

**TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND**



**P.O. BOX 427  
SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, SC 29482**

**Sullivan's Island**  

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**H O M E**  
**DISASTER**  
**G U I D E**  

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**Keep handy all year--on  
your refrigerator or in your phone book.**

## **General Preparedness and During Hurricane Season**

Hurricane season is June 1 to November 30, but any time is the right time to prepare you and your family for a possible disaster.

- Develop a family plan for evacuation.
- Discuss the possibility of a disaster with your family.
- Inventory personal property.
- Provide for safekeeping of important documents, such as renting a safe deposit box or storage facility.
- Check with your insurance agent to make certain that you have the right coverage.
- Assemble a portable disaster kit, home disaster supplies, a car emergency kit and first aid kit.
- Pay attention to weather forecasts.
- Remove tree limbs near electrical wires and your home.
- Know the gas, water, electricity cut-off points and how to cut them off.
- Make preparations to moor, anchor or store your boat.
- Make necessary repairs to your roof, foundation (tie downs) and other parts of your house.
- Make preparations to board or safeguard pets. (Shelters will not take pets.)
- Keep at least half a tank of gas in your car at all times.
- Check car for roadworthiness: oil level, tire pressures (including the spare).
- Replenish medications and prescriptions.
- Put Sullivan's Island decals on the inside front left windshield of your vehicle or boat.

### **During a Hurricane Watch**

A hurricane watch is issued for coastal areas when there is a threat of hurricane conditions generally within 36 hours. If you and your family intend to evacuate the island, you may want to do so during the watch period to avoid traffic jams on the bridges or highways.

- Monitor news media for emergency information
- Move or secure your boat. (If you plan to move it from the Intracoastal Waterway to the harbor, the Ben Sawyer Bridge may be closed to waterway traffic once a hurricane warning is declared.)
- Place valuables in plastic bags or other waterproof containers.
- Fill car and boat gas tanks and check batteries.
- Check to see that emergency equipment is working properly.
- Recheck for loose limbs and secure all loose objects outdoors that could become dangerous projectiles.
- Recheck home disaster supplies, car emergency kit, portable disaster kit and first aid kit.
- Prepare to evacuate during daylight hours and make arrangements for an evacuation location.
- Get extra cash from your bank.
- Contact your employers about job duties.
- Let your friends and loved ones know about your plans to evacuate and your location.
- Talk with your family about the warning.

- Fill freezer with ice and with plastic containers filled with drinking water.
- Wash dirty laundry that may be sitting in the hamper.
- Fill ice chests with ice.
- Store dangerous chemicals in waterproof containers or heavy plastic bags in a safe place.

### **During a Hurricane Warning**

Hurricane warnings are issued when hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours or less. You and your family should evacuate no later than the first announcement of the warning.

- Monitor news media for official announcements.
- Evacuate when asked to do so.
- Eat a full meal before you evacuate as shelters only offer emergency rations, and you may have a long drive ahead.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest setting. Store plastic bottles of water and newspapers in the vacant areas of your freezer since a full freezer keeps food longer. Open doors as little as possible.
- Board up windows and glass doors, if possible, and tape those which are not boarded-up.
- Stuff towels and throw rugs against window sills to help keep water out.
- Wedge sliding glass doors shut with a bar or piece of wood.
- Draw all drapes and blinds to help stop glass flying from broken windows.
- Drape furnishings with tarpaulins or plastic sheeting to protect them from potential water damage.
- Clean sinks and bathtubs with chlorine cleanser and run a washing machine load with chlorine bleach so that they may be used for water storage. Fill them with water.
- Bring pets indoors, and make necessary preparations. If you must leave your pets at home, these tips could enable your pet to survive a 3- to 4-foot flood elevation for 12 to 36 hours.
  - If your home is elevated, place the pets in the bathroom, leaving the window cracked about 1 inch for ventilation and to avoid compression.
  - If your home is not elevated, Place the pet in the bathroom. Protect the finish of your tub with carpet, newspaper or other padding, and stack concrete blocks in the tub in a stair step arrangement three feet high. This will allow the pet to climb up the blocks in case of rising water.
  - Provide bedding and large bowls of water and dry food on the floor.
  - Duct tape the door shut to try to prevent flooding.
- Place personal valuables and important papers or items in waterproof containers or plastic bags, and place them on a higher level.
- When the electricity goes out, cut off your home's electricity at the breaker box (all circuits) to avoid overloading the system when the electricity returns.
- Cut off propane gas at the tank.
- Cut off water at round green valve cover in front of the water meter, if possible, to avoid flooding from broken pipes when water service is restored.

- Cut off the water valve to the hot water heater.
- When winds begin to pick up, go inside and lock all doors.
- Unplug all appliances with motors, including refrigerators, washers, dryers, videotape players, hairdryers, etc.
- Remove pictures and bric-a-brac from walls.
- Tie down or secure items that could become projectiles: garbage cans, grills, lawn chairs, signs, porch furniture, etc.

### **Shelter Evacuation**

Take your portable disaster kit with you. (NOTE: Alcohol is not permitted in shelters.)

### **What to Do at the Shelter**

- Register at the registration desk as soon as you enter the building, listing your entire group.
- If you are able, volunteer to assist the shelter workers in any way possible. This will keep you busy and give you a sense of purpose during the waiting period.
- Keep your area clean
- Listen to and obey shelter management during your stay.
- Stay indoors until shelter management gives the all clear.

### **What to Do When You Leave the Shelter**

- Stay tuned to radio to get more information.
- Call the Sullivan's Island command post in Mt. Pleasant for information about the island or listen to designated radio stations. In the event of phone service disruption, visit the command post.
- Leave the shelter only when the "all-clear" is given.
- Drive carefully, watching for downed electric wires, flooded low spots, undermined roads and hurricane debris.
- Follow aftermath procedures.

### **During A Hurricane**

If, for some reason, you are not able to leave the island during a hurricane, please take note of these precautions.

- Stay indoors until the winds have totally stopped after the eye has moved over land. (If you must go outdoors during the eye of the storm for critical emergency repairs, be cautious. In the storm's eye, wind and rain may stop for as little as a few minutes or as long as a half hour or more. Winds will pick up suddenly with at least full intensity from the opposite direction, possibly with greater force than before.)
- Listen to radio announcements.
- Select the safest possible place in your home— usually an interior space or the room with the fewest windows.
- If possible, stay on the downwind side of the house.
- Do not stay in the attic or on the second floor of your house unless you are forced to do so by rising water.
- In case of rising water, put on life preservers.

- Stay away from doors and windows, even if they are boarded-up or protected by shutters.
- If a window or door blows out, or a section of the roof is carried away, move to the safest part of your residence.
- Use your phone only for emergencies (Dial 911)
- Use your refrigerator and freezer as little as possible to keep food from spoiling.
- Do not use anything with an open flame: candles, propane or gasoline lanterns, etc.

### **During an Earthquake**

Unlike hurricanes, there is no warning that an earthquake will happen. The rule of thumb is "duck and cover."

- Duck under a strong table or desk, and hold onto it and be prepared to move with it if you must move out of the way of falling debris.
- Cover your head and face to protect them from broken glass and falling objects.
- Stay covered until the shaking stops.
- Do NOT run outside until after the shaking stops.
- If you are driving when an earthquake strikes, move to the shoulder of the highway and away from bridges, overpasses, power lines and large buildings as quickly as is safe. Stay in your car until the shaking stops.



## Disaster Aftermath

Disasters can be dangerous even after they are over. Take the time to be cautious with food, sanitation and especially electricity.

### Clean-Up

- Begin clean-up as soon as possible.
- Contact your insurance companies.
- Report to the Island Disaster Center if you need food, medical supplies, water or have an emergency.
- If you must throw away valuables, take photographs of them for insurance purposes.
- Open all doors and windows in the house to dry and ventilate it.

### Food and Water

- Avoid opening the refrigerator door unnecessarily.
- DON'T drink untreated water from taps until officials give the all-clear.
- DON'T eat fresh food or use spices or utensils that have been contaminated by floodwaters.
- Eat the food most likely to spoil in your refrigerator first.
- If you suspect that food has spoiled, do not eat it. Conserve water used to cook with and cooking utensils.
- In a large cookpot, cook canned goods in their cans by opening them and removing the label, placing them in 2 inches of gently boiling water. Use oven mitts to avoid burning hands when lifting cans from hot water. Reuse that water for another meal, but don't drink it.
- Disinfect water from water heater or tap if that is the only source of drinking water available.
- Boil for 5 minutes.
- Add 16 drops of liquid chlorine bleach to a gallon, provided that the bleach contains hyperchlorite as its only active ingredient. Let the water stand, unopened, for one hour before drinking. Boil water from toilet (tank only) or bath for 5 minutes before using.

### General Safety

- Wear rubber gloves when cleaning after floodwaters to avoid infection from sewage and other contaminants.
- Wear thick-soled shoes or sneakers at all times to avoid injury or possible infection from floodwaters.
- Do not smoke or light matches outdoors until you determine that there are no gas leaks in the area.
- If you smell gas,
  - Immediately open all windows and doors.
  - Turn off the main gas valve.
  - Leave the house.
  - Report the leak to the Island Command Post or Security.
- Don't drive your car.
- Be careful when walking around, and watch out for downed power lines, debris, animals, snakes and insects.
- Check any structure before entering it. If you're not sure that it's safe, DON'T go in. Contact any member of the Island Disaster Team.

### Electricity

- DON'T turn on or touch electrical outlets or panel boxes

if you are standing in water or if you are wet.

- DON'T call SCE&G to report outages. Keep the lines clear so that emergency personnel are able to get through.
- If not already OFF, flip the main circuit breaker to the OFF position, and do the same with all other breakers in the box..
- Be sure that the main electrical connection to your house is not damaged. (This is near the meter.) If it is pulled away or damaged, you'll have to call an electrical repairman before the power company will reconnect.
- If you have not done so, unplug any appliances that use motors, such as refrigerators, VCRs, washers, dryers, hair dryers, etc. If there is something wrong with the power supply, they could be seriously damaged when power returns.
- Do not connect portable generators directly into the panel box—use extension cords plugged into the generator.
- When you know power has been restored,
  - Flip the main breaker to the ON position, then start flipping other circuits ON, one at a time. Start with the single breakers which carry a lighter load. If the breaker stays in the ON position, it should be OK. (If it flips back to OFF, leave it there because you'll need an electrician to fix it.)
  - Next, turn on the breakers that are hooked together which supply power to large appliances such as heating, air-conditioning, refrigeration, etc. Don't plug in any appliances yet. Go ahead and turn on the lights.
  - Once the lights are on, try to determine if they are as bright as they used to be. If they seem dimmer, there could be a faulty connection in the negative (or ground) wiring in the house. This reduced power is what could destroy machines with motors. If the lights seem too dim, IMMEDIATELY FLIP THE MAIN CIRCUIT TO OFF and call SCE&G at 745-6000 or 554-7234.
  - If your lights seem as bright as usual, turn OFF the circuits for the large appliances, plug them in and then flip the switch ON again. If the breakers stay in the ON position, your electricity is probably okay.
- Report all loose wires or exposed wires to the Island Command Post or Security staff.

### Sanitation

- Bury all spoiled food to avoid unsanitary community conditions.
- Check to see if sewage lines are broken before using your toilet. If they are, do not flush your toilet.
- If you cannot use your toilet, dig a latrine trench in your yard. Use covered plastic bucket as a portable toilet, emptying after each use and sprinkle the latrine with lime. (Remember to use rubber gloves when using lime to avoid chemical burns.)

### Other

- Take a break from the clean-up to conserve your own energy.

## Home Disaster Supplies

Plan to have enough food, water and supplies for each person for three days.

### Food

- Crackers and bread
- Drinking water (1 gallon per person, per day)
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Pre-cooked canned goods
- Individual mayonnaise packets
- Infant formula and baby food
- Pet food
- Soft drinks
- Ice
- Evaporated milk, whole dry milk or high shelf-life milk
- Fruit and vegetable juices

### Food Preparation/Service/Storage

- Paper plates
- Plastic cups
- Plastic eating utensils
- Campstove
- Grill (gas or charcoal)
- Fuel
- Ice chests/coolers
- Waterproof matches
- Charcoal lighter fluid
- Ice
- Manual can opener

### Tools/Supplies

- Duct tape
- Masking tape
- Tarpaulins
- Plastic sheeting
- Garden hose
- Shovel
- Plastic garbage bags
- Covered plastic buckets
- Gas powered saws
- Rope
- Cement blocks
- Plywood/pressboard
- Rubber gloves
- Lime
- Fire extinguisher

### Lighting/Communications

- Batteries
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio
- Battery-powered or gas lanterns/lights
- Candles

### Safety Equipment/Supplies

- Fire extinguisher
- First-aid kit
- Life preservers (1 for each person)
- Insect spray

### Toiletry/Sanitary Items

- Disposable diapers
- Feminine supplies

- Medications/prescriptions
- Disposable wash towelettes
- Chlorine bleach
- Disinfectant

### Entertainment

- Tapes/records
- Books
- Games
- Toys

### Insurance

- Insurance policy
- Camera
- Film stock

### Pet Supplies

- Dry and canned food
- Litter
- Bedding
- Water
- Immunization records

### Portable Disaster Survival Kit

- This guide
- Money, credit cards, driver's license, checkbook
- Address book and personal phone directory
- Important documents, photo albums
- Water (1 gallon per person, per day for drinking)
- Eating and cooking utensils
- Toilet articles
- Medications
- Sanitary needs
  - Disposable diapers
  - Feminine products
  - Toilet paper
  - Tissues
  - Paper towels
  - Disposable wash-and-dry towelettes
  - Soap
- Portable radio and batteries
- Flashlight and batteries
- Bedding (sleeping bag, bedding, etc.)
- Two changes of clothing
- Folding chairs
- Entertainment items, such as books, toys and games
- Non-perishable food, snacks and baby food
- Portable ice chest
- Manual can opener
- Infant and toddler items

### Car Emergency Kit

- Canned tire sealant or a portable compressor
- Battery-operated radio
- Blanket
- Jumper/booster cables
- Fire extinguisher
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries or trouble light
- Maps
- Liquid spray to "dry out" ignition systems
- Cans of "dry" gas

# **Town of Sullivan's Island**

## **Emergency Dial 911**

<b>Town Hall</b>	<b>843/883-3198</b>
<b>Police Department non emergency</b>	<b>843/883-9636</b>
Police Department Dispatcher	<b>843/883-3931</b>
<b>Fire Department non emergency</b>	<b>843/883-9944</b>
<b>Water and Sewer</b>	<b>843/883-3947</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>843/883-3025</b>

**Notes and Important Numbers**