



Hurricane Action Guide

Chatham Emergency Management Agency
124 Bull Street, Suite 140
Savannah, GA 31401
912.201.4500
www.ChathamEmergency.org

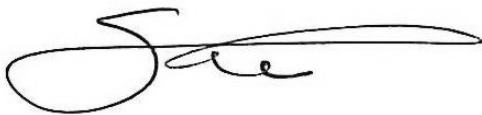
Hurricane Action Guide

It is no secret that Chatham County is vulnerable to the threat of Tropical Storms and Hurricanes. With our low elevations and significant flooding potential, the storm surge from a major hurricane making landfall on our coast could have catastrophic consequences. Likewise the winds from one of these systems could create millions of cubic yards of debris clogging our streets and highways and damaging or destroying property on an enormous scale.

Working together local, state, and Federal governments, as well as private, volunteer and faith based organizations will be prepared to provide warning, guidance and response to Chatham County in an emergency or disaster. However the greatest responsibility for your own safety and that of your family lies with you.

The time you invest in learning simple strategies and following the checklist of activities contained in this notebook can make the difference between you and your family being safe in a storm rather than being a victim.

Thank you for taking the time to review this material and applying these lessons to create your own personal hurricane plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clayton S. Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clayton S. Scott

Table of Contents

Section	Page
Hurricane Awareness	1
Home Preparedness	6
Evacuation	11
After a Hurricane: Re-entry	18
Additional Information	21
Commercial Hotel & Motel Telephone Numbers	22
Insurance Telephone Numbers	25
Public Safety Telephone Numbers	26
Web Sites	26
Insurance Issues	27
Price Gouging	28
Suggestions on Talking with Children	29
Public Health Facts	31
Animal & Insect Related Hazards	34



Hurricane Action Guide

Hurricane Awareness

Hurricane Awareness

What is a Hurricane?

Hurricanes are large tropical storms that can generate winds over 150 mph and can push massive mounds of seawater onshore known as “surges” that temporarily raise the sea level over 20 feet. The heavy rains that they produce can cause dangerous flooding that can affect communities well away from the coastal shoreline.

How Does a Hurricane Work?

A hurricane is a powerful, swirling storm that begins over a warm sea off of the coast of Africa. Hurricanes form in waters near the equator, and then they move toward the poles. The winds of a hurricane swirl around a calm central zone called the eye surrounded by a band of tall, dark clouds called the eyewall. The eye is usually 10 to 40 miles in diameter and is free of rain and large clouds. In the eyewall, large changes in pressure create the hurricane's strongest winds. These winds can reach nearly 200 miles per hour. Damaging winds may extend 250 miles from the eye.

Hurricanes are referred to by different labels, depending on where they occur. They are called hurricanes when they happen over the North Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Northeast Pacific Ocean. Such storms are known as typhoons if they occur in the Northwest Pacific Ocean, west of an imaginary line called the International Date Line. Near Australia and in the Indian Ocean, they are referred to as tropical cyclones.

Hurricanes are most common during the summer and early fall. In the Atlantic and the Northeast Pacific, for example, August and September are the peak hurricane months. Typhoons occur throughout the year in the Northwest Pacific but are most frequent in summer. In the North Indian Ocean, tropical cyclones strike in May and November. In the South Indian Ocean, the South Pacific Ocean, and off the coast of Australia, the hurricane season runs from December to March. Approximately 85 hurricanes, typhoons, and tropical cyclones occur in a year throughout the world.

Hurricane Conditions

Hurricanes require a special set of conditions, including ample heat and moisture that exist primarily over warm tropical oceans. For a hurricane to form there must be a warm layer of water at the top of the sea with a surface temperature greater than 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Warm seawater evaporates and is absorbed by the surrounding air. The warmer the ocean, the more water evaporates. The warm, moist air rises, lowering the atmospheric pressure of the air beneath. In any area of low atmospheric pressure, the column of air

that extends from the surface of the water -- or land -- to the top of the atmosphere is relatively less dense and therefore weighs relatively less.

Air tends to move from areas of high pressure to areas of low pressure, creating wind. In the Northern Hemisphere, the earth's rotation causes the wind to swirl into a low-pressure area in a counterclockwise direction. In the Southern Hemisphere, the winds rotate clockwise around a low. This effect of the rotating earth on wind flow is called the Coriolis effect. The Coriolis effect increases in intensity farther from the equator. To produce a hurricane, a low-pressure area must be more than 5 degrees of latitude north or south of the equator. Hurricanes seldom occur closer to the equator.

For a hurricane to develop, there must be little wind shear -- that is, little difference in speed and direction between winds at upper and lower elevations. Uniform winds enable the warm inner core of the storm to stay intact. The storm would break up if the winds at higher elevations increased markedly in speed, changed direction, or both. The wind shear would disrupt the budding hurricane by tipping it over or by blowing the top of the storm in one direction while the bottom moved in another direction.

The Life of a Hurricane

Meteorologists (scientists who study weather) divide the life of a hurricane into four stages: (1) tropical disturbance, (2) tropical depression, (3) tropical storm, and (4) hurricane.

Tropical disturbance is an area where rain clouds are building. The clouds form when moist air rises and becomes cooler. Cool air cannot hold as much water vapor as warm air can, and the excess water changes into tiny droplets of water that form clouds. The clouds in a tropical disturbance may rise to great heights, forming the towering thunderclouds that meteorologists call cumulonimbus clouds.

Cumulonimbus clouds usually produce heavy rains that end after an hour or two, and the weather clears rapidly. If conditions are right for a hurricane, however, there is so much heat energy and moisture in the atmosphere that new cumulonimbus clouds continually form from rising moist air.

Tropical depression is a low-pressure area surrounded by winds that have begun to blow in a circular pattern. A meteorologist considers a depression to exist when there is low pressure over a large enough area to be plotted on a weather map. On a map of surface pressure, such a depression appears as one or two circular isobars (lines of equal pressure) over a tropical ocean. The low pressure near the ocean surface draws in warm, moist air, which feeds more thunderstorms.

The winds swirl slowly around the low-pressure area at first. As the pressure becomes even lower, more warm, moist air is drawn in, and the winds blow faster.

When the winds exceed 38 miles per hour, a tropical storm has developed. A storm achieves hurricane status when its winds exceed 74 miles (119 kilometers) per hour.

Listen to daily weather forecasts during hurricane season. As hurricanes develop, they are monitored closely by the National Weather Service. The Weather Service issues two types of notices about approaching hurricanes: a Hurricane Watch and a Hurricane Warning.

Hurricane Watch

A Hurricane Watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 36 hours. When a hurricane watch is issued for Chatham County, you should:

- Stay tuned to local stations for the latest weather information. Monitor radio, TV, NOAA weather radios for information on storm progression.
- If you're evacuating with a friend, family, or neighbor, contact them to review your plans and re-confirm your arrangements.
- If you're using a privately owned vehicle for evacuation, be sure it is fueled and ready to go.
- Gather your emergency supplies, placing them in your car or near the front door if you are riding with someone else.
- Store all objects on your lawn or patio that could be carried by the wind. Lawn furniture, garbage cans, garden tools, toys, signs, and a number of other harmless items can become deadly missiles in hurricane winds.
- Place important papers in a waterproof container with your non-perishable food supply or in your safe deposit box.
- If you own a computer, download the valuable files onto discs and either put them with your important papers or in a waterproof container in your safe deposit box. Seal the computer hard drive and monitor in plastic yard-leaf bags and place them as high off the floor and in as wind-resistant a space as practical.
- Check supplies of prescription medicine and currency of prescriptions.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles, etc.

Hurricane Warning

A hurricane warning is issued when a hurricane is expected to strike within 24 hours. A hurricane warning will probably also include an assessment of flood dangers in coastal and inland areas, small craft warnings, gale warnings and recommended emergency procedures.

When a hurricane warning is issued you should:

- Listen to a radio or television for official instructions.
- If in a mobile home, check tie downs and prepare to evacuate.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container.
- Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy.
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power "surge" when electricity is restored.
- Avoid open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light.

Even if you have emergency supplies, don't make the mistake of trying to "ride out" a hurricane at home. Evacuate if local authorities tell you to do so, especially if you live on an island or can see a marsh. Leave early before the roads become flooded and you cannot get out.



Hurricane Action Guide

Home Preparedness

Home Preparedness

Communications: Establish a communications plan; let someone know your intentions and your whereabouts.

- Post emergency phone numbers near the phone. Include police, fire, emergency medical, doctors, relatives, utility companies, insurance agents and Chatham Emergency Management Agency (912) 201-4500.
- Charge cell phones and extra batteries.
- Consider using a car charger for cell phones.
- Program cell phones with emergency contact numbers.
- Have a central contact outside the forecast storm area so friends and family can check in.
- Consider backup methods of communicating: e-mail, internet, pagers, and text messaging.
- Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.

Documents: Place the following documents in a waterproof container such as a zip-lock bag and take them with you if you evacuate, or store them out of harm's way:

- Wills, insurance policies, contracts, powers of attorney, deeds, appraisals, critical computer files, stocks & bonds.
- Passports, Social Security cards, & medical records.
- Military records.
- Bank account records.
- Credit card names & numbers.
- Inventory & household goods' photos/video.
- Important phone numbers.

Food: Supplies should include enough non-perishable, high-energy foods for a minimum of five days. You may be stranded in your home for several days or local stores may run low on supplies. If it is necessary to evacuate, your destination will affect what you need to take with you. A suggested supply of food for emergencies includes:

- Whole dry milk
- Canned fruit juices
- Canned meats & fish like Vienna sausage, meat spread or tuna
- Meat substitutes like beans
- Bread & crackers

- Peanut butter
- Dried fruits
- Dry cereals
- Granola bars or cookies
- Manual can opener you are able to operate
- Non-perishable food for pets

Water: Each person's need for drinking water varies depending on age, physical condition, and time of year; the average person needs at least one gallon of water or other liquid to drink per day, but more would be better. Also keep a couple of gallons on hand for sanitary purposes.

Medicines: It is very important to keep an adequate supply of any medicines you take. If you are stranded in your home or are asked to go to a public shelter, you may have difficulty getting medications.

- Small first aid kit (available at most drug stores)
- Extra pair of glasses
- Copies of any prescriptions
- Medical insurance and Medicare cards

Supplies and Equipment: Keep the following emergency supplies on hand. Remember that if it is necessary to evacuate, your destination will affect what you need to take with you.

- Battery operated radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Paper plates & utensils including can & bottle openers
- Non-flammable Glo-light sticks
- Toilet articles & sanitary supplies
- Extra set of house and car keys
- Cash, credit cards, change for pay phones
- Phone numbers of local and non-local friends and relatives
- Insurance agent's name and phone number
- Change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes

Car Care: Keep your vehicle ready to go in the event you need to evacuate.

- Address any needed mechanical repairs.

- Make sure tires are properly inflated and the battery is charged.
- Include emergency items, such as spare tire, Fix-a-Flat, and jumper cables.
- Have vehicle title, insurance, and registration in vehicle.
- Have a duplicate set of car keys.
- Keep gas tank full.

Protecting your home:

- Permanent shutters are the best protection. A lower-cost approach is to put up plywood panels. Use at least 1/2 inch plywood cut to fit each window.
- Remember to mark which board fits which window.
- Pre-drill holes every 18 inches for screws.
- Trim back dead or weak branches from trees.
- Plan for securing outdoor objects that cannot be brought inside (e.g., boat, lawnmower).
- Check into flood insurance. You can find out about the National Flood Insurance Program through your local insurance agent or emergency management office. There is a 30-day waiting period before a new policy becomes effective. Homeowner policies generally do not cover damage from the flooding that accompanies a hurricane.

Insurance: Before the hurricane season, take photographs of your home and its contents. Mail or e-mail these photographs to a friend or family member who lives outside Chatham County and who will not be impacted by the same event that may threaten you.

Special needs: If you or someone in your household has special medical or mobility needs, planning will be needed to ensure continuity of those.

- Establish a personal support network of family and/or friends to assist you before, during and after an emergency.
- Prepare life support devices.
- Contact local electric company about power needs for life support devices, such as home dialysis, suction, breathing equipment, etc.
- Talk with equipment suppliers about power options (backup batteries, generators, etc.).
- Let your local fire department know that you are dependent on life support devices.
- Have a manual wheelchair for backup if you use an electric wheelchair or scooter.

- If you use home health care, check to see if your provider has special provisions for emergencies.
- Ask your physician for extended prescriptions for the peak months of hurricane season (August, September and October).

To register in Chatham County for special needs assistance, call 866-522-3292.

Pets: In the event of a disaster, if you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them with you. Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost, or worse.

- Have a safe place to take your pet(s). Red Cross disaster shelters cannot accept pets because of states' health and safety regulations and other considerations. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are the only animals allowed in Red Cross shelters.
- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size, and species.
- Ask friends, relatives, or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals.
- Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers.
- Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter assistance or foster care for pets in a disaster.
- Assemble a Portable Pet Disaster Supplies Kit, including:
 - Medications and medical records (stored in a waterproof container) and a first aid kit.
 - Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets.
 - Current photos of your pets in case they get lost.
 - Food, potable water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and can opener.
 - Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian.
 - Record of immunizations.
 - Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable.



Hurricane Action Guide

Evacuation

Evacuation Overview

- Listen to announcements on radio or television
- If you have difficulty driving at night, don't wait until local officials issue evacuation orders. Make your own decision to avoid the crowd and leave before the orders are issued. At the latest, leave when the Voluntary Evacuation Order is issued, but take advantage of the daylight conditions and the less crowded roads, highway services and hotels...leave early.
- Do have a route and destination planned before you depart.
- Advise friends, neighbors or family of your intentions. If a hurricane warning is issued for Chatham County and an evacuation is ordered, local radio and television stations will announce information on where you should go and the best route to take.
- Team up with a "partner" a neighbor or a friend living nearby, to plan your evacuation together. Call your "partner" and make arrangements to leave.
- When you evacuate, you may wish to take some of the previously listed supplies with you, but don't take more than you can carry. Put your essential emergency supplies in an easy to carry container such as a backpack, a duffle bag, or a rolling suitcase.
- If you are going to a public shelter, the most important items to take are your medication, a blanket, a portable radio, an extra change of clothing, and perhaps a small supply of packaged quick-energy foods like raisins and granola bars. Make sure the bag has a tag with your name.

You can take certain actions ahead of time to make evacuation easier by deciding which evacuation method you will use and planning for a back-up.

Transportation Option 1: Personal vehicle

- If using your own vehicle, keep your gas tank as full as possible during hurricane season. In an evacuation, fuel may be difficult to get and gas-station lines will be long.
- See if you can help a neighbor or a friend that may not have transportation. Team up with a "partner" a neighbor or a friend living nearby, to plan your evacuation together. By sharing supplies and a ride, each of you can help the other.
- Plan ahead to ensure that those persons riding with you know what they will be expected to bring and how much room will be available for personal items.
- Ensure that you have a means of contacting the people you plan to evacuate with. Have a communications plan that includes when you should be communicating your intentions and have both primary and alternate telephone numbers such as landline and cell phone numbers.
- Learn the recommended evacuation route from your home to safer, higher ground. Local broadcasts will tell you where to go during an evacuation, but you can learn the safest route ahead of time by watching for the pre-season

distribution of Chatham County's evacuation information or by calling the Chatham Emergency Management Agency at (912) 201-4500.

Transportation Option 2: Family, friends, and neighbors

- Talk to family and friends to coordinate evacuation arrangements, including:
 - With whom will you go?
 - What can/should you take?
 - When and where will you meet?
 - How much room will you have for personal items?
- Ensure that you have a means of contacting the people you are evacuating with. Have a communications plan that includes when you should be communicating your intentions and have both primary and alternate telephone numbers such as landline and cell phone numbers.

Transportation Option 3: Public Transportation

- When a Mandatory Evacuation Order is issued because a hurricane is threatening Chatham County, the Civic Center will become the assembly area for evacuation.
- To get to the Civic Center, Chatham Area Transit (CAT) will continue to operate its routine bus routes but all buses will go by the Civic Center. Passengers with no other means of transportation who wish to evacuate will be taken to the Civic Center as their initial destination.
- Evacuation buses are for people with no other means of transportation. If you drive to the civic center or ride with a family member or friend, don't expect to board a bus. No parking will be allowed in the vicinity of the Civic Center.
- Once at the Civic Center, evacuees will be directed to a registration area.
- Evacuees will be seated by bus assignment on Board of Education buses for transport to inland shelters for the duration of the evacuation.

Take with You: If you will be using public transportation, you should bring:

- Spare eyeglasses, prescription medicine, special diet and baby foods, diapers, blankets, pillows, flashlights with extra batteries, cash or travelers checks.
- Extra clothing, personal care items and toilet paper.
- Quiet games or toys for children.
- Identification; to prove residency or ownership in order to gain reentry.
- No weapons, alcohol or illegal drugs

If you have your own transportation, you may also want to bring:

- Lightweight folding chairs, cots and bedding.
- Dry milk, fruit juice, canned meat/fish, canned beans, bread, crackers, peanut butter, dried fruit, granola bars, cookies, dry cereals & other non-perishables.

Getting to the Civic Center (if you will be using public transportation)

Once a Mandatory Evacuation Order has been issued in anticipation of a hurricane threatening Chatham County:

- Chatham Area Transit (CAT) will continue to operate its routine bus routes, but all buses will go by the Civic Center.
- Passengers with no other means of transportation who wish to evacuate will be taken to the Civic Center as their initial destination.
- No parking will be allowed in the vicinity of the Civic Center.
- If you drive to the civic center or ride with a family member or friend, do not expect to board a bus.
- Evacuation buses are for people with no other means of transportation.

Primary Shelter Communities

Augusta
Douglas
Dublin
Macon
Statesboro
Tifton
Waycross

- Shelters will be opened on an as-needed basis
- Shelter locations will be broadcast on radio and TV.
- Shelters are operated by the American Red Cross to provide safety and shelter.
- Food, water and temporary shelters are available at no cost.
- Only limited medical care will be available.
- Public shelters are basic; bring your own creature comforts.
- Do not expect a bed; be ready to set up a home away from home on the floor.
- The earliest buses go to the closest shelters and, therefore, have the shortest trips.
- Buses will be crowded. Be reasonable with what you take; no more than two hand-carry bags per person.
- School buses are not air-conditioned; expect some discomfort.
- Several seats may be left empty on each bus to accommodate stranded motorists.

Evacuation Destination Options

At the beginning of each hurricane season you should consider your shelter options in the event an evacuation is ordered.

Destination Option 1: Family and friends

Talk to family and friends to explore shelter availability:

- Who will you stay with?
- What can/should you take?
- If traveling separately, when should you arrive at the shelter location?
- Precisely where is the shelter location? Do you have detailed directions and a physical address?
- How much room will you have for personal items?
- Can you bring a pet(s)?
- Ensure that you have a means of contacting the people you plan to shelter with. Have a communications plan that includes when you should be communicating your intentions and have both primary and alternate telephone numbers such as landline and cell phone numbers.

Destination Option 2: Commercial dwellings, hotels and motels

In the event of a mandatory evacuation, especially if a storm has affected the coast of Florida warranting evacuation from areas south of Chatham County, commercial accommodations may be difficult to obtain without guaranteed reservations. If you plan to use commercial facilities, it is recommended that you:

- Keep a list of facility phone numbers readily available so that you may make reservations as soon as the need to evacuate becomes apparent. If you do not have confirmed reservations, you may be required to travel well inland in order to find accommodations.
- Can you bring a pet(s)?

Destination Option 3: Public shelters

Shelters will be opened on an as-needed basis in the following Primary Shelter Communities:

- Augusta
- Douglas
- Dublin
- Macon
- Statesboro
- Tifton
- Waycross

Public shelters are operated by the American Red Cross to provide safety and shelter; they are very basic.

- Bring your own creature comforts.

- Specific shelter locations will be broadcast on radio and TV.
- Medical care is generally not available.
- Shelters will have food and water but it is best to bring your own food.
- Do not expect a bed; be ready to set up a home away from home on the floor.

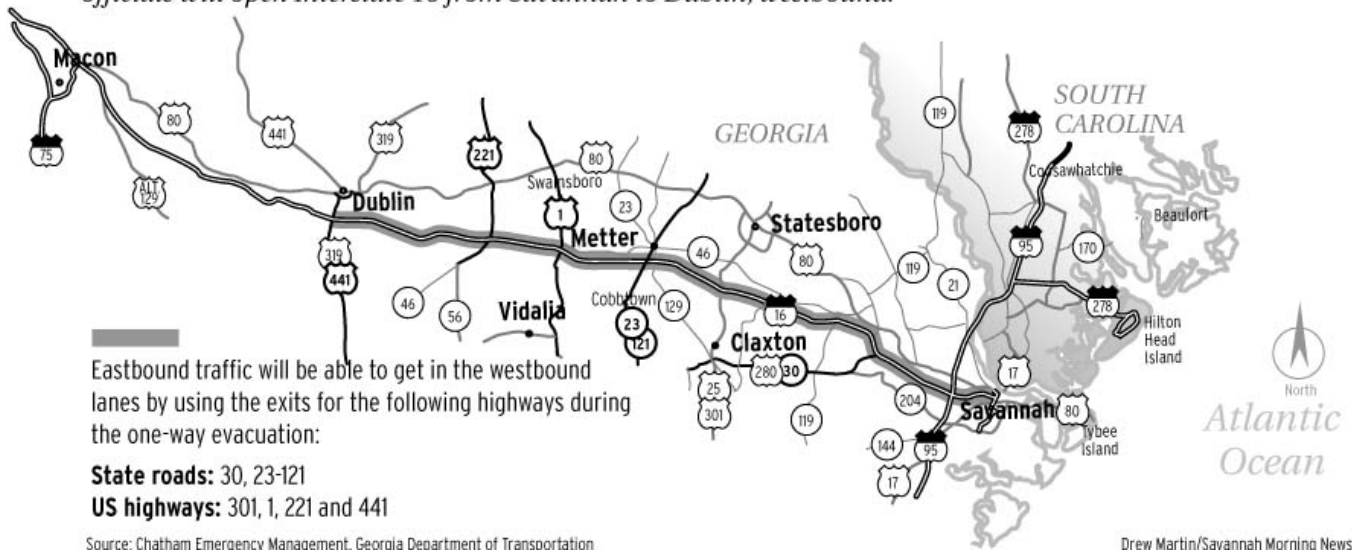
What to take to a public shelter: No more than two hand-carry bags per person.

Consider:

- Spare eyeglasses, prescription medicine, special diet and baby foods.
- Diapers, blankets, pillows and sleeping bags.
- Flashlights with extra batteries, cash or travelers checks.
- Clothing, personal care items and toilet paper.
- Quiet games or toys for the children.
- Identification; to prove residency or ownership in order to gain reentry.

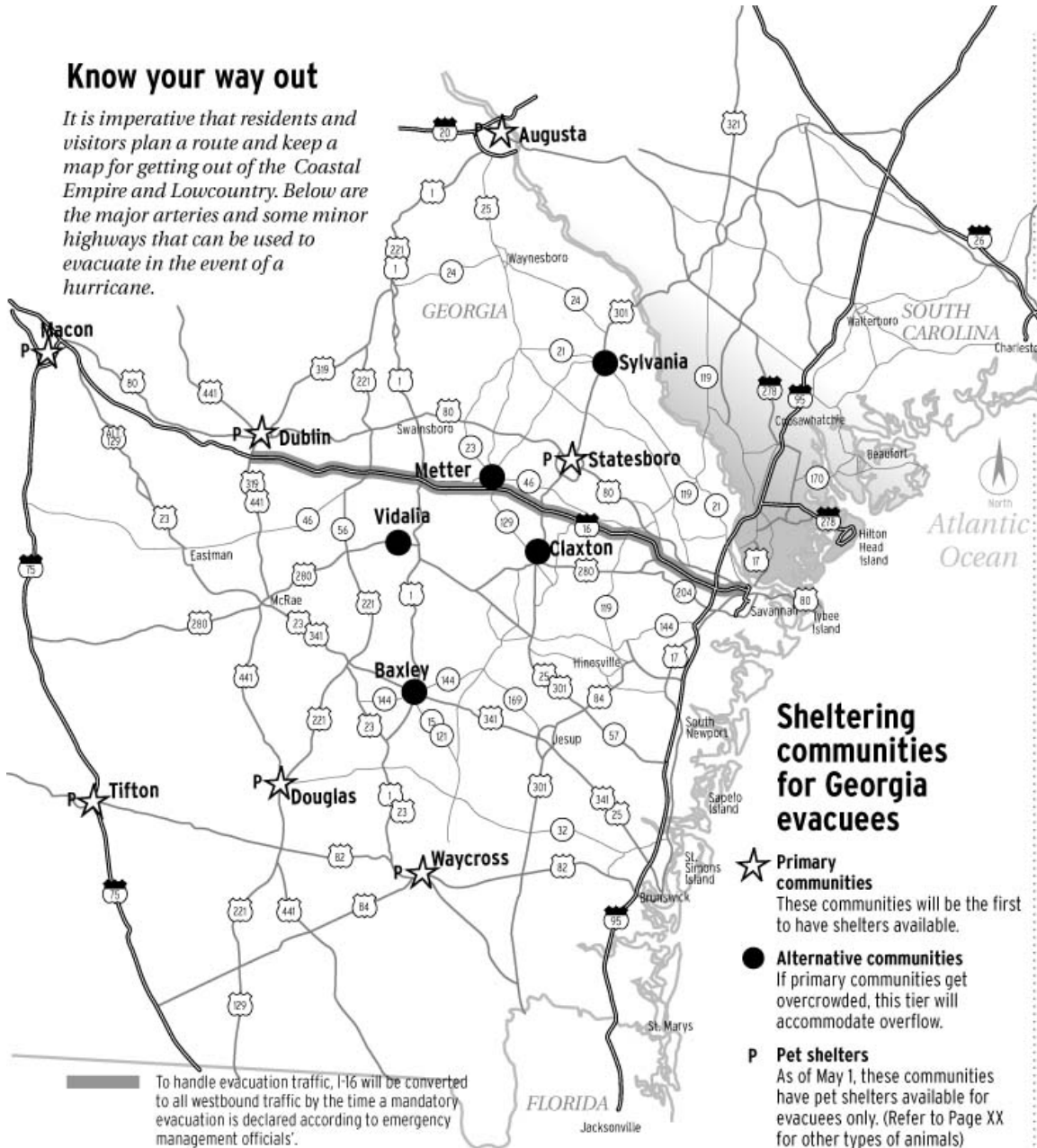
All westbound, 125 miles to Dublin

To avoid the bottleneck created from the Hurricane Floyd evacuation in 1999, officials will open Interstate 16 from Savannah to Dublin, westbound.



Know your way out

It is imperative that residents and visitors plan a route and keep a map for getting out of the Coastal Empire and Lowcountry. Below are the major arteries and some minor highways that can be used to evacuate in the event of a hurricane.



To handle evacuation traffic, I-16 will be converted to all westbound traffic by the time a mandatory evacuation is declared according to emergency management officials.

Sheltering communities for Georgia evacuees

- ★ **Primary communities**
These communities will be the first to have shelters available.
- **Alternative communities**
If primary communities get overcrowded, this tier will accommodate overflow.
- P **Pet shelters**
As of May 1, these communities have pet shelters available for evacuees only. (Refer to Page XX for other types of animals)

Shelters

In case of a Category 1 or 2 hurricane, these counties may open the following inland shelters:

- Georgia**
- Chatham:** will use selected area schools. Names of the schools will be announced.
- Bryan:** Bryan County High school and Bryan County Elementary School.
- Effingham:** Guyton, Ebenezer and Sandhill Elementary Schools
- Liberty:** First Baptist Church and Bradwell High School in Hinesville.
- South Carolina**
- Beaufort:** Michael C. Riley School, Bluffton: Battery Creek High School, Burton; Beaufiry Elementary School, Beaufort.
- Jasper:** Coosawhatchie Community Center, Coosawhatchie; Jasper County High School, Ridgeland; Robertville Community Center, Robertville; and Ridgeland Elementary and Middle Schools, Ridgeland.



Hurricane Action Guide

Hurricane Re-entry

After a Hurricane: Reentry

After the storm hits, be alert and watch for news from your area.

The Chatham Emergency Management Agency will announce when it is safe to return to your home. If you have evacuated, Peach State Public Radio is collaborating statewide with emergency management officials to provide up-to-date information concerning hurricane threats. In Savannah, Peach State Public Radio is 91.1 FM.

Roads may be closed for your safety. If you come upon a barricade or flooded road, go another way. Listen to the radio for updated conditions and for information on assistance that may be provided by local, state or federal government and other organizations.

- Return home only after authorities advise that it is safe to do so.
- Help injured or trapped persons.
- Give first aid where appropriate.
- Do not move seriously injured persons. Call for help.
- Inspect the outside of your home and surrounding area before attempting to enter. If you are unsure of the stability of the structure, DO NOT ENTER.
- Enter your home with caution.
- Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage.
- Use telephone only for emergency calls.
- Stay tuned to local radio for information.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- Beware of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- Look for visible structural damage before you go inside. Notify local officials immediately if you see broken or dangling electric power lines or broken sewer, water or gas lines.
- Ensure all electrical outlets and appliances are dry and free of water before using them.
- Do not drink water from the faucet until officially notified that it is safe from contamination. Use your emergency supply of water or boil tap water before drinking it.
- Without electricity, food in your refrigerator could spoil in a few hours. Don't eat it. Food in a freezer could partially thaw but would be safe to eat for several days. Food should not be refrozen once it begins to thaw.
- Take photographs of damage for insurance purposes.

- Wait for an insurance adjuster before making permanent repairs.
- Make only temporary emergency repairs.
- Keep receipts for repair materials.
- Be there when the insurance adjuster evaluates the damage to your home.
- Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.



Hurricane Action Guide

Additional Information

Commercial Hotels & Motels: Find a place to stay away from the storm

Macon

1842 Inn, (800) 336-1842 or (478) 741-1842
Ambassador Inn South, (478) 788-7500
Atrium La Quinta Inn & Suites, (478) 475-0206 or (800) 531-5900
Baymont Inn & Suites (478) 474-8004 or (800) 996-3426
Best Inn & Suites, (478) 405-0106
Best Western Inn & Suites, (478) 781-5300 or (800) 528-1234
Best Western Riverside, (478) 743-6311 or (888) 454-4565
Comfort Inn North, (478) 757-8688 or (800) 847-6453
Comfort Inn West, (478) 788-5500 or (800) 228-5150
Courtyard by Marriott, (478) 477-8899 or (800) 321-2211
Crowne Plaza Macon, (478) 746-1461 or (800) 227-6963
Days Inn North, (800) 329-7466
Days Inn West, (478) 784-1000
Days Inn, (478) 755-9091
Discovery Inn, (478) 781-2810
EconoLodge Riverside, (478) 746-6221
EconoLodge, (800) 555-2666
Economy Inn, (478) 781-0088
Extended Stay, (800) 646-8000
Fairfield Inn & Suites Macon, (478) 738-9007 or (800) 228-2800
Fairfield Inn West, (478) 474-9922 or (800) 228-2800
Hampton Inn, (478) 757-9711 or (800) 426-7866
Holiday Hotel, (888) 394-8552
Holiday Inn Express, (478) 743- 1482 or (800) 465-4329
Holiday Inn Macon West, (478) 788-0120 or (800) 465-4329
Howard Johnson Inn, (800) 446-4656
Jameson Inn, (800) 526-3766
Knights Inn, (478) 471-1868 or (800) 843-5644
La Quinta Inn & Suites, (800) 531-5900 or (478) 475-0206
Macon Carriage House, (404) 474-1233
Macon Hotel, (800) 426-7866
Masters Inn Economy, (478) 788-8910 or (800) 633-3434
Motel 6, (478) 474-2870 or (800) 466-8356
Quality Inn & Conference Center, (478) 474-4000 or (800) 288-5151

Quality Inn, (478) 781-7000 or (800) 228-5151
Ramada Plaza, (800) 227-6963 or (478) 746-1461
Red Carpet Inn & Suites, (800) 806-6149 or (478) 781-6680
Red Roof Inn, (478) 477-7477 or (800) 843-7663
Residence Inn by Marriott, (478) 475-4280 or (800) 331-3131
RiverView Hotel, (478) 738-9030
Rodeway Inn, (478) 781-4343 or (800) 228-2000
Scottish Inns, (478) 474-2665 or (800) 251-1962
Scottish Inns, (478) 746-3561
Sleep Inn, (478) 757-8300 or (800) 627-5337 or (478) 476-8111
Studio Plus Inc., (478) 474-2805 or (800) 646-8000
Suburban Extended Stay Hotel, (478) 781-9996 or (800) 951-7829
Super 8 Motel, (478) 757-8688 or (800) 800-8000 or (478) 788-8800 or (478) 471-2121
Travelodge, (478) 471-6116 or (800) 578-7878 or (478) 474-9902 or (888) 609-6768
Villager Lodge, (478) 474-0871 or (800) 473-8072
Wingate Inn, (800) 228-1000

Source: www.cityofmacon.net

Statesboro

Beaver House Inn & Restaurant, (912) 764-2821
Best Western University Inn, (912) 681-7900 or 800-WESTERN
Budget Inn, (912) 764-5631 Comfort Inn & Suites, (912) 681-2400 or 800-424-6423
Days Inn-Statesboro, (912) 764-5666 or 800-329-7466
Deluxe Inn, (912) 764-5651
Eagle Inn, (912) 764-9117
Georgia's Bed & Breakfast, (912) 489-6330
Glennville Inn, (912) 654-3407
Hampton Inn, (912) 681-7700 or 800-426-7866
Historic Statesboro Inn & Restaurant, (912) 489-8628 or 800-846 9466
Holiday Inn Express, (912) 489-7368
Hometown Inn, (912) 681-4663 or 866-830-4663
Howard Johnson Inn & Suites, (912) 489-2626 or 800-446-4656
LaQuinta Inn, (912) 871-2525 or 800-531-5900
The Lodge of Statesboro, (912) 489-4176
Parkwood RV Park & Cottages, (912) 681-3105

Scottish Inn, (912) 852-5200

Stiles Inn, (912) 764-9633

Trellis Garden Inn, (912) 489-8781 or 800-475-1380

Source: Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau

Insurance Numbers

The following insurance claims numbers will be activated only after an emergency:

AIG Agency Auto	800-244-6163
ALFA Insurance	334-288-3900
Allstate Insurance	800-547-8676
Assuranceamerica	888-223-8409
Infinity Insurance	800-334-1661
Cotton States Insurance	800-457-1658
Farmers Insurance	888-344-4343
Georgia Farm Bureau	Contact Your Local Agent
GEICO Insurance	800-841-3000
Gmac Insurance	800-468-3466
Grange Insurance	800-445-3030
Liberty Mutual Companies Personal Market Customers	800-225-2467
Mercury Insurance	800-987-6000
The Main Street America Group	877-425-2467
Progressive Insurance	800-274-4499
Sentry Insurance	800-672-4773
Safeco insurance	888-723-3265
Southern Mutual Insurance	800-226-1919
State Farm	800-732-5246
Unitrin Specialty Insurance	888-253-7834
USAA Insurance	800-531-8222

Source: Georgia Insurance Information Service

Public Safety Phone Numbers

American Red Cross: 651-5300, (main number), or 651-5310, (disaster services)

BellSouth: (telephone service) 611

Emergency Help: 911 (area police, fire and medical)

Office of Homeland Security, Georgia Emergency Management Agency: 800-TRY-GEMA (800-879-4362)

Federal Emergency Management Agency: 770-220-5200 (Atlanta Regional Office)

Livestock: 404-656-3667 (Department of Agriculture number for emergency planning for horses and barnyard animals)

National Weather Service: 843- 744-0303. Press 3 for tropical conditions.

Salvation Army: 651-7420

Georgia's Insurance Commissioner's Office: 800-656-2298

Chatham County

AGL (natural gas): 800-GAS-LINE, 800-427-5463 (for repairs; if you smell gas)

Candler Hospital: 819-6000 (general), 819-6037 (emergency room)

Chatham County Emergency Management Agency: 201-4500

Chatham County Humane Society: 354-9515

Memorial Health University Medical Center: 350-8000 (general), 350-8113 (emergency room)

Public Works, Chatham County: 652-6840

Georgia Power: 800-390-2834 (for repairs and to report outages)

St. Joseph's Hospital: 819-4100 (general)

Water Department, City of Savannah: 651-6565 or 311

Web sites

Chatham Emergency Management Agency: www.cema.chathamcounty.org

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: www.noaa.com

National Weather Service: www.nws.noaa.gov

INSURANCE ISSUES

Make sure your insurance is adequate and up-to-date.

If you own a home

Buy flood insurance. Homeowner's insurance does not cover flooding. Flood coverage is a special policy federally backed by the National Flood Insurance Program.

Don't rely on floodplain maps, which can be inaccurate. Storm surge predictions put most of Chatham County under water in a Category 2 hurricane or above.

Cover your contents, too. A standard flood policy covers only structural damage. Make sure it provides adequate coverage.

If you rent

Buy renter's insurance. Your possessions typically aren't covered in your landlord's policies.

For renters and owners

Consider whether you want actual cash value coverage or replacement cost coverage.

With actual cash value, you'll get only "used" prices for your furniture, TV, etc. With replacement cost, your claim amount will be enough to purchase new items.

Take inventory. Go room by room and photograph or videotape. Do the entire room, and then zoom in on individual items. Keep copies of the inventory in a safe place, such as a safe deposit box.

Get back in touch. Keep auto and homeowner's policy numbers, and your agent's phone number, in a safe place.

If you operate a business

Consider business interruption insurance. It compensates for lost income if your company has to vacate the premises because of disaster-related damage.

Make sure the policy limits are sufficient to cover your company for more than a few days.

There is generally a 48-hour waiting period before business interruption coverage kicks in.

Price Gouging

Georgia law doesn't define price gouging numerically but does allow the governor, through an executive order, to authorize the Office of Consumer Affairs to investigate and prosecute price gouging during a declared state of emergency.

During a hurricane evacuation, hotel rooms, plywood, bottled water and gasoline are items susceptible to gouging.

Avoid being gouged. Use a credit card for repairs. As a second choice, use checks.

Never use cash.

Consumers who believe they are victims of price gouging may call the Office of Consumer Affairs at 404-651-8600 or toll-free at 800-869-1123.

Check the Web site at www.consumer.georgia.gov.

Sources: John Oxendine, Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs

Suggestions on Talking with Children

Tell children what's happening, or they'll imagine worse.

Children sense anxiety in adults. And, like adults, children experience the helplessness disaster-related stress can bring. Unlike adults, however, children have little experience to help them put things in perspective.

Prepare children for hurricane season by having a hurricane drill, just as you would for a fire.

The more you tell them about what to expect, the safer they'll feel, and be.

Preparation tips:

Reassure children you have a hurricane plan and tell them what it is.

Let children know that this plan is just like other plans - such as preparing for the first day of school.

For young children, repeat your plans again and again.

Remember that young children can be literal. Use language they'll understand.

Let your children tell you about their fears or concerns. Children love to teach their parents.

Put your own worries in context. For example, let children know if possible damage from a hurricane scares you - you don't want to lose your house - but it's more important to keep your family safe.

Preschool

Reassure young children they're safe.

Discuss the disaster with them and find out each child's particular fears and concerns.

Structure play so that it remains constructive, serving as an outlet for them to express fear or anger.

Grade-school age children

Limit media viewing. Repeated images of the disaster and the damage frighten children.

Don't say disasters will never affect your family again; children will know this isn't true. Instead, say "You're safe now and I'll always try to protect you," - or - "adults are working very hard to make things safe."

Allow children to express themselves through play or drawing.

Adolescents

Carefully supervise children with existing emotional problems such as depression and provide them additional support.

Monitor their media exposure to the event, including information from the Internet.

Encourage friends and families to get together and discuss the event to calm fears.

Planning for the storm

Let them help you assemble an emergency kit, pack your important items or shop for hurricane provisions.

Have them pack their favorite clothes and toys in plastic bags to protect from water damage.

Have them make a list of the important items they want to pack for safekeeping.

Understanding the storm

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has a web site with information to help children learn what a hurricane is and how to prepare for one at <http://www.fema.gov/kids/hurr.htm>.

If you have to evacuate

Tell your child that your family can create a new routine if you can't go home for awhile.

You will settle down into a new place and you will meet new friends.

Coping after the storm

Continue to talk to your child after the storm has past. Let them voice their feelings or draw pictures of what scares them.

Source: Sources: [Jackson Memorial Hospital, um-jmh.org/](http://um-jmh.org/); [Mental Health America](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/); FEMA

PUBLIC HEALTH FACTS

PREVENT ILLNESS FROM FOOD

Identify and throw away food that may not be safe to eat.

- Throw away food that may have come in contact with flood or storm water.
- Throw away canned foods that are bulging, opened, or damaged.
- Throw away food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture.
- Throw away perishable foods (including meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers) that have been above 40°F for 2 hours or more.
- Thawed food that contains ice crystals or is 40°F or below can be refrozen or cooked.
- If cans have come in contact with floodwater or storm water, remove the labels, wash the cans, and dip them in a solution of 1 cup of bleach in 5 gallons of water. Re-label the cans with a marker.

Store food safely.

- While the power is out, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- Add block ice or dry ice to your refrigerator if the electricity is expected to be off longer than 4 hours. Wear heavy gloves when handling ice.

PREVENT ILLNESS FROM WATER

Listen to and follow public announcements. Local authorities will tell you if tap water is safe to drink or to use for cooking or bathing. If the water is not safe to use, follow local instructions to use bottled water or to boil or disinfect water for cooking, cleaning, or bathing.

Correctly boil or disinfect water.

- Hold water at a rolling boil for 1 minute to kill bacteria.
- If you can't boil water, add 1/8 teaspoon (approximately 0.75 mL) of newly purchased, unscented liquid household bleach per gallon of water.
- Stir the water well, and let it stand for 30 minutes before you use it. You can use water-purifying tablets instead of boiling water or using bleach.
- For infants, use **only** pre-prepared canned baby formula. Do not use powdered formulas prepared with treated water.
- Clean children's toys that have come in contact with water. Use a solution of 1 cup of bleach in 5 gallons of water to clean the toys. Let toys air dry after cleaning.

PREVENT AND TREAT OTHER ILLNESS AND INJURIES

Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is produced by many types of equipment and is poisonous to breathe. Don't use a

generator, pressure washer, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window, door, or vent.

- Don't run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- Don't heat your house with a gas oven. If your carbon monoxide detector sounds, leave your home immediately and call 911.
- Seek prompt medical attention if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, or nauseated.

Avoid floodwater and mosquitoes. Follow all warnings about water on roadways.

- Do not drive vehicles or heavy equipment through water.
- If you have to work in or near floodwater, wear a life jacket.
- If you are caught in an area where floodwater is rising, wear a life jacket, or use some other type of flotation device.
- Prevent mosquito bites by wearing long pants, socks, and long-sleeved shirts and by using insect repellents that contain DEET or Picaridin.
- Updated Information Regarding Insect Repellents may be found: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/RepellentUpdates.htm.

Avoid unstable buildings and structures.

- Stay away from damaged buildings or structures until they have been examined and certified as safe by a building inspector or other government authority.
- Leave immediately if you hear shifting or unusual noises that signal that the structure is about to fall.

Beware of wild or stray animals. Avoid wild or stray animals. Call local authorities to handle animals. Get rid of dead animals according to local guidelines.

Beware of electrical and fire hazards.

- NEVER touch a fallen power line.
- Call the power company to report fallen power lines.
- Avoid contact with overhead power lines during cleanup and other activities.
- If electrical circuits and equipment have gotten wet or are in or near water, turn off the power at the main breaker or fuse on the service panel.
- Do not turn the power back on until electrical equipment has been inspected by a qualified electrician.
- Do not burn candles near flammable items or leave the candle unattended.
- If possible, use flashlights or other battery-operated lights instead of candles.

Beware of hazardous materials.

- Wear protective clothing and gear (for example, a respirator if needed) when handling hazardous materials.
- Wash skin that may have come in contact with hazardous chemicals.

- Contact local authorities if you are not sure about how to handle or get rid of hazardous materials.

Clean up and prevent mold growth.

- Clean up and dry out the building quickly (within 24 to 48 hours).
- Open doors and windows.
- Use fans to dry out the building.
- To *prevent* mold growth, clean wet items and surfaces with detergent and water.
- To *remove* mold growth, wear rubber gloves, open windows and doors, and clean with a bleach solution of 1 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water.
- Throw away porous items (for example, carpet and upholstered furniture) that cannot be dried quickly.
- Fix any leaks in roofs, walls, or plumbing.

Pace yourself and get support.

- Be alert to physical and emotional exhaustion or strain.
- Set priorities for cleanup tasks, and pace the work.
- Try not to work alone.
- Don't get exhausted.
- Ask your family members, friends, or professionals for support.
- If needed, seek professional help.

Prevent musculoskeletal injuries. Use teams of two or more people to move bulky objects. Avoid lifting any material that weighs more than 50 pounds (per person).

Stay cool. When it's hot, stay in air-conditioned buildings; take breaks in shaded areas or in cool rooms; drink water and nonalcoholic fluids often; wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing; and do outdoor activities during cooler hours.

Treat wounds.

- Clean out all open wounds and cuts with soap and clean water.
- Apply an antibiotic ointment.
- Contact a doctor to find out if more treatment is needed (such as a tetanus shot).
- If a wound gets red, swells, or drains, seek immediate medical attention.

Wash your hands. Use soap and water to wash your hands. If water isn't available, you can use alcohol-based products made for washing hands.

Wear protective gear for cleanup work. Wear hard hats, goggles, heavy work gloves, and watertight boots with steel toes and insoles (not just steel shank). Wear earplugs or protective headphones to reduce risk from equipment noise.

For more information, visit www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters, or call CDC at 800-CDC-INFO (English and Spanish) or 888-232-6348 (TTY).

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ANIMAL & INSECT-RELATED HAZARDS

General

- Avoid wild or stray animals.
- Call local authorities to handle animals.
- Secure all food sources and remove any animal carcasses to avoid attracting rats.
- Get rid of dead animals, according to guidelines from your local animal control authority, as soon as you can. See “Animal Disposal” (www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/animaldisposal.asp) for answers to frequently asked questions.
- For guidance on caring for animals entering shelters and for people working with or handling animals following an emergency, see “Interim Guidelines for Animal Health and Control of Disease Transmission in Pet Shelters” (www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/katrina/animalhealthguidelines.asp).
- For more information, contact your local animal shelter or services, a veterinarian, or the Humane Society for advice on dealing with pets or stray or wild animals after an emergency. Also see “Resources for Planning How to Protect Your Pets in an Emergency” (www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/petprotect.asp).

Avoid Mosquitoes

- Rain and flooding in a hurricane area may lead to an increase in numbers of mosquitoes, which can carry diseases, such as West Nile virus or dengue fever. In most cases, the mosquitoes will be pests but will not carry communicable diseases. Local, state, and federal public health authorities will be actively working to control the spread of any mosquito-borne diseases. For more information on West Nile virus, see CDC’s West Nile virus website (www.cdc.gov/westnile).
- To protect yourself from mosquitoes, use screens on dwellings; wear long pants, socks, and long-sleeved shirts; and use insect repellents that contain DEET or Picaridin. Follow directions on the product label and take care when using DEET on small children. More information about these and other recommended repellents can be found in the fact sheet “Updated Information Regarding Insect Repellents” (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/RepellentUpdates.htm).
- To help control mosquito populations, drain all standing water left outdoors in open containers, such as flower pots, tires, pet dishes, or buckets.

Prevent Contact with Rodents

- Remove food sources, water, and items that can provide shelter for rodents.
- Wash dishes, pans, and cooking utensils immediately after use.
- Dispose of garbage and debris as soon as possible.
- For more information, see “Rodent Control After Hurricanes and Floods” (www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/katrina/rodents.asp).

Prevent or Respond to a Snake Bite

- Be aware of snakes that may be swimming in the water to get to higher ground and those that may be hiding under debris or other objects.
- If you see a snake, back away from it slowly and do not touch it.
- If you or someone you know are bitten, try to see and remember the color and shape of the snake, which can help with treatment of the snake bite.
- Keep the bitten person still and calm. This can slow down the spread of venom if the snake is poisonous. Seek medical attention as soon as possible. Dial 911 or call local Emergency Medical Services. Apply first aid if you cannot get the person to the hospital right away.
 - Lay or sit the person down with the bite below the level of the heart.
 - Tell him/her to stay calm and still.
 - Cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing.
 - For more information, see “How to Prevent or Respond to a Snake Bite” (www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/snakebite.asp).

For more information, see the following:

• **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

- Avoid Contact with Wild Animals (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/op/animals.htm)
- Dog Bite Prevention (www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/biteprevention.htm)
- Healthy Pets, Healthy People (www.cdc.gov/healthypets)
- Rabies Web Site (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies)
- Rat-Bite Fever: Frequently Asked Questions (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/ratbitefever_g.htm)

• **American Veterinary Association**

- Dog Bite Prevention Message Points (www.avma.org/press/publichealth/dogbite/messpoints.asp)
- Education Resources for Dog Bite Prevention (www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/biteprevention.htm)

• **Texas A&M University**

Medical Problems & Treatment Considerations for the Red Imported Fire Ant
 (<http://fireant.tamu.edu/materials/factsheets/FAPFS023.2002rev.Medical.pdf>)

For more information, visit www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters, or call CDC at 800-CDC-INFO (English and Spanish) or 888-232-6348 (TTY).

