase 1 is the initial phase of re-entry. During this phase, teams from state and local response agencies, as well as private sector utility providers, will gain access to impacted areas. The primary objective of operating personnel during this phase is to render the area safe for the first responders who will follow them to conduct life safety operations.

Phase 2- Life Safety Taskforce:

Phase 2 will consist of personnel conducting life safety operations in impacted areas. These operations include, but are not limited to: search and rescue, emergency medical services, fire suppression, hazardous materials control and containment, preliminary damage assessment, essential relief staff to critical medical facilities and immediate utility restoration to critical incident facilities.

Phase 3- Essential Public and Private Sector Personnel:

Phase 3 will consist primarily of individuals in the public and private sectors that can restore essential operations, services and commerce in support of re-entry by the general public. These systems and networks include, but are not limited to: petroleum distributors, food distributors, non-emergency medical facilities (such as dialysis centers), pharmaceutical providers, members of the media, medical facility support staff and local government essential workers.

Phase 4- Local Residents, Property and Business Owners:

Phase 4 will consist of local residents and those who own property or businesses in the impacted areas. The time-frame of this phase is dependent upon the extent of the damage caused by the hazard and the status of recovery and restoration operations in the preceding phases. During Phase 4 of re-entry, access may be limited to certain portions of impacted counties and restrictions may be in place that only allows access during daylight hours.

Residents and individuals attempting to gain access during this phase will be expected to present valid state-issued photo identification that includes an address in the impacted area; or, valid state-issued photo identification along with a property deed, recent utility bill verifying an address, current voter registration card, recent property tax statement, business credential, or pay-stub from a local business.

Phase 5- Open to Public with Limited Access:

In Phase 5, local officials will determine that a county or portions of the county are relatively safe for entrance by the general public. Restrictions may remain in place for a period of time limiting access to daylight hours.

RECOVERY RESOURCES

Damage Assessment Teams:

The Damage Assessment process is vital after a large storm. This is how we account for damages to government and private property.

Immediately following a disaster, County and City Officials will be out conducting damage assessment. The content they collect will help determine what recovery assistance the community may qualify for.

Do not approach or interfere with these officials unless they have a specific question for you as it may slow down the recovery process.



Volunteer Teams:

Volunteer teams may be in the area providing assistance. These teams will identify themselves as volunteers and will not charge you for their services. If a team attempts to charge you for their services, they are not part of a volunteer program. Be sure to ask teams if they are there to volunteer their time or if they expect payment for their services.

If you need volunteer assistance, there will be a phone number circulating for the **Crisis Cleanup Hotline**. This phone number changes with each disaster, but it is a legitimate resource. Please note that several non-profit, faith-based and volunteer organizations will use Crisis Cleanup to see who needs assistance and what the needs are in our area. Do not hesitate to call the hotline and put your needs in the system. Volunteer teams will see your request and your contact information. Please note: just because your information is entered does not guarantee that an organization will call you or provide you with assistance.

One organization that you should be familiar with prior to a storm is the **Coastal Empire Disaster Recovery Committee (CEDRC)**. CEDRC was formed in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma to help with the long term recovery needs of residents within the Coastal Empire.

The United Way of the Coastal Empire (UWCE) has created a Disaster Relief Fund for Chatham County that individuals can choose to donate to if they would like to assist residents impacted by a natural or man-made disaster. This fund is a rolling collection effort and will be available to residents with immediate needs prior to and immediately following a disaster. A local committee of emergency management, non-profit and faith-based partners will determine how funds are dispersed. To donate or to ask for assistance, please call UWCE directly.

RECOVERY RESOURCES

(Continued)

FEMA Assistance:

FEMA Assistance is never guaranteed for any storm and should **not** be used as a first resort. FEMA Assistance is broken up into Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. Public Assistance is for government agencies, non-profit organizations and Houses of Worship. FEMA's Individual Assistance is often referred to as the **Individuals and Households Program (IHP)**. This program provides financial and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster, who have uninsured or under-insured necessary expenses and serious needs. IHP assistance is not a substitute for insurance and cannot compensate for all losses caused by a disaster. The assistance is intended to meet your basic needs and **supplement** disaster recovery efforts.

IHP Assistance may include:

- Funds for temporary housing while you are unable to live in your home, such as rental assistance, or reimbursement for hotel costs
- A temporary housing unit, if approved for the disaster, when you are not able to use rental assistance due to a lack of available housing resources
- Funds to support the repair or replacement of owner-occupied homes that serve as the household's primary residence, including privately-owned access routes, such as driveways, roads, or bridges
- Funds for other uninsured or under-insured disaster-caused expenses and serious needs, such as repair or replacement of personal property and vehicles, or funds for moving and storage, medical, dental, child care, funeral, and other miscellaneous items approved by your state, territory, or tribal government
- Funds for hazard mitigation assistance to help eligible homeowners repair or rebuild stronger, more durable homes

One **Important Note**: When applying for FEMA Assistance, they may award you with a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan. If you are awarded an SBA Loan and prompted to fill out an application, you **MUST** fill out the loan application- even if you have zero interest in accepting the loan or know you will not qualify for the loan. **If you do not complete the loan application, all FEMA funding immediately stops and you will not be eligible for any additional assistance.** Fill out the application, in its entirety, to continue progressing through the services available by FEMA.

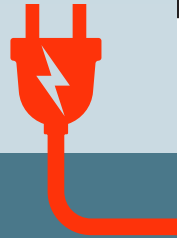
Small Business Administration (SBA):

SBA is responsible for providing affordable, timely and accessible financial assistance to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters following a disaster. Financial assistance is available in the form of low-interest, long-term loans. SBA's disaster loans are the primary form of federal assistance for the repair and rebuilding of non-farm, private sector disaster losses.

FOOD SAFETY AFTER A POWER OUTAGE



Here are some tips and tricks to help you prepare for a power outage and to stay safe afterwards.



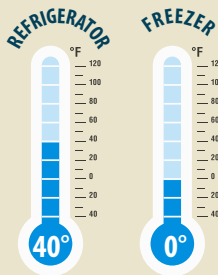
Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after the loss of power. Find out what you can do to keep food safe during a power outage, and when you need to throw away food that could make you sick.

Before

Keep appliance thermometers in your refrigerator and freezer.

The refrigerator should be at 40°F or below.

The freezer should be at 0°F or below.

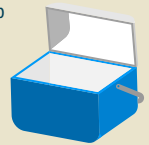


Prepare for emergencies or natural disasters



Freeze containers of water and gel packs to help keep your food at 40°F or below.

Have a cooler handy.



Buy dry ice or block ice to keep food cold in the refrigerator if the power might be out for a long time.



During

KEEP
Refrigerator
& Freezer Doors
CLOSED



4
Hours
in a
Refrigerator



48
Hours
in a
FULL
Freezer



24
Hours
in a
HALF-FULL
Freezer

After 4 hours without power, put refrigerated perishable foods in a cooler. Add ice or another cold source to keep them at 40°F or below.

After

Never taste food to determine if it is safe to eat. **When in doubt, throw it out.**



- **Throw out perishable food** in your refrigerator (meat, fish, cut fruits and vegetables, eggs, milk, and leftovers) **after 4 hours without power** or a cold source.
- Throw out any food with an **unusual odor, color, or texture.**
- **Check temperatures of food** kept in coolers or your refrigerator with a cold source. Throw out food above 40°F.
- If you have an appliance thermometer in your freezer, check to see if it is still at 40°F or below.
- You can **safely refreeze or cook** thawed frozen food **that still contains ice crystals** or is at 40°F or below.



www.cdc.gov/foodsafety

SEPARATING STORM DEBRIS

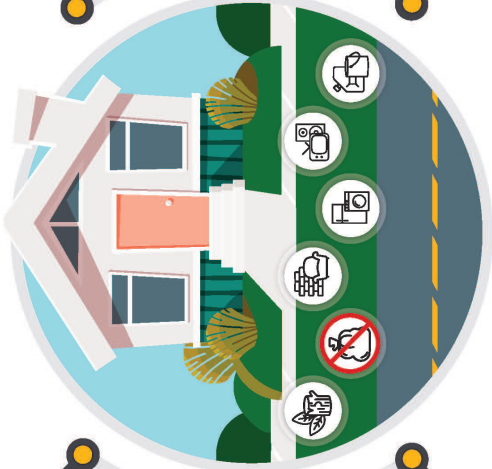
Separate storm debris into the SIX CATEGORIES shown here.

NORMAL HOUSEHOLD TRASH

Normal household waste, recyclables and bagged debris of any kind will **NOT** be collected with storm debris. You should continue to follow your normal garbage removal schedule.



PLACE ALL STORM DEBRIS CURBSIDE



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- CLEANING SUPPLIES
- BATTERIES
- LAWN CHEMICALS
- OILS
- PESTICIDES
- OIL-BASED PAINTS & STAINS
- POOL CHEMICALS
- VARNISHES
- SOLVENTS



VEGETATIVE DEBRIS

- VEGETATION **(DO NOT PUT IN BAGS)**
- LOGS
- PLANTS
- TREE BRANCHES



ELECTRONIC WASTE

- COMPUTERS
- RADIOS
- STEREOS
- TELEVISIONS
- OTHER DEVICES



CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS

- BUILDING MATERIALS
- CARPET
- DRYWALL
- FURNITURE
- LUMBER
- MATTRESSES
- PLUMBING
- GYPSUM WALLBOARD
- GLASS
- METAL
- TILE
- FLOOR/WINDOW COVERINGS
- PIPE



APPLIANCES & WHITE GOODS

- AIR CONDITIONERS
- DISHWASHERS
- FREEZERS
- REFRIGERATORS
- STOVES
- WASHERS & DRYERS
- WATER HEATERS
- HEAT PUMPS



NO PICKUP ZONE

Any debris placed from the sidewalk toward your property will **NOT** be picked up.



DO NOT STACK OR LEAN!

Placing debris near or on trees, poles, mailboxes, fire hydrants, utility boxes or other structures makes removal difficult.



UNSURE WHERE TO PLACE DEBRIS?

If you don't have a sidewalk in front of your house, place storm debris at the edge of your property before the curb. Do **NOT** block the roadway or storm drains.



Chatham Emergency Management Agency

Director: Dennis Jones

www.ChathamEmergency.org

www.Ready.ChathamCountyGA.gov

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912-201-4500