



# **Windmill Harbour**

([www.windmillharbour.org](http://www.windmillharbour.org))

## **Hurricane Preparation Evacuation and Disaster Recovery Guide**

Emergency Management Committee



Revised: June 2007

# WINDMILL HARBOUR HURRICANE EVACUATION INFORMATION

Every Windmill Harbour resident should understand and be prepared for an evacuation during the hurricane season. The purpose of this brochure is to assist you before, during and after an evacuation. Please keep this information with you during an evacuation.

## Know the Difference...

- **Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane is possible within 36 hours.
- **Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane is expected within 24 hours.
- **Voluntary Evacuation:** Evacuation is recommended but not required.
- **Mandatory Evacuation:** The Governor has ordered an evacuation.

## Until the Governor Rescinds Mandatory Evacuation...

- Re-entry onto Hilton Head Island is prohibited.
- Re-entry into Windmill Harbour is prohibited.
- All emergency services (ambulance and fire) cease.
- 9-1-1 will not be answered.

## **Storm Categories**

Category 1:	74-95 MPH winds 4-5 ft. storm surge
Category 2:	96-110 MPH winds 6-8 ft. storm surge
Category 3:	111-130 MPH winds 9-12 ft. storm surge
Category 4:	131-155 MPH winds 3-18 ft. storm surge
Category 5:	over 155 MPH winds over 18 ft. storm surge

## **Weather Web Sites:**

[http://www.bcgov.net/emerg\\_mgt/emerg\\_mgt.php](http://www.bcgov.net/emerg_mgt/emerg_mgt.php)  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>  
<http://www.disastersrus.org>  
<http://www.weatherunderground.com>

## **What To Do Now...**

- Prepare your Evacuation Plan.
- Be certain you have adequate insurance on your home and its contents. This should include flood insurance from the Federal Government through your home insurance carrier. Flood insurance has a 30-day implementation delay.
- Photograph or videotape your home and its contents for insurance purposes.
- Make copies of family and personal records.
- Prepare a hurricane "go kit" of essential items to take with you in the event of an evacuation.

## When a Hurricane Watch is Issued...

- ❑ Stay tuned to a local radio or television station for the latest National Weather Service advisories and for special instructions from local and state governments.
- ❑ Check your battery-powered equipment. Your battery-operated radio could be your only source of information, and flashlights will be needed if utility services are interrupted. Buy extra batteries.
- ❑ Keep your car's gas tank full. Service stations may become inoperable once the storm strikes.
- ❑ Store drinking water in clean bathtubs or in jugs and bottles. The water system may become contaminated or damaged by the storm.
- ❑ Obtain extra prescription medications and medical supplies.
- ❑ During this time you **MAY** install ARB-approved hurricane shutters and board up windows and doors. Windows are broken mainly from wind-driven debris. Wind pressure may break large windows, garage doors and double entry doors. Taping windows does **NOT** keep the glass from breaking; it merely confines the broken glass.
- ❑ Secure outdoor objects that might become debris. Garbage cans, garden tools, toys, signs, porch furniture and a number of other harmless items become deadly missiles in hurricane winds.
- ❑ Moor your boat securely well in advance of the storm, or move it early to a designated safe area. **Do NOT stay on your boat.**

- ❑ **BE AWARE** that some areas may flood long before the storm arrives. Evacuation is complicated by the fact that the Hilton Head Island area is densely populated and may require evacuation orders to be issued earlier than one day before the storm's arrival. Don't get caught by the hurricane in your car on an open coastal road.
- ❑ If the Beaufort County Emergency Management advises evacuation of your area, **DO SO IMMEDIATELY**. Keep your car radio on and listen for further instructions, such as the location of emergency shelters.
- ❑ Because tornadoes are often spawned by hurricanes, be alert for tornado watches and warnings. In case of a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately in an interior bathroom or small hall, preferably at ground level.
- ❑ Learn the local evacuation routes.
- ❑ Trim dead wood from trees around your house.
- ❑ Check for loose rain gutters and down spouts.
- ❑ Prepare evacuation supplies.
- ❑ Listen for weather updates and local information on these stations:

98.3 FM	WGCO
98.7 FM	WYKZ
106.9 FM	WWVV
107.9 FM	WLOW

# What to Pack...

Prepare to be gone at least 48 hours.

- ❑ Cash and credit cards
- ❑ ID and driver's license
- ❑ Insurance policies, name of agent and telephone number
- ❑ Inventory of household contents
- ❑ Copies of family and personal records
- ❑ Road maps and alternative routes to destination
- ❑ Cell phone and battery charger
- ❑ Change of clothing for at least two days
- ❑ Protective clothing and sturdy shoes
- ❑ Prescription medicines and supplies
- ❑ First-aid kit
- ❑ Bottled water and canned beverages
- ❑ Non-perishable food
- ❑ Can opener
- ❑ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ❑ Portable radio and extra batteries
- ❑ Blankets
- ❑ Relatives' and friends' telephone numbers and local telephone book
- ❑ Extra roll of toilet paper
- ❑ Gloves and boots for cleanup after hurricane
- ❑ This booklet

## When a Hurricane Warning is Issued...

- ❑ Move outdoor objects, such as porch furniture, grill, garbage cans, hanging plants, etc., into the garage or house.
- ❑ Store drinking water in clean containers and fill bathtubs with water, should the water supply be contaminated.
- ❑ Park extra vehicles in the garage.
- ❑ Leave a message on your answering machine so that relatives and friends will know when you left and where you are going. Know your answering machine codes so that you can retrieve messages and change the recording.
- ❑ Establish a contact (neighbor, friend, realtor or house sitter) who can assist you in getting your house ready in case you are out of town. If you are part time or gone for the summer, this is particularly important.
- ❑ If you have a pool, cover the pump filter.
- ❑ If told to do so, shut off your water, electricity and gas.
- ❑ Empty freezer and refrigerators of perishable items.
- ❑ Lock doors and windows before you leave.
- ❑ Complete and drop off the **WH Evacuation Checkout Form** at the gate as you leave if you have not already turned it in.
- ❑ Arrange for family members who need extra assistance. Contact Med Trans, 21 Dillon Road, at 342-3444, or in extreme cases, Beaufort County EM at 470-3100.

## Your Pets...

Do NOT leave pets behind. Take them with you.

- ❑ Make arrangements with off-island friends or hotel reservations where pets are permitted.
- ❑ Make certain pets are wearing collars with current ID. Use adhesive tape and an indelible pen if the ID is not current, and tape the information to the pet's collar.
- ❑ Pack a pet disaster kit in advance, containing pet food, food and water bowls, medications, medical records, motion sickness pills for travel, sturdy leashes and/or pet carrier, current photo in the event of loss, pet bed and toys if space is available.
- ❑ For birds, reptiles and small animals, check with your veterinarian.

## During the Hurricane...

If you stay, government officials, emergency responders and aide agencies cannot and will not do everything for you. You must take responsibility for yourself and your family by being properly prepared ahead of time. Any residents who stay should expect to be without power, phone and water for a week or more. There will be no EMS, fire or police services available. WH Security will close the gatehouse and secure the gates to the plantation.

- **TAKE COVER** – Remain indoors during the hurricane. Blowing debris can injure and kill. Travel is extremely dangerous.

- **STORM SURGE** – Storm surge is a great dome of water that sweeps across the coastline near where the hurricane makes landfall. The surge, aided by breaking waves, sweeps everything in its path. This is the most dangerous part of the hurricane.
- **FLOODS** – Floods brought by the torrential rains of a hurricane are dangerous. Even though hurricanes weaken rapidly as they move inland, the storm can bring 6-12 inches of rain.
- **WINDS** – For some structures, wind force is sufficient to cause destruction. The greatest threat from hurricane winds is the debris – a deadly barrage of flying missiles such as lawn furniture, signs, roofing, trees, siding, etc.

## Re-Entry Information...

It is our intention that, after a disaster, our community's website will serve as the primary communicator of the status of conditions within Windmill Harbour. Telephone communication is likely to be difficult or impossible.

To obtain current information on storm damage, road conditions and re-entry instructions visit [www.windmillharbour.org](http://www.windmillharbour.org) or call Beaufort County's re-entry hotline at 1-800-963-5023.

The phone numbers and fax line of Windmill Harbour security are:

Phone:	843/681-6405
Fax:	843/681-5539

Please use these numbers only if essential.

You may wish to check the following for updated local information not available at [www.windmillharbour.org](http://www.windmillharbour.org). We urge you to determine whether there is an Internet-accessible computer available to you at your evacuation destination. If not, take your computer with you if it's at all possible. Also, unless you have committed them to memory, please take a minute and jot down the following information to enable you to pick up and send your personal email:

Your Internet Service Provider's www address:

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Your Email User Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email Password: \_\_\_\_\_

HHI Emergency Mgmt: 843-682-5156

HHI EM toll free: 800-963-5023

HHI EM Website:

[www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov)

Beaufort County EM: 843-470-3100

BC Hurr Hotline: 800-963-5023

BC EM toll free: 877-238-2010

BC Website: [www.bcgov.net](http://www.bcgov.net)

BC EM Website:

[www.bcgov.net/emerg\\_mgt/emer\\_mgt.php](http://www.bcgov.net/emerg_mgt/emer_mgt.php)

SC Info. Phone System: (PIPS) 866-246-0133

Traffic Information: 888-877-911

Palmetto Electric: 800-922-5551

Red Cross: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Fed. Em. Mgt. Agency: (FEMA) [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

## **After the Hurricane...**

If the hurricane hits Hilton Head Island, don't expect the recovery to be quick or easy.

- ❑ Evacuees could be kept off the Island for days, maybe even a week or more, so that emergency workers can assess damages.
- ❑ State and Federal disaster assistance will seldom compensate you for all your losses. In many cases, the assistance will come in the form of a low-interest loan.
- ❑ When you are allowed back onto the Island and into Windmill Harbour, it will take time for relief assistance to start, for all utilities to be turned on and for life to return to normal. Be patient.
- ❑ After a storm, be wary of strangers who want to sell you something or do work on your property. Hurricanes bring out con artists and crooks. Follow the recommendations of your insurance company.
- ❑ Remove hurricane shutters as soon as possible after a storm and when re-entry into the plantation is permitted.

## **Safety Tips When Returning To Your Home...**

- ❑ Wear rubber gloves and boots when cleaning up after floodwaters to avoid infection from sewage and other contaminants.
- ❑ When entering your home, check for structural damage. If possible, look under the house to inspect support columns or beams to make sure the structure is not in danger of collapse.
- ❑ Do not smoke, strike matches or carry open-flamed lighting because of the possibility of gas leaks. A flashlight is best.
- ❑ Open doors and windows to let the air circulate. This will help to remove odors, accumulated gas and help to dry out your house.
- ❑ Watch for snakes, both inside and outside your home.
- ❑ Save your emergency water supply for drinking and cooking until you are sure the water supply is safe. In the meantime, water can be purified by boiling it at least ten (10) minutes or by mixing one tablespoon of laundry bleach with one gallon of water at room temperature.
- ❑ Advise friends and family that you are safe.
- ❑ Contact your local insurance agent.

## Other Information...

Windmill Harbour wants to expedite the repair and reconstruction of damaged housing caused by a disaster. Residents are urged to acquaint themselves with the temporary housing market in the area such as condos, motels or time-shares. Review your insurance to ensure you have adequate coverage for alternate living expenses.

In the event of a major disaster that includes the devastation of homes, the use of temporary housing in WH may be permitted for a period of six months. The Board may extend this period when special need is demonstrated. Temporary housing must comply with the following guidelines:

1. The use of temporary housing is limited to permanent residents who are rebuilding or repairing an existing home.
2. Temporary housing is defined as travel trailers, motor homes or manufactured homes.
3. The temporary housing must be located entirely on the property owned by the resident.

Following a major storm, a significant amount of landscape debris will be strewn about our properties. It is the responsibility of each landowner to clear his/her property. If conditions allow, the WHPOA or its designated contractor will dispose of the landscape debris brought by the property owner to the roadside. Structural debris removal must be contracted on an individual basis by each landowner.

1. Place the debris in piles along the roadside; keep it off the paved surface.
2. Do not pile debris over water meters or fire hydrants.

# **ARB Guidelines for Disaster Recovery...**

In case of a major disaster, the WH Architectural Review Board (ARB) has adopted temporary procedures to expedite each project and application as expeditiously as possible. This will facilitate tree removal, repairs and rebuilding while maintaining our general standards and guidelines.

## **Recovery Plan:**

1. No approval is required to remove trees that are uprooted, trees that have fallen across structures or trees that have fallen on the ground.
2. No approvals are required to repair structural damage that is less than 50% of previous existing condition, provided there are no modifications whatsoever from original plans, as on file with the WHARB, for such things as (but not limited to) exterior color, window types, walls, roof, texture materials (siding), etc.

## **ARB approval is required when:**

1. Replacement exceeds 50% of the structural damage including, but not limited to, roof, walls, paint color, etc.
2. There are any substantive architectural design changes.

The ARB is committed to working closely and cooperatively with each landowner to restore our community. If there is the slightest question on how or whether you should proceed, contact the ARB.

**We all certainly hope that we will not be confronted with a hurricane, but being prepared will help alleviate confusion and unnecessary problems.**

This emergency plan was compiled from information contributed by a number of sources, including the Town of Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County and various island communities.

**Windmill Harbour Property Owners Association  
Security & Emergency Management Committee**

Windmill Harbour managed by:

Property Administrators, Inc.  
307 Waters Edge in Shelter Cove  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29910  
Ph: 843/842-1133