

HURRICANE GUIDE

WHAT IS AN EVACUATION?

An evacuation order is a declaration by CEMA (Chatham Emergency Management Agency), in coordination with County officials, advising residents in designated areas to leave the area.

VOLUNTARY Evacuation

Under a VOLUNTARY Evacuation, residents are strongly encouraged to evacuate. The probability of a strike is 25% or greater, depending on the size and movement of the storm.

A Voluntary Evacuation doesn't just mean that staying might be unpleasant. It means that a direct strike is possible but not yet deemed highly likely. This prediction could be wrong; conditions could change later if the storm strengthens or changes direction. Then evacuation could become Mandatory, but with less notice.

MANDATORY Evacuation

Under a MANDATORY Evacuation, residents should leave the area immediately. No one will come door-to-door to inform you, and you will not be forced from your home by authorities. However, all emergency personnel will be evacuated, and water service will be turned off.

WHY EVACUATE?

Not doing so could be fatal.

If you stay, and if we are seriously hit, and you survive - you are lucky. However, if you are not lucky, you could be dead. Having been lucky once does not indicate you'll be lucky a second time. Those who have stayed and survived direct hurricane hits elsewhere invariably have said it was the dumbest thing they ever did, and they would never do it again.

When you're told to evacuate, DO.

Life could be extremely unpleasant.

- Water will be shut off once an evacuation is ordered.
- Electrical power and gas may be lost during a storm, and not be restored for a long time.
- Wildlife - As floodwaters rise, mice, rats, snakes and other wildlife will seek higher ground. They can, and will, invade your house.
- Emergency medical and fire services will NOT be available.
- No escape - Once the storm gets very bad, it likely will be impossible to change your mind and then leave; the way may be blocked with downed trees, and the Causeway may be flooded.

PRESEASON PREPARATION

Create a Hurricane Box for a quick exit.

Contents should include:

- Georgia roadmap
- Insurance information - Company, agent, phone numbers, and policy numbers for homeowner's and flood insurance.
- First-aid kit
- Non-perishable food
- Pet supplies
- Water
- Toilet paper, matches, can opener
- Radio, flashlight, and batteries
- Contact information
- Phone numbers of friends and relatives whom you may wish to contact once you've left
- Camera and film to document the state of your home when you return
- A copy of this *Hurricane Guide* document, also found on the Association's website (www.landings.org)

A second hurricane box

We strongly advise taking only one car, but if you absolutely must take two cars, have a hurricane box prepared for both cars. Also, agree beforehand on an out-of-area friend or relative to contact and use as coordinator in the event your cars become separated and you lose each other.

Pets

Have any necessary carriers and supplies to support pets. If you intend to stay in a shelter, generally you must bring pet carriers with you.

Inventory your home.

Photos or video are good ways to record your belongings as documentation for insurance. Create the inventory record, and put it in your Hurricane Box.

HURRICANE REENTRY HOTLINE

855-880-2362

The Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) has a new Hurricane Reentry Hotline. This toll free number (855-880-2362) will be activated in the event an evacuation is ordered. This number will be updated to provide information about when it is safe to return. Please note that storm information, damage reports, and other disaster information will NOT be published on this line.

Know routes, destinations, special considerations for pets, etc.

Consult the Community Information section of the AT&T telephone book for useful planning information. If you intend to go to a relative, friend, or shelter whose destination you know well before hand, determine the best route and any special provisions you need to make for pets.

Supplies in case there is no evacuation

Create a several-day supply of the following, in case a hurricane is not close enough to cause an evacuation, yet causes disruption of services:

- Water
- Nonperishable food
- Medicines - an adequate supply
- Battery-powered radio and plenty of batteries
- Flashlight and batteries
- Also, clear trees of dead or weak limbs.

Use CEMA and other resources

Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), located at 124 Bull Street, has many helpful pamphlets, such as *When You Return To A Storm Damaged Home* (by FEMA), and *Repairing Your Flooded Home* (by the American Red Cross). Stop in and pick up some literature, or visit their website (chathamemergency.org). CEMA also has a Hurricane Information Line (201-4590) that provides hurricane preparedness information, weather advisories, and tips on what to do during and after the storm.

The Savannah Morning News also has a comprehensive hurricane guide online at www.savannahnow.com/CURRENT/HURRICANE_GUIDEindex.shtml.

The Department of Homeland Security's website (www.ready.gov) also provides resources for planning for all emergencies.

Finally, HurricaneSafety.org is another good resource.

KEEPING INFORMED***Hurricane Season***

Hurricane Season runs from June-November, especially July-October. Watch a good weather report and forecast at least every other day, and preferably every day.

Once a hurricane is identified as possibly being a factor for anywhere in the Southeast U.S., watch every day. Once it

reaches a point where it is 2-3 days away, tune in at least every few hours.

Where to watch, listen, and read

Radio, local TV, newspaper, and CEMA's website are good resources. Automatic alerts from CEMA are available to e-mail users by signing up at their website (chathamemergency.org).

It is YOUR responsibility.

The Landings Association is **NOT** your source of information.

THERE IS NO EXCUSE: GET INFORMED - STAY INFORMED.

SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY - 912-691-7443

The special needs population is made up of those who have illness, infirmities, or other conditions requiring a higher level of care than is available in a public shelter during a hurricane evacuation.

Examples include persons requiring oxygen or those who are bedridden. Their evacuation and shelter during a hurricane is coordinated through a "special needs registry" set up by home health nursing agencies, the Chatham County Health Department, and Chatham Emergency Management Agency volunteers.

The guidelines for special needs sheltering are:

- Evaluate whether family and friends can provide adequate evacuation and shelter assistance. Resources are limited. Use the County's special needs sheltering program as a last resort.
- Pre-register. If you have a condition requiring assistance with daily living, such as the need for at-home nursing care, you must register in advance with your home healthcare agency, Senior Citizens of Savannah, the Chatham County Health Department, or the Chatham County Emergency Management Agency.
- For more information on the County's special needs program, or to obtain registration forms, call 356-2441.
- Every effort will be made to accommodate last-minute call-ins as a storm approaches, but there is no guarantee that transportation will be available for anyone who has not pre-registered.

Hospitals, nursing homes, personal care homes, shelters, and other licensed residential facilities are required by law to have adequate plans in place to safely care for, shelter, and/or evacuate their residents during an emergency. If you have questions, ask to see their plan, and contact the Chatham County Emergency Management Agency at 201-4500.

Remember, The Landings Association does not have the resources to evacuate residents or to arrange transportation. It is your responsibility. Plan now, before a storm approaches.

ONCE A HURRICANE WATCH IS DECLARED

- Top off fuel tanks.
- Get cash, as credit cards may not be processed during a utility outage.
- Medicines - Prepare a minimum two-week supply of medicines. Bring your prescriptions to obtain refills in the event there is an extended evacuation.
- Personal papers - Pack any pertinent financial records for access if necessary. Be certain you have personal identification for you and your family.
- Establish your destination - Communicate your travel intentions to friends and relatives, and leave an itinerary in your vehicle, including a phone number for contact.
- Special possessions - Pack any possessions of special sentiment or financial value that are small and easy to take. Remember, possessions are physical objects that are less important than your health, safety, friends, and family.
- Yard items - Move all loose yard items inside. Left outdoors, items may become missiles.
- Place your Hurricane Box in your vehicle.
- Deploy all but the final shutters or other house protection. If you intend to deploy hurricane shutters, plywood, or other protection for your house, consider installing now all but those you wish to leave for the last minute.
- Pack for several days - It may be several weeks, but you can buy clothes elsewhere.
- Back up your computer files - Back up any important files, and pack the external hard drives, DVDs, or CDs, to take with you.
- Pets - Pack medical records and supplies of food and bowls, water, bedding, etc., for several days.

ONCE A HURRICANE WARNING IS DECLARED

- Finalize house protection.
- Install any final shutters or plywood.
- Monitor TV or radio for news at least hourly.
- Pack final clothes and items on your list of special possessions.
- Pack last-minute items for personal hygiene, baby care, etc.
- When an evacuation is ordered, GO. To beat the traffic and shorten your trip, we recommend leaving when a Voluntary Evacuation is ordered. If you wait until a Mandatory Evacuation is ordered, you face an arduous journey.

IMMEDIATELY BEFORE YOU GO

- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to maximum cold. If you evacuate, and it turns out that electrical power has been lost for only a short time, this improves the chance of not having all the food go bad. Empty ice buckets.
- Unplug appliances (except refrigerator) and electrical equipment.
- Turn off the main water service to the house.
- Do NOT turn off the gas line or pilots - Atlanta Gas & Light requests these be left ON.
- Close all windows and all exterior AND INTERIOR doors.

HOW AND WHERE TO GO

Select a prescribed route; take a map and be prepared to use alternate routes.

If you have a previously-arranged place to stay, take the most sensible route to it. Otherwise, take the CEMA-prescribed evacuation route.

Highways outside the County that parallel the coastline (e.g., US 17A or US 17 southbound) should be avoided as a hurricane approaches. They are not designated evacuation routes and may be dangerous within 12-18 hours before the storm's landfall. Recommended inland routes are GA 21, US 80, I-16, and GA 204.

Inland counties will open shelters at the appropriate time based on coordination with the coastal counties and the Red Cross Hurricane Watch Team. Shelters could be opened at the onset of either a Voluntary or Mandatory Evacuation.

Take one vehicle only, if at all possible.

If every household evacuates with two cars, the congestion will be far, far worse than if each takes only one car. Be responsible, and take only one car if at all possible.

WHEN TO RETURN

It may not be possible to return immediately after the storm has passed. If the storm misses or only brushes us, you may be able to return in one to two days. If we are hit seriously, you may not be able to return for two or more weeks. Storm damage may block roads through Savannah and to The Landings, the Causeway could be washed out, or any number of other situations could delay return. Before attempting to return, check to determine if access is possible.

Radio and TV stations

When an evacuation is imminent, most local radio and TV stations will broadcast news very frequently. Once an evacuation is ordered, many will broadcast news and updates continuously. Please stay tuned to the appropriate channels.

CEMA - Chatham Emergency Management Agency can be reached at **912-201-4500**, and should be able to advise you of accessibility through the area to Skidaway Island.

Almost all hotels or friends that you visit will have Internet access. You can reference CEMA's website: chathamemergency.org.

The Landings

As soon as practical, The Landings Association will post a message indicating the current state of The Landings' access and services and advise you appropriately to return. (**BE ADVISED:** TLA personnel will have evacuated as well.) Information will be posted as quickly as possible on our website (www.landings.org), and sent via E-Mail Bulletins.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU RETURN

We all hope that each evacuation will turn out to be a wise precaution, and that the storm will have missed us.

Depending upon the severity of the storm, you should be prepared for any or all of the following when you do return:

- Some streets may be blocked by debris.
- Storm drains may be clogged, and there may be flooding.
- Some or all utility services may be inoperable.

For all the above, The Landings Association, Chatham County, and the utility services will all be attempting to restore the situation to normal as quickly as possible. Recognize that there will be limited resources allocated to deal with all issues immediately, so prepare for restoration to take awhile.

Damage to your home

If you smell gas, or see electrical arcing, immediately leave your home and report the problem to the appropriate utility company or Southside Fire Department.

Your home may be damaged, uninhabitable, or destroyed. It is your responsibility to work directly with your insurance company to begin the resolution process.

Wildlife in your home

If the area flooded, wildlife may have invaded your home seeking high ground. Please enter your premises with caution.

Conserve use of utilities

Telephone and electrical service will be under stress; use them only as absolutely necessary.

Protect your health

If you have cleanup work to do, do not endanger your health with exertion or stress. Eat well, rest often, and work a manageable schedule.

HURRICANE NAMES FOR 2016:

Alex	Hermine	Otto
Bonnie	Igor	Paula
Colin	Julia	Richard
Danielle	Karl	Shary
Earl	Lisa	Tomas
Fiona	Matthew	Virginie
Gaston	Nicole	Walter

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