



Charleston County News Release



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Hurricane Season Begins — Are YOU Ready?

Download Charleston County's official 2017 Hurricane Preparedness Guide and Disabilities & Special Needs Emergency Preparedness Guide.

June 1 marks the beginning of the 2017 hurricane season, but are most people prepared? Are you prepared? The [Charleston County Emergency Management Department](#) wants residents to get their family's emergency plan in place and put their emergency supply kit together prior to a storm.

Now is the time to get ready, and it's easy with the help of the new 2017 Charleston County Hurricane Guide. The public can go to <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/> and click on the "Are You Ready?" banner on the front page of the County's website to download, print and share the:

- 2017 Charleston County Hurricane Preparedness Guide
 - In [English](#)
 - In [Spanish](#)
 - For those with [Disabilities and Special Needs](#)

"The time to prepare for a hurricane is now," said Cathy Haynes, Charleston County Emergency Management Department's Chief of Operations. "Charleston County Government is working with local and state agencies to prepare for a storm, but everyone in the County has a responsibility to ensure their family has a plan in place."

The County also has an [Emergency Management Department](#) smart phone app to keep the public informed before, during and after an emergency situation. The app is available for free on all Apple and Android devices. While the app was designed with hurricane season in mind, the operation will be a valuable tool for any natural or man-made disaster.

- **To get the app:** Go to whichever online app store is appropriate for your phone -- Google Play for Android or Apple for iPhones. In the *Search* field type **CC EMD**; if it doesn't work type **CCEMD** without the space.
- **To see an overview of the app's features, watch the short tutorial developed by Charleston County:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaOwnXpVwg>.

Haynes also reminds the community if the governor were to issue an evacuation order, everyone should leave town if at all possible, and is strongly encouraged to make travel plans well in advance. "While shelters will be available, they should be considered a last resort, and if you are able to leave town, please do so as early as possible to help with traffic congestion," said Jason Patno, Charleston County Emergency Management Director.

Citizens who do not have transportation should learn where their nearest evacuation pick-up point is located. There are some changes and additional pick-up locations in the 2017 Hurricane Guide. The evacuation pick-up points are noted by blue signs with a hurricane and bus symbol, and are located across the county at many CARTA bus stops and popular areas like schools, churches and shopping centers. In the event of an evacuation order, buses will transport citizens from the pick-up points to the nearest available Red Cross Shelter.

Information in the [2017 Charleston County Hurricane Preparedness Guide](#) includes:

- Hurricane definitions and what to do during tropical storms, watches and warnings
- What to have in your emergency supplies kit
- Preparing your home, family and pets before a storm
- Evacuation information and routes out of Charleston County
- Pick-up locations if you don't have transportation – *look for pick-up point signs posted around the county!*
- Rules to know and items to bring if you and your pet need to stay at the pet shelter
- High wind procedures for bridges
- What to do after a storm, including safety measures and handling debris
- A family communications plan form to fill out
- Important phone numbers, including ones that will be activated in the event of an emergency

The [S.C. Emergency Management Division](#) also produces a guide for residents throughout the state. Citizens can see the *2017 South Carolina Hurricane Guide* at <http://www.scemd.org/component/content/article/26-guides-and-brochures/142-south-carolina-hurricane-guide> or pick up a free copy beginning June 1 at South Carolina Welcome Centers, Walgreens stores, and some Department of Motor Vehicle offices.

Charleston County will be conducting its Annual EOC Exercise on **June 7th, 2017**. There will be availability for the media to get b-roll and photos of EOC after 10 a.m.

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, the public can:

- Visit our website: www.charlestoncounty.org



- Written by the Public Information Office -