

Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

During Watch Status:

- Learn the storm surge history and elevation of your area.
- Learn the safe routes inland.
- Learn the location of official shelters.
- Determine how to prepare your boat for an emergency.
- Check for official bulletins on radio and TV often.
- Fuel cars and make sure they are in good working order.
- Stock up on canned provisions, charcoal, bottled water and non-perishable foods that do not require cooking.
- Stock cooler with ice for perishable foods.
- Check batteries in radios and flashlights.
- Stock several candles, preferably those that last 48 hours, along with waterproof matches.
- Secure lawn/patio furniture.
- Tape, board, or shutter windows to prevent shattering.
- Wedge sliding glass doors to prevent their lifting from their tracks.
- Have a first aid kit, a snakebite kit and a fully charged fire extinguisher on hand.

During Warning Status:

- Stay tuned to radio, television for official bulletins.
- Move small appliances and other valuables to upper floors or put them on high shelves or table tops to minimize damage from flooding.
- Board windows.
- Bring in pets.
- Fill bathtubs and containers with water.
- Turn up refrigerator to maximize cold and don't open unless necessary.
- Use telephones only for emergencies.

- Stay indoors on the downward side of the house away from windows.
- Notify relatives, friends and neighbors that you are evacuating and where you intend to go.
- At some point in time all public utilities may be turned off.

Tropical Storm

Given a name when winds reach 39-73 mph.

Hurricane

Sustained winds that exceed 74 mph, blowing counterclockwise.

Hurricane Watch

Issued when conditions are possible and may threaten an area for the 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning

Issued when hurricane force winds, high water and rough seas are expected within 24 hours or less with sustained winds of 74 mph or higher.

Hurricane Categories

Category 1: Winds 74-98 mph, 4-5 ft. storm surge, minimal damage.

Category 2: Winds 96-110 mph, 6-8 ft. storm surge, moderate damage.

Category 3: Winds 111- 130 mph, 9-12 ft. storm surge, extensive damage.

Category 4: Winds 131-155 mph, 13-18 ft. storm surge, extreme damage.

Category 5: Winds 155 mph or more, storm surge higher than 18 ft. catastrophic.

The best advice during a hurricane is to leave town. People decide to stay to protect their property, but there is little you can do to protect your property from high winds and flooding. Get everything together during the hurricane watch period and be ready to go to a hotel if an evacuation order is given. Getting out of the path of the storm should be your first priority.

Do not attempt to return home until you are sure Hilton Head Island has been cleared for re-entry. Law enforcement personnel will not allow you to pass their roadblocks until that time.☞