

South Carolina Disaster Preparedness Quick Resource Guide

This guide provides authoritative, actionable instructions for South Carolina residents to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hurricanes and other major emergencies. Adhering to these protocols can save lives and protect property.

1. Hurricane Supply Checklist (3-5 Day Preparedness)

Assemble these items in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers. Your kit should be stored in a convenient place known to all family members. **Maintenance Rule:** Rotate your food and water supplies and replace your batteries every **six months** to ensure freshness and reliability.

Core Essentials

- **Water:** 2 gallons of water per person per day (1 gallon for drinking, 1 gallon for food preparation/sanitation) for at least 3 days.
Storage Note: Use plastic containers such as soft drink bottles or milk jugs. **Avoid glass containers** due to the high risk of breakage.
- **Food:** At least a 3–5 day supply of non-perishable food (ready-to-eat meats, fruits, vegetables, and high-energy snacks like peanut butter).
- **NOAA Weather Radio:** Solar-powered or hand-crank model with tone alerts and extra batteries.
- **Flashlight:** With extra batteries.
- **Manual Can Opener:** For canned food items.
- **Whistle:** To signal for help.
- **Wrench or Pliers:** For utility shut-off.
- **Local Maps:** For navigation if GPS and cellular networks fail.
- **Cell Phone:** With chargers and backup battery packs.
- **Cash:** Include small bills and change.

Sanitation & Safety

- **Personal Sanitation:** Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties.
- **Personal Hygiene:** Feminine supplies and personal care items.
- **Protective Gear:** Sturdy shoes, long-sleeved shirts, and long pants.
- **First Aid Kit:** (See detailed list in Section 2).

Additional Considerations

- **Prescriptions:** A 1-month supply of medications and extra eyeglasses.
- **Infant Needs:** Formula, diapers, and specialized food.
- **Bedding:** A sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.
- **Important Documents:** Copies of insurance policies, identification, and bank records in a waterproof, portable container.
- **Activities:** Books, games, or puzzles for children.

2. First Aid Kit Essentials

- Create a kit for your home and one for each vehicle.
 - Sterile gauze pads (2-inch and 4-inch sizes)
 - Sterile roller bandages (2-inch and 3-inch sizes)
 - Triangular bandages
 - Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
 - Scissors and tweezers
 - Needle, safety pins, and tongue blades
 - Antiseptic, cleansing agent/soap, and moistened towelettes
 - Thermometer
 - Petroleum jelly or other lubricant
 - Latex gloves (at least 2 pairs)
 - Sunscreen
- Residents with Functional/Medical Needs:** If you require backup power for medical devices (oxygen, CPAP), refrigeration for medication, or use a hospital bed, you may be eligible for **Medical Equipment Power Shelters (MEPS)** . **Triage Line for MEPS Eligibility: 1-833-351-9990**

3. Family Communication Plan & Meeting Places

Template Instructions: Complete the information below and provide a copy to every family member.

Out-of-Town Contact

When local lines are jammed, long-distance calls/texts often go through more easily. Use this person as a central point for roll-call.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

School and Work Emergency Contacts

School 1: _____ **Phone:** _____

School 2: _____ **Phone:** _____

Workplace: _____ **Phone:** _____

Emergency Meeting Places

Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____

(Use if you must leave your home immediately, such as during a fire.)

Outside-of-Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____
(Use if family members are separated and cannot return home.)

Household Safety Instructions

- **Emergency Services:** Ensure all children know how to dial 9-1-1.
- **Emergency Information:** Monitor local radio stations for official updates.
- **Utility Shut-off:** Teach adult family members how to turn off gas, electricity, and water at the main valves.

4. Pet Preparedness Checklist

Most general population shelters and hotels do **not** allow animals. Only **Service Animals** are permitted in general shelters. Owners must arrange for pets in advance.

- **Supplies:** 3–5 day supply of pet food, extra water, and a leash.
 - **Containment:** A sturdy crate or carrier for transportation (required for shelters).
 - **Medical Records:** Current vaccination records and medical history.
 - **Identification:** Ensure pets are microchipped and wearing collars with current ID tags.
- Pet-Friendly Shelter Considerations** If you must use a pet-friendly shelter, you are **required** to bring a carrier/crate, food, water, and vaccination records. Confirm availability through local emergency management as these shelters fill quickly.

5. Evacuation Planning & Home Securing Action Plan

Pre-Storm Preparation

1. **Prepare the Property:** Trim weak branches from trees. Clean out drains, gutters, and downspouts to prevent localized flooding.
2. **Secure the Exterior:** Bring in outdoor furniture, toys, and garden tools. Anchor objects that cannot be moved inside, such as gas grills.
3. **Protect Openings:** Close and board up windows using permanent shutters or 1/2-inch plywood (pre-drilled and fitted in advance).
4. **Manage Food & Water:** Turn refrigerators/freezers to coldest settings. Store drinking water in clean bathtubs or jugs.
5. **Refuel and Refill:** Keep gas tanks full. Refill all essential prescriptions.

Safety Warning: Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Never use a generator, grill, or other fuel-burning device inside a home, garage, or near an open window. CO is an invisible, odorless, and deadly gas.

- **Symptoms:** Headache, dizziness, fatigue, and poor judgment.
- **Action:** If symptoms occur, get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention.

Final Action Steps (If Evacuating)

Unplug major appliances.

Shut off the main water valve and the electricity at the main fuse box.

Tell an out-of-town contact where you are going.

Lock all doors and windows before leaving.

After the Storm

- Do not return until officials declare it safe.
- **Use the telephone only for emergency calls** to keep lines open for first responders.

6. Emergency Contacts & Agency Directory

IMPORTANT: Standard homeowner's insurance does **not** cover flood damage. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has a **30-day waiting period** before a policy becomes effective. You cannot purchase coverage once a storm is named.

Agency Name | Service Provided | Contact Number ||

SCDOI Consumer Services | Insurance questions and complaints | 1-800-768-3467 ||

American Red Cross | Emergency shelter, food, and messaging | 877-272-7337 ||

Charleston County Emergency Management | Local emergency info and alerts | 843-746-3800 ||

Dorchester County Emergency Management | Local emergency info and alerts | 843-563-0100 ||

SC 511 / SC Emergency Manager App | Traffic, evacuation routes, and alerts | Dial 511/Download App ||

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) | Flood insurance information | 1-800-638-6620 ||

Disaster Distress Helpline | Emotional and stress support | 1-800-985-5990 ||

Note: The 511 service and SC Emergency Manager app provide color-coded traffic flow: Green (Free flow), Yellow (Increased volume), Red (Congestion/Queues), and Black (Blocked/Incident).

7. JB Charleston Military-Specific Emergency Information

MILITARY PERSONNEL ONLY: Personnel affiliated with Joint Base Charleston must adhere to the following accountability and reporting procedures during a disaster or evacuation:

- **Evacuation Accountability:** Personnel are **mandated** to call the AFPC toll-free number at **1-800-435-9941** to report their evacuation location and provide contact information.
- **Mandatory Monitoring:** You must check the AFPC number or your command daily for the "All Clear" signal.
- **Return to Base:** Do not return to the installation until the "All Clear" is officially given. Once the order is issued, you must return immediately.

Installation Emergency Management Contacts:

- **Air Base Section:** 843-963-5333
- **Weapons Station Section:** 843-794-7652
- **Emergency Management Email:** 628CES.CEX.EM@us.af.mil

