

Coosaw Creek Community Residents



Disaster Preparedness Guide 2023

See <https://coosawcreek.com/communications/> for any updates and recent details

Community Emergency Response Teams

- First Aid & Triage
- Firefighting & Safety
- Light Duty Search & Rescue
- Utility Cut-Off Procedures
- Disaster Operations & Psychology
- Counter-Terrorism.....etc



Personal Preparedness

- Family/ Business Plan with Out of Town Contacts, Phone Numbers, Meeting Place(s), Pet Plan
- Important Papers, Medicines, Cell Phone, Chargers
- Cash Money /Traveler's Checks
- Personal Hygiene Supplies
- Change of Clothes
- Food-Water-Rx for 7-9 Days
- Games, Chargers for Children
- Maps of Evac Routes
- Other.... For Total Independence



<http://www.dorchestercounty.net/EOC.html>
www.Ready.gov

Coosaw Creek Community Residents Disaster Preparedness Guide

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Coosaw Creek Community Residents Disaster Preparedness Guide

Synopsis

Disasters are serious disruptions to the functioning of a community that exceed its capacity to cope using its own resources. This document focuses primarily on hurricanes and earthquakes. Since we are in the “Lowcountry”, not that much above sea level, flooding and high winds are severe issues whether associated with these specific disasters or not.

The Disaster Preparedness Committee is focused on Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.

To alleviate a potential issue, we want to point out that residents should have the proper insurance and a video or photographs of their home prior to any disaster.

While we can't stop a hurricane or an earthquake, we want you to be prepared and geared up for how to deal with potential issues. **Residents in our community should be prepared with:**

- **provisions to last 7-10 days**
- **a full tank of gas**
- **Video clips/photographs of home and contents**

And, once we are past the immediate disaster, we need a unified approach to recovery.

The residents should know we have a community preparedness organization that includes:

- **Block Captains**
- **Trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**
- **Emergency Response Center (ERC)**
- **List of Volunteers with Emergency Technical Expertise**

If it is necessary to evacuate this guide offers:

- Safety Tips
- Evacuation Tips
- Ramifications if you don't follow an evacuation order
- Tips for Recovery and Repairs

In addition to the aforementioned, this guide is chock-full of reference material:

- South Carolina Laws
- State Home Grants
- Federal Flood Insurance Programs
- Mobile Apps
- Handy Web Links
- Important Checklists

Historical Data

Coosaw Creek Community residents should be fully aware of devastating disasters that occurred on the Charleston Peninsula including the Charleston Earthquake of 1886 and Hurricane Hugo in 1989; the latter left Tri-county area residents without power, water, cooking gas, gasoline for vehicles and generators for longer than three weeks. Coosaw Creek sits very near the Middleton Plantation - Summerville earthquake fault line which resulted in four small earthquakes in September 2021 alone. During the past five years, our area has suffered hail, tropical storm winds, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, additional small earthquakes, and many close calls.

Resident-Homeowner Recommendations

It is important for the residents of Coosaw Creek to be prepared for an emergency. The Disaster Preparedness framework includes a fourfold approach: **Mitigation, Preparation, Response, and Recovery.**

Mitigation

Taking the time to consider insurance and available assistance before a disaster strikes can make a profound difference during the recovery phase after an event. Extensive details listing valuable SC and Federal credits and programs can be found in Appendix A: Homeowners Mitigation and Insurance. Evaluate if you should have flood insurance for your property and assess the deductions of your current home insurance for hail, wind, and earthquake damage.

Preparation

The Coosaw Creek Disaster Preparedness Organization consists of Block Captains, trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Volunteers, an Emergency Response Center, and a list of volunteers with technical expertise. These volunteers are constantly working to help the community prepare and respond to emergent situations. Our community also has emergency response assets consisting of a disaster trailer, medical supplies, generators, and radios for internal and external communications with the local government emergency services.

The Property Owners Association (POA) leadership has consistently stated to homeowners: “Due to the high potential for disasters, local emergency services normally provided by the City of North Charleston, including Police, Fire Protection Services, EMS (Dorchester County) may be disrupted and overloaded. Coosaw Creek could be blocked by downed trees, downed power lines, or flood conditions that preclude access to road nets. Utilities, including electric, gas, telephone and cell towers could be disrupted for weeks not days.”

Homeowners are responsible for dialing 911 if telephone communications exist or have been restored.

Therefore, since 2004, Coosaw Creek has the expectation that residents should be self-sufficient for 7-9 days. If you do not evacuate and stay in your home, you must have sufficient food, water, and medicines. So, make plans!

The South Carolina Emergency Kit Checklist provided in Appendix C is the best around.

It is worth the reading and taking heed!

As part of the Preparation efforts, it is imperative that you get to know your Block Captain and ensure that the Block Captain's request for information is completed in a timely manner. See the Block Captain section of this Preparedness Guide.

Response

You and your family's response to an imminent hurricane may be triggered by a mandatory evacuation order or a sudden natural disaster. Safety considerations are paramount. Do not put yourself or others in your family in harm's way. **If you even think your actions may NOT be safe, then DON'T do it.**

If there is an emergency during a disaster response phase, your first responsibility is to call 911 for any incident that warrants emergency assistance. In the event 911 or your cellphones do not work, when it is safe, contact your Block Captain. They are the direct link to the Coosaw Creek Emergency Response Center.

In the event of a mandatory evacuation, ***the security guards will not be on duty*** until it is deemed

The Evacuation Route for Zone E residents is SC642 (Dorchester Road), Old Orangeburg Highway (SC22) – US 78. (Note: An Alternate Evacuation Route used by Coosaw residents during the last three Hurricane evacuations leverages SC61 (Ashley River Road).

safe for their return. Make sure to lock and secure your property prior to evacuating.

The SCDOT Evacuation map can be found here:

<https://www.scdot.org/travel/travel-emergencyresponse.aspx>

Evacuation Preparedness Actions:

- Bring loose, lightweight objects (e.g., patio furniture and garbage cans) inside that could become projectiles in high winds. Anchor objects that are unsafe to bring inside (e.g., propane tanks).
- Cover all windows by installing permanent storm shutters. Another option is to board up windows with 5/8" exterior grade or marine plywood, pre-cut to fit and ready to install.
- Restock and ensure your Disaster Supply and First Aid kits are complete.
- Turn the refrigerator or freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. The food will last longer during a power outage. Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator to check the temperature when the power is restored.
- Keep operating generators and other alternate power/heat sources outside, at least 20 feet from windows, protected from moisture. Never try to power the house wiring by plugging a generator into a wall outlet.
- Take a video clip of your home interior and exterior prior to any disaster to facilitate insurance claims during the Recovery Phase.

- Fully charge all cell phones, computers/ iPads, flashlights, and radios.
- Keep a full tank of gas in your vehicles.
- Gather your personal Emergency Disaster Packet containing your important documents.
- Wear sturdy shoes, long sleeve shirts, long pants, and a cap.
- Secure your home: Close and lock all windows and doors.
- Unplug electrical equipment TV, Radio, Computers etc.
- Let Block Captains know your plans.
- Leave early to avoid being trapped and follow recommended evacuation routes.
- Do not drive into flooded areas and stay away from downed power lines.

Power Lines Safety Considerations

There are High Voltage Transmission Lines (up to 34,500 volts) and 220-volt Secondary Wires within Coosaw Creek running parallel to both East and West Fairway Woods Dr crossing Club Course Drive. A partial or total collapse of these towers or poles is a serious threat to homeowners and our community's ability to respond to medical and infrastructure emergencies.

Thus, Caution: DO Not Walk or Drive Within 100 Feet of Downed Power Lines. Wet Ground and Asphalt Increases Conductivity and Can Electrocute You.

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Evacuation Tips:

- When you decide, or it becomes necessary to evacuate, local officials will provide information through the news channels, social media (Facebook, Twitter), plus Dorchester County and City of North Charleston websites and their associated mobile apps. The amount of time you have to leave will depend on the expected hazard. See Appendix B.
- The POA closely monitors local conditions and will also issue timely communications on evacuation plans.
- Pre-plan primary and alternate routes. Become familiar with roads parallel to primary evacuation routes. Carry these road/evacuation route maps with you.
- When I-26 Lanes are reversed, access to the I-26 westbound will be available at Exit 197.
- If an evacuation is likely, leave as soon as possible and preferably during daylight hours. Evacuation may take longer than expected so allow extra time to reach your destination.
- Avoid traveling near low-lying areas after heavy rainfall.
- Evacuation route maps, I-26 Lane Reversal information, and other important evacuation guidance can be found on the [SC Department of Public Safety](#) web, listed in Appendix B.
- Traffic information can be found by dialing 5-1-1. During an evacuation or other declared emergency, the SC Department of Transportation may activate a toll-free number for traffic and road conditions.
- Electronic message boards along evacuation routes may direct motorists to tune into a local AM radio station for route-specific traffic information and other emergency-related messages.
- The Comfort Stations at rest areas and weigh stations in Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, and Orangeburg Counties are supplied with extra portable toilets and bottled water during mandatory evacuations.

- **If you do not comply with the SC Governor’s Mandatory Evacuation Orders, “you are at your own risk,” and if you ask for help – you should expect that it will be on a basis of:**
 - **if we have the assets,**
 - **that the assets will not be placed at risk, and**
 - **if there are no other higher priorities.**
- Note: There is an area-wide directive that at sustained 45 mph hour winds, the bridges will be closed and, Police/Fire/EMS personnel are to shelter in place.
- Aside from designated shelters in Dorchester County, the State of South Carolina, media, and the Red Cross will communicate where appropriate shelters are available.

Recovery

Your insurance company app on your cell phone will facilitate the recovery process! If you suffer property loss in your home or vehicle, contact your insurance agent or company as soon as possible to arrange a visit from an adjuster.

Before doing any repairs to your home, photograph/video clip and make a list of the damage.

Other recommended actions are as follows:

- Make temporary repairs only. Until you get advice from your insurance company, protect your home from further damage by making temporary repairs only. Save any receipts for materials purchased for repairs.
- Agree on the cost of permanent repairs. Do not have permanent repairs made until your insurance company has inspected your property, and you have reached an agreement on the cost of repairs.
- Consider renting shelter. If necessary, rent temporary shelter. If your home is uninhabitable, most homeowner’s policies pay additional living expenses while your property is being repaired. Before renting temporary shelter, check with your insurance company or agent to determine what expenses will be reimbursed.
- Check your policy before hiring tree removal services. Damage to your home or surrounding structures resulting from fallen trees is most likely covered by your homeowner’s policy. Check with your agent or company before calling a tree removal service, as removal costs may also be covered.
- Determine whether your auto insurance policy covers damage from fallen trees or debris. Your insurance company may cover this kind of damage if you have comprehensive coverage. Check with your agent to determine whether your vehicle is covered.

If you need assistance with your insurer, the SC Department of Insurance is willing to assist. Contact the Department via telephone at (803) 737-6160 or visit the Department’s website, www.doi.sc.gov.

Block Captains

The Coosaw Creek Block Captain positions fill an absolutely vital and valued role in the community. They are the critical communications link between homeowners-residents and the Community Emergency Response Center. They ensure that homeowners have all the

information for potential disasters, distribute updates via E- Mail and text messages, and when

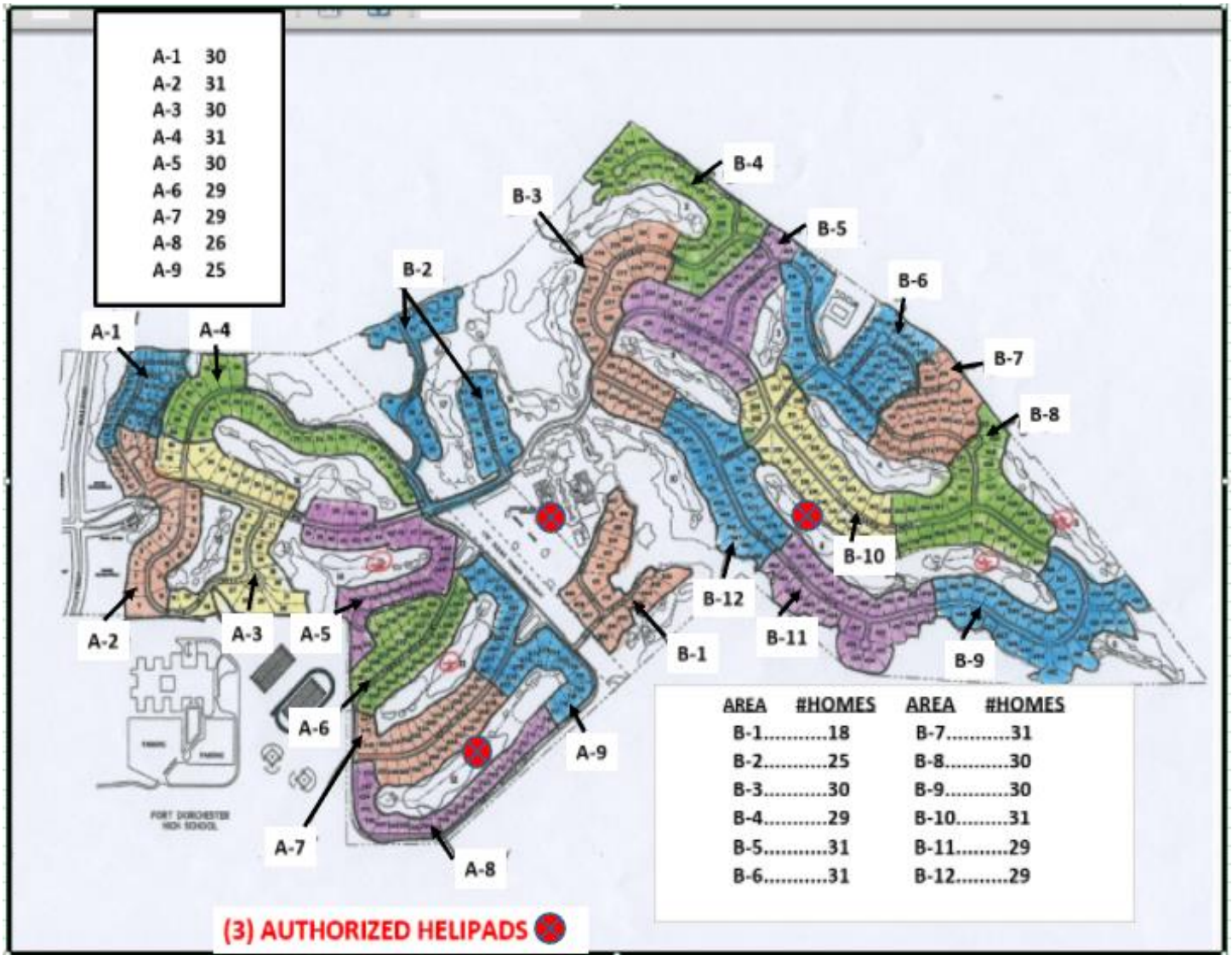
**Know your Block Area
and
know your Block Captain. See updated list on Coosaw Web site**

incidents do occur, assess, report, and marshal resources to help their neighbors.

Upon moving into the community, your area’s Block Captain will send you a Questionnaire with information that may be useful before or during a disaster.

Block Areas Map

Twenty-one Block Captain areas have been designated as shown in the map below.



Appendix A: Homeowner’s Mitigation and Insurance

One of the most important things a homeowner can do is to carry appropriate Property Insurance to cover Wind, Hail, Flood, Water/Sewage Backups, and Earthquakes and be aware of the various State of South Carolina laws and programs to mitigate potential losses, facilitate repairs,

We encourage video clips of your home and room-by-room contents to help the damage assessment and recovery process.

and recover quickly from disaster events. Insurance coverage is a personal responsibility! The following publicly available information is being provided to assist you in your disaster preparations.

South Carolina Law

(Omnibus Coastal Property Insurance Act of 2007, codified as S.C. Code Sec. 38-73-1095; Bulletin 2007-05; Bulletin 2007-15; Bulletin 2007-16; Competitive Insurance Act of 2014; Bulletin 2014-08) In Bulletin 2007-15, the SC Director of Insurance stated that insurers shall include discounts for any fixtures or construction techniques that comply with the minimum requirements of the SC Safe Home Program, IBHS Fortified Homes for Safer Living, International Building, or the International Residential Code. The fixtures or construction techniques shall include, but not be limited to, fixtures that enhance roof strength, roof covering performance, roof-to-wall strength, wall-to-floor foundation strength, opening protection, and wind, door, and skylight strength.

SC Department of Insurance Programs

SC Homeowners Mitigation Credits: South Carolina Homeowners Mitigation Credits law requires insurers to offer premium discounts for mitigation measures that strengthen coastal homes and businesses against damage from hurricanes. These discounts, which are typically referred to as mitigation credits, must be offered on the portion of the premium attributable to wind losses. Because state law does not specify the amount of the discounts or credits that insurers must offer, the amount and range of premium savings from mitigation credits can vary significantly from one insurer to another. In spring 2016, the South Carolina Department of Insurance (SC DOI) surveyed property insurers to prepare this guide for coastal homeowners. It includes a list detailing the maximum credit offered for each mitigation measure by reporting insurer. This guide also includes a summary of what coastal homeowners are realizing in premium savings currently (“Average Savings Realized”) and the largest discount a coastal homeowner can expect to be offered, on average, across all reporting insurers (“Max. Credits Available”).

Homeowners with storm shutters are saving an average of 8% on their annual insurance premiums. Depending upon the type installed, insurers offer discounts up to 12% for hurricane-rated storm shutters Average Savings Realized



maximum. Available credits are as shown on the pictorial, depending on the Homeowners Insurance Policy.

Especially noteworthy are the mitigation discounts by each licensed insurer for Storm Shutters, Roof Tie-Downs, Impact Resistant Glass, Openings, Wall-to-Floor Strength, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS), SC SafeHome. It pays to shop!

<https://doi.sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9573/Homeowners-Mitigation-Credits---Brochure-Sept-2016?bidId>

South Carolina Market Assist Program: The market assistance program offered by the SC Department of Insurance, helps homeowners find insurance coverage by connecting them with agents and companies. You may view a list of agents and companies participating at <https://doi.sc.gov/599/Insurance-Locator>

Note: this is a worthwhile activity because deductibles and the cost of specific policy riders vary between insurers, in some cases substantially. Further, the SC Department of Insurance monitors insurance market conduct after a major disaster and the department is where to look for assistance if problems arise with insurers licensed by them in the State of South Carolina.

SC Catastrophe Savings Accounts (CSA): Catastrophe Savings Accounts allow South Carolina residents to prepare for the financial impact of a catastrophic storm and save on South Carolina income taxes. Establishing a Catastrophe Savings Account (CSA) can help you pay for your deductible and other out-of-pocket costs. Similar to health savings accounts, the money can be set aside, state income tax-free, and used in the future to pay for qualified catastrophe expenses that result from a hurricane, flood, or windstorm event that has been declared an emergency by the Governor. Qualified catastrophe expenses include payment of insurance deductibles and other uninsured risks of loss from hurricane, rising floodwaters or other catastrophic windstorm event damage. Any South Carolina resident that owns a single-family residence (e.g., house, townhouse) qualifying as a legal residence for SC property tax purposes can contribute to a CSA.

CSA contribution limits depend on your insurance deductible: If deductible is less than or equal to \$1,000... you can contribute up to \$2,000; If deductible is more than \$1,000... you can contribute the lesser of \$15,000 or twice the deductible; and, for those who self-insure... you can contribute up to a max. of \$250,000, but the amount may not exceed the value of the home.

Catastrophe Savings Accounts can be established at a state or federally chartered bank. The money can only be held in an interest-bearing account. The money that is placed in SC Catastrophe Savings Accounts (must be labeled as such) and the annual interest earnings are not subject to state income taxation if left in the account or used for qualified catastrophe expenses. However, the amounts cannot be used to reduce federal income. Withdrawals for any purchase other than a qualified catastrophe expense are treated as ordinary income and taxed accordingly at the state level. Specific Details of this program are at found at

<https://doi.sc.gov/636/Catastrophe-Savings-Accounts>. Your CPA can help you navigate details, such as tax withdrawals upon attaining the age of 72 ½.

South Carolina Safe Home Grant: This program provides matching and non-matching grant funds to help coastal property owners retrofit their homes to make them more resistant to hurricane and high-wind damage. The funds provided by this program are for the sole purpose

of retrofitting owner-occupied, single-family homes. SC Safe Home funds may not be used for remodeling, home repair, or new construction. Grant awards are based on the total annual adjusted gross household income of the applicant. Grant awards are limited to \$5,000.00 with Matching and Non-Matching Grants as depicted below:

Matching Grants \$4,000
 Non-matching Grants \$5,000

To help applicants determine their estimated grant award, the South Carolina Department of Insurance has provided an award estimator.

The Following Retrofits Are Allowable Under the SC Safe Home Grant Program

Bracing gable ends	Roof-to-wall connectors	Secondary water barrier
Exterior doors (including garage doors)	Roof covering	Repair or replacement of manufactured home piers, anchors, and tie-down straps
Opening protection (window replacement, hurricane shutters)	Roof deck attachment	Issues associated with weak trusses, studs, and structural components

Further information and the current grant cycle is available at <https://doi.sc.gov/605/SC-Safe-Home>. You may also call SC DOI at (803) 737-6087 or email scsafehome@doi.sc.gov

SC Tax Credits for Fortification Measures: South Carolinians are incentivized to protect against damage that could be caused before a hurricane or catastrophic event occurs. There are two state income tax credits available to help offset the costs of mitigation to one’s legal residence. Together, they are known as Tax Credits for Fortification Measures.

A Tax Credit for Retrofit Project Costs is available to help offset some of the costs incurred in a qualified fortification project such as labor and material costs. The maximum tax credit in any taxable year is limited to 25% of the total costs incurred or \$1,000, whichever is less. A tax credit for retrofit supplies allows SC taxpayers a credit of up to \$1,500 against the state sales or use taxes paid on purchases of tangible personal property used in a qualified fortification project. Fortification measures or retrofits must increase the structural resistance to hurricane, rising floodwaters, or other catastrophic windstorm event damage. Fortification projects must be to the South Carolina taxpayer’s legal residence. Qualified fortification projects include:

- roof covering construction,
- roof attachment,
- roof-to-wall connections,
- secondary water resistance, and
- opening protections.

Qualifying projects must follow prescribed standards as outlined in the SC Safe Home Resource Document for Mitigation Techniques.

For more information, visit the South Carolina Department of Insurance State Income Tax Credit for Fortification Measures website <https://doi.sc.gov/593/State-Income-Tax-Credit-for-Fortificatio>. You may also call (803) 737-6160 or email info@doi.sc.gov.

Federal Flood Insurance Program

Since we have a portion of our Coosaw Creek community that is adjacent to wetlands and lowlands, residents should look at and leverage their insurers and the federal flood insurance programs. The Federal Government, through FEMA, administers the National Flood Insurance Program.

The Program aims to reduce the impact of flooding on private and public structures. It does so by providing affordable insurance to property owners, and by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. For more information, visit www.FloodSmart.gov. You can only purchase flood insurance through an insurance agent or an insurer participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). You cannot buy it directly from the NFIP. If your insurance agent does not sell flood insurance, you can contact the NFIP Referral Call Center at 1-800-427-4661 to request an agent referral or email Insurance-Advocate@fema.dhs.gov.

Note: we also recommend you shop around and bundle.



Assessing and Lowering the Cost of Homeowner Insurance

The cost of home insurance can be expensive – especially if one insures for all perils such as wind, hail, flood, earthquake, and water/sewage backups. Below are some proven tips that can help the pocketbook:

- Place all your insurance coverages with one insurer to access multi-policy discounts.
- Shop around with other carriers using the SC Insurance Department's [Market Assistance Program](#)
- Consider increasing your deductible or reducing contents coverage on wind and hail policy.
- Make certain that policy limits reflect the actual cost of rebuilding.
- Implement mitigation techniques, such as enhanced roofing systems, hurricane shutters, gable-end bracing etc.

Appendix B: SC EMD List of Websites and Mobile Apps for Emergencies

Note: The list below of free mobile applications is provided to assist you with disaster preparedness. SCEMD does not endorse or promote any specific product. It is recommended that you test mobile apps before a disaster occurs to find the best ones that works for you.

Mobile devices can be lifelines following disasters as extreme weather and other major disasters can disrupt communication channels. Your mobile devices could be tools to keep in touch with family, as well as with response and recovery efforts. Make sure to keep devices fully charged.

Further, you can:

- *Create a texting phone tree.* Create a network of contacts, so you can reach them quickly after any sort of extreme weather. Texting may be the only available form of communication. You can also check to see if text alerts are available through businesses and government agencies.
- *Utilize mobile banking apps.* Use mobile banking apps during power outages and when ATMs aren't accessible.
- *Take advantage of insurance apps.* Many insurance companies allow their customers to file claims using their smartphones to quickly start the recovery process.
- *Have a car phone charger and spare phone battery.* If power is out for an extended period, your car will be a valuable source of energy.
- *Have a backup.* During a large-scale disaster, it is possible that mobile networks can become overloaded or non-operational. Have a backup such as battery-powered or hand-crank NOAA weather radio.



SC Emergency Manager app: *Android and iPhone.* The official app of SCEMD. It is designed for users to build their own emergency plans, to keep track of supplies and to stay connected to loved ones. In addition, coastal residents can now “Know Your Zone” instantly using the maps feature as well as locate the nearest emergency shelters when they are open. The tools section features a flashlight, locator whistle, and the ability to report damage to emergency officials. The SC Emergency Manager can function without the need of a data connection, which is useful when basic utilities are offline.

Additional SCEMD Websites:

Citizens with Functional Needs

<https://www.scemd.org/prepare/your-emergency-plan/family-disaster-plan/citizens-with-functional-needs/>

Earthquake Guide

<https://www.scemd.org/stay-informed/publications/earthquake-guide/>

Hurricane Guide

<https://scemd.org/stay-informed/publications/hurricane-guide/>

Individual Recovery Guide

<https://www.scemd.org/recover/>

Pet Planning

<https://scemd.org/prepare/your-emergency-plan/pet-planning/>



Traffic Conditions from SCDOT app: *Android and iPhone.* Secure real-time traffic and state roadway conditions from the South Carolina Department of Transportation.



FEMA app: *Android and iPhone.* The FEMA App contains disaster safety tips, interactive lists for storing your emergency kit and emergency meeting location information, and a map with open shelters and open FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs).

National Weather Service: The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. <https://www.weather.gov/contact/weatherreadynation/wea.html>

American Red Cross: When a hurricane or earthquake drives people from their homes, the American Red Cross steps in to provide shelter. The Red Cross also has several apps for various disasters and first aid. If you find yourself in need of shelter, visit <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter.html>

Red Cross Hurricane Preparation Guide

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane.html>



CPR & First Aid app: *Android and iPhone.* For an adult victim of cardiac arrest, the American Heart Association now recommends hands-only CPR. The official Hands-Only CPR app walks you through the two-step checklist: Call 911, start chest compressions. There's a (brief) video showing you how to restart that heart.

Additionally, for \$1.99, AHA's Pocket First Aid & CPR includes the same CPR info along with first aid advice for all sorts of situations.



Dropbox app: *Android and iPhone.* Cloud storage for your important documents. Install the program on your PC or Mac, upload files to your folder, and they are instantly available on all your other computers. With the mobile app, everything can be found on your mobile devices as well.



GasBuddy: *Android and iPhone.* GasBuddy uses your GPS to display up-to-the-minute gas prices near you.

Many smartphones today have a built-in flashlight with adjustable brightness. However, here are two other apps that turn your phone's camera LED flashbulb into a flashlight.

Brightest Flashlight Free *Android*

Flashlight by Rik *iPhone*



Life360: *Android and iPhone.* A smartphone can be a personal GPS tracking device with this app. Life360 will show you where they are, right now, on a map. The family GPS tracking system can help you find your loved ones anywhere, get safety alerts to them, or call for help with the tap of a button. It also provides neighborhood safety monitoring.

Local Government Websites



Everbridge: *Android and iPhone.* Dorchester County utilizes this app to provide geographically targeted emergency notifications.

Alternatively, sign up here: <https://member.everbridge.net/431700047822969/login>

Dorchester County Public Safety Page

<https://www.dorchestercountysc.gov/government/public-safety>

Sign up for emails from Dorchester County here:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/SCDORCHESTER/subscriber/new>

City of North Charleston Emergency Preparedness Page

<https://www.northcharleston.org/government/police/emergency-preparedness/>

Sign up for emails from the City of North Charleston on the right side of the page here:

<https://www.northcharleston.org/government/police/emergency-preparedness/>



South Carolina Emergency Management Division

Office of the Adjutant General

2779 Fish Hatchery Road, West Columbia, S.C. 29172

Contact: Joe Farmer and Derrec Becker Phone: 803-737-8500 Fax: 803-737-8570

EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

It is important to keep enough supplies in your home to meet the needs of your family for at least three days. Assemble a Family Emergency Kit with items you may need in an emergency or evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as suitcases, duffle bags or covered storage containers.

Include at a minimum:

- Water**, two gallons of water per person per day for at least seven days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food**, at least a 7-9-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit**
- Whistle to signal for help
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Family emergency contact information
- Cash or traveler's checks and change

Additional items to consider include:

- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Fire extinguisher
- Multipurpose tool
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Duct tape
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children

Water:

- Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles or plastic milk jugs. Avoid using containers that will break, such as glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers and ill people will need more.
- Store two gallons of water per person per day (one gallon for drinking, one gallon for food preparation/sanitation)

- Keep at least a seven-day supply of water for each person in your household.

Food:

- Store at least a seven-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, little preparation or cooking and little or no water. Select food items that are compact and lightweight.
- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables
- Canned juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water)
- Staples--sugar, salt, pepper
- High energy foods--peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix
- Vitamins
- Foods for infants, elderly persons, or persons on special diets
- Comfort/stress foods--cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, tea bags

First Aid Kit:

- Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter to obtain a basic first aid manual. Each first aid kit should include:
- 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6) and 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape and Triangular bandages (3)
- 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls) and 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Tongue blades (2)
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves (2 pair)
- Sunscreen

SUGGESTIONS AND REMINDERS:

- Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the Family Emergency Kit in the trunk of your car.
- Keep items in air-tight plastic bags.
- Change your stored water supply every six months so it stays fresh.
- Rotate your stored food every six months.
- Re-evaluate your kit and family need at least once a year. Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.
- Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

Appendix D: Red Cross Returning Home After a Hurricane or Flood

Be Red Cross Ready

Returning Home After a Hurricane or Flood

Preparing to return home after evacuating will keep you safer while inspecting and cleaning up the damage to your home. Before traveling, ensure local officials have declared that it's safe to enter your community and that you have the supplies you will need. Follow the suggestions below for returning to, inspecting and cleaning your home.

Items to Take When Returning Home:

- Government-issued photo ID and proof of address
- Important phone numbers
- Bottled water and non-perishable foods
- First aid kit
- Cleanser/ hand cleaning gel for personal use
- Hygiene products and toilet paper
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Long sleeved shirts, long pants, sturdy waterproof boots and work gloves
- Flashlight, portable radio and extra batteries
- Cameras for photos of damage for insurance claims

Before Returning



- Find out if it is safe to enter your community or neighborhood. Follow the advice of your local authorities.
- Carry plenty of cash. ATMs may not work and stores may not be able to accept credit or debit cards.
- Bring supplies such as flashlights, batteries, bottled water and non-perishable foods in case utilities are out.
- Create back-up communication plans with family and friends in case you are unable to call from affected areas.
- Plan for delays when traveling. Bring extra food, water, pillows, blankets and other items that will make the trip more comfortable. Keep the fuel tank of your vehicle as full as possible in case gas stations are crowded, out of fuel or closed.
- Carry a map to help you route around heavy traffic or impassable roads.
- Find out if local medical facilities are open and if emergency services are functioning again. Do NOT call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number to do this.
- Understand that recovery takes time. Focus on the positive and have patience. Others will have similar frustrations.

First Inspection



- If possible, leave children and pets with a relative or friend. If not, keep them away from hazards and floodwater.
- Beware of rodents, snakes, insects and other animals that may be on your property or in your home.
- Before entering your home, look outside for damaged power lines, gas lines, foundation cracks and other exterior damage. It may be too dangerous to enter the home.
- Smell for gas. If you smell natural gas or propane, or hear a hissing noise, leave immediately and contact the fire department.
- If your home was flooded, assume it is contaminated with mold. Mold increases health risks for those with asthma, allergies or other breathing conditions.
- Open doors and windows. Let the house air out before staying inside for any length of time if the house was closed for more than 48 hours.
- Turn the main electrical power and water systems off until you or a professional can ensure that they are safe. NEVER turn the power on or off, or use an electrical tool or appliance while standing in water.
- Check the ceiling and floor for signs of sagging. Water may be trapped in the ceiling or floors may be unsafe to walk on.

Using Generators Safely

- When using a portable generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a portable generator to a home's electrical system.
- If you are considering getting a generator, get advice from a professional, such as an electrician. Make sure that the generator you purchase is rated for the power that you think you will need.

Cleaning Your Home



- Wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves and rubber boots.
- Be careful when moving furnishings or debris since they may be water logged and heavier.
- Throw out all food, beverages and medicine exposed to flood waters and mud, including canned goods and containers with food or liquid that have been sealed shut. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Some cleaning solutions can cause toxic fumes and other hazards if mixed together. If you smell a strong odor or your eyes water from the fumes or mixed chemicals, open a window and get out of your home.
- Throw out items that absorb water and cannot be cleaned or disinfected (e.g. mattresses, carpeting, cosmetics, stuffed animals and baby toys).
- Remove all drywall and insulation that has been in contact with flood waters.
- Clean hard surfaces (e.g. flooring, countertops and appliances) thoroughly with hot water and soap or a detergent.
- Return to as many personal and family routines as possible.

Caution: Carbon Monoxide Kills

- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace, or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
- The primary hazards to avoid when using alternate sources for electricity, heating or cooking are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electric shock and fire.

Let Your Family Know You're Safe

If your community has experienced a flood, or any disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well Web site, available through RedCross.org, to let your family and friends know about your welfare. You may also call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.



For more information about returning home after a disaster, visit RedCross.org.

Appendix E: Red Cross Earthquake Safety Checklist

Be Red Cross Ready

Earthquake Safety Checklist

An earthquake is a sudden, rapid shaking of the earth caused by the breaking and shifting of rock beneath the earth's surface. Earthquakes strike suddenly, without warning, and they can occur at any time of the year, day or night. Forty-five states and territories in the United States are at moderate to very high risk of earthquakes, and they are located in every region of the country.

Are you at increased risk from earthquakes?

- Contact your local emergency management office, local American Red Cross chapter, state geological survey or department of natural resources.
- Mobile homes and homes not attached to their foundations are at particular risk during an earthquake.
- Buildings with foundations resting on landfill and other unstable soils are at increased risk of damage.

Did you know?

Doorways are no stronger than any other part of the structure. During an earthquake, get under a sturdy piece of furniture and hold on. This will provide some protection from falling objects that can injure you during an earthquake.

How can I prepare?



- Become aware of fire evacuation and earthquake plans for all of the buildings you occupy regularly.
- Pick safe places in each room of your home, workplace and/or school. A safe place could be under a piece of furniture or against an interior wall away from windows, bookcases or tall furniture that could fall on you.
- Practice drop, cover and hold on in each safe place. If you do not have sturdy furniture to hold on to, sit on the floor next to an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Keep a flashlight and sturdy shoes by each person's bed.
- Make sure your home is securely anchored to its foundation.
- Bolt and brace water heaters and gas appliances to wall studs.
- Bolt bookcases, china cabinets and other tall furniture to wall studs.
- Hang heavy items, such as pictures and mirrors, away from beds, couches and anywhere people sleep or sit.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Install strong latches or bolts on cabinets. Large or heavy items should be closest to the floor.
- Learn how to shut off the gas valves in your home and keep a wrench handy for that purpose.
- Learn about your area's seismic building standards and land use codes before you begin new construction.
- Keep and maintain an emergency supplies kit in an easy-to-access location.

What should I do during an earthquake?



- If you are inside when the shaking starts ...**
 - Drop, cover and hold on. Move as little as possible.
 - If you are in bed, stay there, curl up and hold on. Protect your head with a pillow.
 - Stay away from windows to avoid being injured by shattered glass.
 - Stay indoors until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit. If you must leave the building after the shaking stops, use stairs rather than an elevator in case there are aftershocks, power outages or other damage.
 - Be aware that fire alarms and sprinkler systems frequently go off in buildings during an earthquake, even if there is no fire.
- If you are outside when the shaking starts ...**
 - Find a clear spot and drop to the ground. Stay there until the shaking stops (away from buildings, power lines, trees, streetlights).
 - If you are in a vehicle, pull over to a clear location and stop. Avoid bridges, overpasses and power lines if possible. Stay inside with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops. Then, drive carefully, avoiding bridges and ramps that may have been damaged.
 - If a power line falls on your vehicle, do not get out. Wait for assistance.
 - If you are in a mountainous area or near unstable slopes or cliffs, be alert for falling rocks and other debris. Landslides are often triggered by earthquakes.

What do I do after an earthquake?



- After an earthquake, the disaster may continue. Expect and prepare for potential aftershocks, landslides or even a tsunami. Tsunamis are often generated by earthquakes.
- Each time you feel an aftershock, drop, cover and hold on. Aftershocks frequently occur minutes, days, weeks and even months following an earthquake.
- Check yourself for injuries and get first aid, if necessary, before helping injured or trapped persons.
- Put on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and work gloves to protect against injury from broken objects.
- Look quickly for damage in and around your home and get everyone out if your home is unsafe.
- Listen to a portable, battery-operated or hand-crank radio for updated emergency information and instructions.
- Check the telephones in your home or workplace to see if you can get a dial tone. Make brief calls to report life-threatening emergencies.
- Look for and extinguish small fires. Fire is the most common hazard after an earthquake.
- Clean up spilled medications, bleach, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately.
- Open closet and cabinet doors carefully as contents may have shifted.
- Help people who require special assistance, such as infants, children and the elderly or disabled.
- Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and stay out of damaged areas.
- Keep animals under your direct control.
- Stay out of damaged buildings.
- If you were away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so. Use extreme caution and examine walls, floors, doors, staircases and windows to check for damage.
- Be careful when driving after an earthquake and anticipate traffic light outages.

Let Your Family Know You're Safe

If your community experiences an earthquake, or any disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well Web site available through RedCross.org to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don't have Internet access, call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.



For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit RedCross.org.

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