



Georgetown County

# Hurricane Preparedness Guide

## Georgetown County EMD

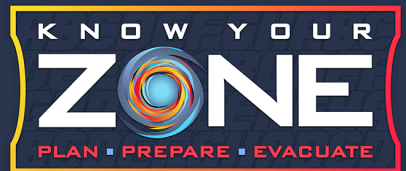
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[emergencymanagement@gtcounty.org](mailto:emergencymanagement@gtcounty.org)





# HURRICANE CATEGORIES



**WIND**  
74-95 mph  
**DAMAGE**  
Dangerous winds will produce some damage.



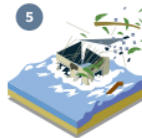
**WIND**  
96-110 mph  
**DAMAGE**  
Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage.



**WIND**  
111-129 mph  
**DAMAGE**  
Devastating damage will occur.



**WIND**  
130-156 mph  
**DAMAGE**  
Catastrophic damage will occur.



**WIND**  
157 mph or higher  
**DAMAGE**  
Catastrophic damage will occur.



# WATCH VS. WARNING

## TROPICAL STORM WATCH

Tropical storm conditions with sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph are **possible** within the specified area within 48 hours.

## TROPICAL STORM WARNING

Tropical storm conditions with sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph are **expected** within the specified area within 36 hours.

## HURRICANE WATCH

Hurricane conditions with sustained winds of 74 or higher are **possible** within the specified area within 48 hours.

## HURRICANE WARNING

Hurricane conditions with sustained winds of 74 or higher are **expected** within the specified area within 36 hours.

## STORM SURGE WATCH

Life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline is **possible** within 48 hours.

## STORM SURGE WARNING

Life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline is **expected** within 36 hours.

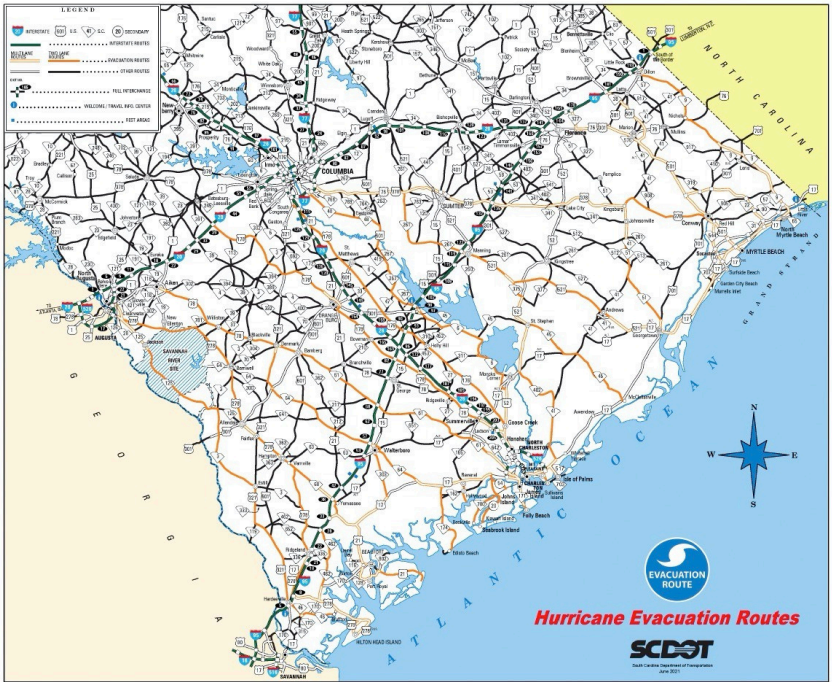
## EXTREME WIND WARNING

Surface winds of 115 mph or greater associated with a major hurricane are expected to begin within one hour.



# EVACUATION ACTIONS

- **KNOW** where you will go for safety.
- **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.



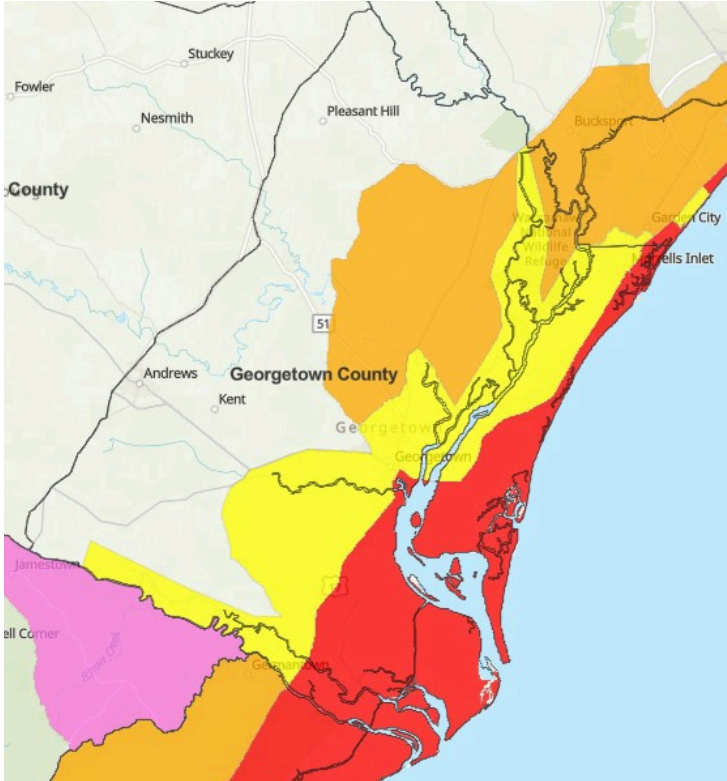
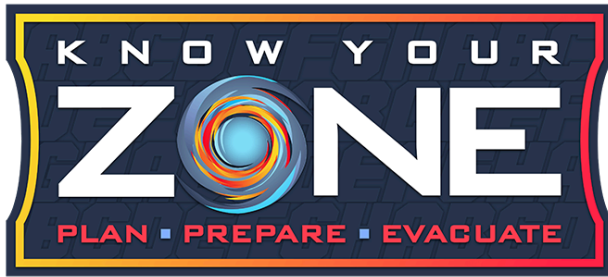
## GEORGETOWN COUNTY EVACUATION ROUTES

The evacuating population in Georgetown County utilizes one primary evacuation route. Evacuees will take **US 17** south through Georgetown, take the **US 521** to **SC 261** to **US 378** to Columbia.

Under certain conditions, an alternate route from Georgetown will utilize **Black River Road** to **US 701** to **SC 51** to **SC 41** to **US 378** at Kingsburg.

For additional information about hurricane evacuation routes, download the SCDOT 511 mobile app.





**GEORGETOWN COUNTY HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONES**

**EVACUATION ZONE A**

Areas east of US Highway 17 from the Charleston County to Horry County.

**EVACUATION ZONE B**

Areas east of Powell Road and US Highway 521 to Brick Chimney Road to North Fraser Street to Choppee Road to Plantersville Road and all low-lying areas along and east of the Waccamaw River, Great Pee Dee River, and Black River to US Highway 17.

**EVACUATION ZONE C**

Areas north and east of Johnson Road to Dunbar Road to Rose Hill Road to Choppee Road to Carvers Bay Road to Pleasant Hill Drive to North Fraser Street to Horry County and areas west of Plantersville Road to Choppee Road to Brick Chimney Road.



## EMERGENCY SHELTERING



### WHERE TO GO

Have a plan of where you will go if an evacuation is ordered where you live. Consider staying with family and friends outside of the ordered evacuation zone(s), or at an inland hotel. Emergency shelter locations will be announced in conjunction with evacuation orders to ensure that the most appropriate shelters are opened based on the impending storm.

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

Emergency shelters may not have cots, blankets, and other amenities for every person until after hurricane conditions subside. Some food will be provided, but specialty foods for infants and people on restricted diets may not be available. If you plan to go to an evacuation shelter, bring all items in your disaster supply kit, along with certain comfort items that you may need.



## RETURNING HOME

### RETURN HOME ONLY AFTER LOCAL AUTHORITIES ADVISE IT IS SAFE

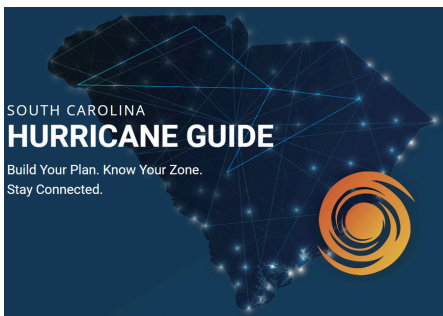
If you have evacuated, some areas may be inaccessible even after the official evacuation order is rescinded. Stay tuned to your local radio and TV stations, and monitor social media for reentry and recovery information.

Once you return home, consider the following:

- Avoid downed and sagging power lines.
- Be aware of driving restrictions.
- Enter your home with caution.
- Photograph damages to assist with filing insurance claims.
- Inspect your utilities for damage.
- Monitor local radio, TV, and social media for further information.
- Contact your relatives and let them know you are home.



## VIRTUAL PREPAREDNESS



### HURRICANE.SC

The hurricane.sc website is an interactive platform that has been developed in coordination with state, federal, local and volunteer agencies, including the S.C. Department of Public Safety, S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs, Clemson University Extension Service, the S.C. Department of Insurance, National Weather Service, S.C. Broadcasters Association, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Federal Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross, S.C. Department of Transportation, and others.

This website allows you to identify your hurricane evacuation zone and get started with your hurricane preparedness planning through an online platform that is readily available at your fingertips.



## PET PREPAREDNESS

### PET PREPAREDNESS IS AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR PREPAREDNESS

Your pets are important family members who need to be included in your emergency plan. When preparing your pets for hurricane season, consider the following:

- Emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Find out which motels and hotels outside of evacuation zones allow pets well in advance.
- Include pet food, bottled water, a carrier, medications, food/water dishes, a pet first aid kit, vaccination records, and other supplies needed.
- Make sure your pet has proper identification tags with your contact information, and have your pet chipped in the event that they become lost.
- Make sure to pack a leash or harness to keep your pet secure.
- Utilize [petswelcome.com](http://petswelcome.com) to identify pet friendly hotels near your evacuation destination.



## INSURANCE CHECKLIST

### REVIEW YOUR INSURANCE POLICY BEFORE THE STORM

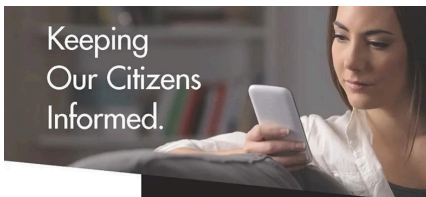
It is important to review your insurance policy so that you know if you have adequate coverage before the storm. When reviewing your insurance policy, consider the following:

- Understand the difference between **REPLACEMENT COST** and **CASH VALUE**.
- Know your policy's deductibles and the procedures for notifying your insurance company about damaged or destroyed property.
- Remember: a standard homeowners or renters policy does **NOT** cover flood damage; you must purchase a separate flood insurance policy. Visit [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov) for more information.
- Make a property inventory list of valuables, furniture, electronics, etc. Take pictures of your property to have a visual record of your belongings.
- If you do evacuate, be sure to bring your important documents with you.
- When a hurricane or tropical storm is imminent, remove outdoor objects such as garbage cans and lawn furniture that winds may blow around. Protect door and window openings with storm shutters.



## EMERGENCY ALERTS

### HAVE MULTIPLE WAYS TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY ALERTS



Everyone should have multiple ways to receive emergency alerts that can tell you what's happening and what you need to do. The following options are available to receive emergency alerts in Georgetown County:

- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WES) on your mobile devices
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Local broadcast TV and radio
- @GCEDM and @SCEDM social media platforms

If you'd like additional public safety notifications, you can register for CodeRED alerts from the Georgetown County Emergency Management Division. You can select what types of alerts to receive and by what method, including text message, voice phone call, or email.



### REGISTER FOR CODERED ALERTS!

Sign up for the CodeRED notification system to receive alerts and updates during emergency events.

All citizens and businesses are encouraged to register.

To register for CodeRED alerts for free, visit [gtcounty.org/gcedm](http://gtcounty.org/gcedm).





## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT



South Carolina Hurricane Guide



Portable radio and extra batteries



First Aid Kit  
(including prescription medications)



NOAA Weather Radio



Flashlight(s) with extra batteries



Cash and coins



Mobile device chargers



Bottled water  
(2 gallons per person, per day)



Plastic dishes and utensils



Bedding and 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, and other  
personal hygiene items



Sunglasses, mosquito repellent,  
sunscreen



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



Toothbrush and toothpaste



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### [gtcounty.org/gcemd](https://gtcounty.org/gcemd)

The official webpage for the Georgetown County Emergency Management Division.

### [scemd.org](https://scemd.org)

The official webpage for the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

### [hurricane.sc](https://hurricane.sc)

A virtual platform dedicated to hurricane preparedness in South Carolina.

### **SC Emergency Manager App**

The official app of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, designed for users to build their own emergency plan, inventory supplies, and stay informed with emergency information. Available in both the Apple App Store and Google Play.

### **@GCEMD on social media**

Follow Georgetown County Emergency Management on Facebook and X using the handle @GCEMD

### [nhc.noaa.gov](https://nhc.noaa.gov)

The official webpage for the National Hurricane Center.