

# Mitigation

There are things that you can do now which can help you avoid loss of life and property and may reduce your risk of becoming a disaster victim. Those things are called mitigation. There are many low-cost mitigative measures you can take to protect yourself, your home, or your business from losses.



*Planning for a hurricane before it happens could save your life and your property.*

## Protection from Wind

- ▶ Analyze your home or business's structural strengths and weaknesses.
- ▶ Retrofit your existing roof with hurricane straps and gable end braces.
- ▶ If you are building a new home or business, consider a hip roof with a pitch of 30 degrees or less.
- ▶ Install or build storm shutters to protect windows.
- ▶ Install braces to give additional support to garage doors.

## Protection from Flooding

- ▶ Buy flood insurance. Contact your local emergency management office to obtain information on how to contact the local National Flood Insurance Protection representative, or use the toll free number 1-800-638-6620.
- ▶ Move valuables and appliances out of the basement.

- ▶ Have the main breaker or fuse box and utility meters elevated.
- ▶ Consider elevating your home/business above the 100-year floodplain or estimated surge inundation level.
- ▶ Make sure that any flood-proofing efforts are in compliance with minimum National Flood Insurance Protection requirements, and with state and local building codes.

*Hurricane Floyd caused severe flooding in Horry County in 1998.*



# Useful Items

- ✓ Road maps
- ✓ Non-perishable food
- ✓ Drinking water (two quarts per person, per day)
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Medication
- ✓ Cash and credit cards
- ✓ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ✓ Battery-operated radio with extra batteries
- ✓ Non-electric can opener
- ✓ Important documents (insurance policies, family records, photo I.D., important telephone numbers)
- ✓ Jumper cables
- ✓ Tire repair kit
- ✓ Baby supplies (extra food and diapers)
- ✓ Blankets/sleeping bags
- ✓ Fire extinguisher
- ✓ Toiletries
- ✓ Games and books

For more information contact:

**South Carolina Emergency Management Division**  
Office of the Adjutant General  
2779 Fish Hatchery Road  
West Columbia, SC 29172

Phone: 803-737-8500  
Fax: 803-737-8570

Or visit us on the Web at:  
[www.scmd.org](http://www.scmd.org)



The Pine Ridge National Guard Armory was retrofitted to provide South Carolina with its first state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center.



# South Carolina Emergency Management Division

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# In South Carolina

Fourteen hurricanes have made landfall along the South Carolina coast since 1900. Of those, four packed winds of more than 110 mph. Hurricane Hazel in 1954 was one of the deadliest, causing 95 deaths in the two Carolinas. Hurricane Hugo in 1989 was the second most expensive storm on record, costing approximately \$8 billion dollars.

## Watches and Warnings

**Tropical Storm Watch** means conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 36 hours.

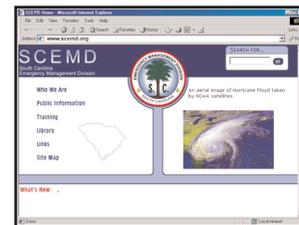
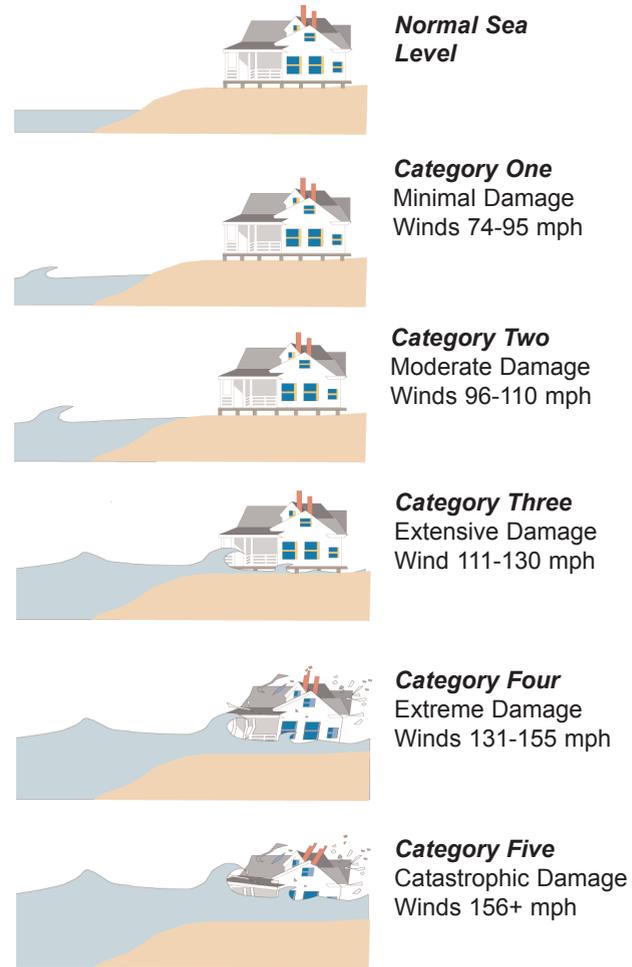
**Tropical Storm Warning** means conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours.

**Hurricane Watch** means conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 36 hours. During a Hurricane Watch, prepare to take immediate action to protect your family and property in case a Hurricane Warning is issued.

**Hurricane Warning** means conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours. All storm preparations should have been complete and evacuate if directed by local officials.

## Storm Surge

An abnormal rise of the sea along a shore as the result primarily, of the winds from a storm.



When you need the most up-to-date information, look to the SCEMD web site at [www.scmd.org](http://www.scmd.org).

## Before...

### Be prepared

- ▶ Plan an evacuation route.
- ▶ Stay tuned to your local television and radio stations for emergency information.
- ▶ Learn safe routes inland and the locations of official shelters. Be ready to drive 20 to 50 miles inland to locate a safe place.
- ▶ Have disaster supplies on hand: flashlight and batteries; portable, battery-operated radio and batteries; first aid kit and manual; emergency food and water; non-electric can opener; essential medicines; cash and credit cards; sturdy shoes.
- ▶ Make arrangements for pets. Pets are not allowed in official shelters.
- ▶ Fuel up and service family vehicles.
- ▶ Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
- ▶ Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police, or fire department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
- ▶ Determine where to move your boat during a storm.
- ▶ Protect your home. Cover your windows with permanent shutters, plywood panels or other shielding materials. Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs. Bring in lawn furniture and other loose, lightweight objects, such as garbage cans, garden tools, etc.
- ▶ Develop an emergency communication plan to use if family members are separated from one another.

## During...

### Protect Yourself

- ▶ Stay tuned to your local television and radio stations for emergency information.
- ▶ Stay inside a well-constructed building away from windows and doors, even if they are covered. Go under interior stairs or to an interior first-floor room, basement, or closet.
- ▶ Be alert. Tornadoes are frequently spawned during hurricanes.
- ▶ If the “eye” of the storm passes over your area, be aware that severe conditions will return with winds from the other direction in a very short time.

*Be careful when returning home. Wait until the area is declared safe.*



## After...

### Returning Home

- ▶ Wait until an area is declared safe before entering. Roads may be closed for your protection. Do not drive in flooded areas.
- ▶ Check gas, water, electrical lines and appliances for damage.
- ▶ Avoid using candles and other open flames indoors. Use a flashlight to inspect damage.
- ▶ Use the telephone to report life-threatening emergencies only.