

Resources to prepare yourself and your family for Hurricanes

Online Resources

NOAA's National Hurricane Center (NHC), provides up-to-date information at <http://www.hurricanes.gov>.

National Weather Service Charleston provides up-to-date information for local area at <https://www.weather.gov/chs/tropical>. Additional forecast and other information is available through NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) website <http://www.weather.gov>. NWS also offers important preparedness information online at <http://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>.

Numerous local, state and Federal government agencies and non-governmental organizations provide similar preparedness information with emphasis and often more detail on their area of expertise.

FEMA provides step-by-step guidance on how to prepare your family for all types of disasters at www.ready.gov and encouraging your friends and family to take action: <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>

The following www.ready.gov webpages have emergency planning guides and resources for:

[Individuals with Disabilities](https://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs) at <https://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs>

[Military](https://www.ready.gov/considerations/military-family-preparedness) at <https://www.ready.gov/considerations/military-family-preparedness>

[Pets and Animals](https://www.ready.gov/animals) at <https://www.ready.gov/animals>

[Seniors](https://www.ready.gov/seniors) at <https://www.ready.gov/seniors>

[Financial Preparedness](https://www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness) at <https://www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness>

[Get Tech Ready](https://www.ready.gov/get-tech-ready) at <https://www.ready.gov/get-tech-ready>

[Ready Campus](https://www.ready.gov/campus) at <https://www.ready.gov/campus>

[Evacuation](https://www.ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family) at <https://www.ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family>

[Safety Skills](https://www.ready.gov/safety-skills) at <https://www.ready.gov/safety-skills>

[Shelter](https://www.ready.gov/shelter) at <https://www.ready.gov/shelter>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has tips on how to stock up on supplies and plan for emergencies at <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/before.html>. It also has tips on how to recover safely from a hurricane on such topics as flooding, downed power lines, damage from mold, and other risks to your health at <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/after.html>.

The American Red Cross has guidance on many types of disasters with unique information on medical, first aid and pet preparations at <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane.html>. They have a Hurricane Safety Checklist at https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness_Disaster_Recovery/Disaster_Preparedness/Hurricane/Hurricane.pdf#

Emergency Preparation for Medications

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/emergency-preparedness-drugs>

<https://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2017/10/preparing-your-medicine-cabinet-for-an-emergency/>

<https://www.pbahealth.com/prepare-medications-for-an-emergency/>

<http://lab.express-scripts.com/lab/insights/adherence/emergency-preparedness-for-prescription-medications>

The Charleston County Government website has a wealth of information adapted to Lowcountry needs. Click individual topics listed below or on the menu items down the left side of the page at

<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/emergency-management/hurricane.php#hpg>

The Charleston County Government website also has an excellent print-at-home [Charleston County Disabilities and Other Special Needs Emergency Preparedness Guide](#) that not only has unique preparedness and supply kit lists but also ability self-assessment guides.

Before & After A Hurricane

[Defining Hurricanes & Tropical Storms](#)

[Fact Sheet - What You Need To Do](#)

[Hurricane Preparedness Guide](#)

[Avoiding Hurricane/Flood Damage](#)

[Avoiding Wind Damage To Your Home](#)

[Flood Zones: Do You Live In One?](#)

[Managing Storm Debris](#)

During A Hurricane

[Animal-Friendly Hotels](#)

[Evacuation Information](#)

[Evacuation Zones](#)

[Evacuation Directions & Map](#)

[Shelters List](#)

Sign up for Charleston County Citizens Alert Notification System to receive alerts about emergencies and other important community news at

<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/emergency-management/alert-removal.php>

Emergency Supplies Kit Food, Water, Tools and Supplies lists:

<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/emergency-management/emergency-kit.php>

Ready Lowcountry is a partnership with the National Ready Campaign to provide local information, free resources and education that you can utilize throughout the year to help prepare for all types of hazards.

<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/emergency-management/emergency-info.php>

Each local TV station will have realtime hurricane information on their website. StormTeam2 has a Hurricane Ready Guide, How to Build A Storm Kit, Storm Surge Mapping, and a number of other hurricane related features at

<https://www.counton2.com/weather/hurricane-central/>.

If you're into geeky, interactive graphic displays of various risk and demographic data, Climate Central's Surging Seas Risk Zone map shows areas vulnerable to near-term flooding from different combinations of sea level rise, tropical storm surge, tides, and tsunamis, or to permanent submersion by long-term sea level rise.

<https://ss2.climatecentral.org/>

Social media

NHC updates on Twitter (@NWSNHC) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NWSNHC/>).

National Weather Service forecast information is also on Twitter (@NWS).

Charleston NWS office is on Twitter (@NWSCharlestonSC), Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/NWSCharlestonSC>) and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/NWSCharleston>).

You can also follow FEMA on Twitter (@Ready) for the latest tips on hurricane safety and preparedness.

Mobile Device Apps

There are dozens of “Weather” and “Hurricane” apps; many free, others at small cost.

Local Charleston TV stations each have news apps and weather apps.

ABC News 4 Storm Tracker

WCBD Weather

WCSC Live 5 Weather

WeatherBug

Weather Underground

SC EMD (Emergency Management Division)

Charleston County EMD

Mt Pleasant Police

Town of Mount Pleasant (Connect MP)

FEMA

American Red Cross - Emergency Alerts

American Red Cross - Hurricane

The Red Cross has multiple apps for Alerts, Blood Donor, First Aid, Flood, Hurricane, Tornado; be sure to download only those by the American Red Cross unless you’re going to other countries.

The following 2 are similar apps for different platforms; more important, they provide quick access to alerts and great hurricane graphics and text but NO local news or emergency info:

Max Tracker Hurricane WPLG, Apple iOS store

Max Hurricane Tracker, Google Play for Android

Disaster Kit for Pets

Keep an Evac-Sack (or pillow case) and supplies handy for your pets. Make sure that everyone in the family knows where it is. This kit should be clearly labeled and easy to carry. Items to consider keeping in or near your pack include:

- ☐ Photocopies of medical records and a waterproof container with a two-week supply of any medicine your pet requires (Remember, food and medications need to be rotated out of your emergency kit — otherwise they may go bad or become useless)
- ☐ Pet first-aid kit and guide book (ask your vet what to include, or visit the ASPCA Store to buy one online)
- ☐ 3-7 days-worth of canned (pop-top) or dry food (be sure to rotate every two months)
- ☐ Disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans are perfect)
- ☐ Litter or paper toweling
- ☐ Liquid dish soap and disinfectant
- ☐ Disposable garbage bags for clean-up
- ☐ Pet feeding dishes
- ☐ Extra collar or harness as well as an extra leash
- ☐ Bottled water, at least 7 days' worth for each person and pet (store in a cool, dry place and replace every two months)
- ☐ A traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier, ideally one for each pet
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Blanket (for scooping up a fearful pet)
- ☐ Recent photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make "Lost" posters)
- ☐ Especially for cats: Pillowcase or Evac-Sack, toys, scoopable litter
- ☐ Especially for dogs: Extra leash, toys and chew toys, a week's worth of cage liner

Source: ASPCA.org