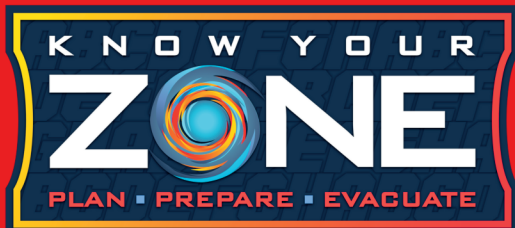


# Horry County Hurricane Guide



Preparedness Before  
Survival During  
Recovery After

# **IMPORTANT NUMBERS,** **WEBSITES & ACCOUNTS**



**Emergency Phone Bank (activated as needed): (843)-915-5000**

**Non-Emergency Dispatch Line: (843)-248-1520**

**Horry County Emergency Management: (843)-915-5150**

**American Red Cross (Shelters): (843)-477-0020**

**South Carolina Department of Transportation Traffic Line: 1-888-877-9151**

**United Way of Horry County: 2-1-1**

**Horry County Government: [www.horrycountysc.gov](http://www.horrycountysc.gov)**

**National Hurricane Center: [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)**

**Federal Emergency Management Agency: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)**

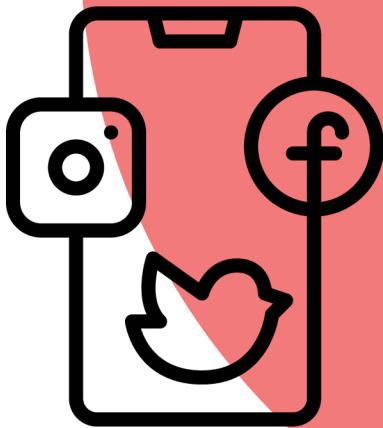
**South Carolina Emergency Management Division: [www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org)**

**South Carolina Department of Transportation: [www.scdot.org](http://www.scdot.org)**

**SC Department of Public Health: [dph.sc.gov](http://dph.sc.gov)**

**FEMA's Flood Smart Program: [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)**

**CodeRED Alerts Sign Up: [www.horrycountysc.gov](http://www.horrycountysc.gov) (search CodeRED)**



**Horry EMD on X (Twitter): @HorryEMD**

**Nextdoor: Horry County Public Information Office**

**Horry County is on Facebook:**

**Horry County Emergency Management**

**Horry County Government**

**Horry County Police Department**

**Horry County Fire Rescue**

**Horry County 911**

**Horry County Sheriff's Office**

**Horry County Animal Care Center**

**Download the South Carolina Emergency Management (SCEMD) app**

**Download the FEMA app**



**Remember to share your contact information with family, friends  
and neighbors whenever you have a change in information!**

# Hurricanes & Horry

Horry County is no stranger to tropical systems. Nearly every hurricane season, the county experiences direct or indirect hazards from tropical storms or hurricanes. The county's low topography and abundance of water features leave it very vulnerable to tropical systems. Notable storms that have impacted Horry County include Category 4 Hurricane Hazel (1954), Category 4 Hurricane Hugo (1989) and Category 1 Hurricane Florence (2018). Make preparations for hurricane season well in advance of it's official start - June 1st every year.

**Hurricane Hazel**



**Hurricane Hugo**



**Hurricane Florence**



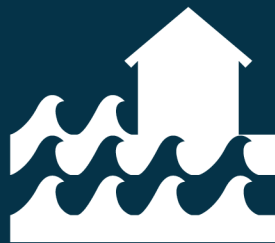
## Focus On Impacts Not Category

If a storm is forecast to hit Horry County, focus on the impacts being discussed, not just the category of storm. The category only tells us how strong the winds are, but does not provide any indication on the threats of storm surge, flooding or tornadoes.

Impacts to be aware of:



**Rough Surf/Marine  
Impacts**



**Storm Surge**



**Strong Winds**



**Tornadoes**



**Riverine, Flash &  
Coastal Flooding**

# Flooding

Horry County is very vulnerable to flooding. During tropical storms and hurricanes, the county can experience coastal flooding/storm surge, flash flooding and riverine flooding.

## Mitigate Flood Risk:

- Know your flood hazard
  - Visit [horrycountysc.gov](http://horrycountysc.gov)
- Purchase flood insurance
  - Homeowners insurance policies do not cover floodwaters or storm surge
  - Policies can take 30 days to go into effect
- Create a family disaster plan
- Elevate belongings in your home/business if water is expected to rise



*Road closures are likely in the event of flooding. Never drive around a barricade or through flooded roads.*

## Floodwaters Hide Hazards

Flooding can hide hazards, especially at night. Do not wade or travel through floodwaters if you do not have to. Children and pets should not be allowed to play in flooded areas.

Electrical wires, road washouts, trash, sewage and dangerous animals can all be hidden by flooding.



## Hurricane Evacuation Zones vs Flood Zones

Hurricane Evacuation Zones and FEMA flood zones are not the same thing. **Flood zones** are mapped by FEMA for use in the National Flood Insurance Program.

**Hurricane evacuation zones** are based on storm surge potential modeled from data by the National Hurricane Center. HCEMD, South Carolina Emergency Management Division and local municipalities provide input into the zone boundaries as well.

Learn more about FEMA flood zones at [www.horrycountysc.gov](http://www.horrycountysc.gov) or [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).



# Before a Storm

## Learn About Your Risk

Determine what hazards exist near your home/business:

- Water features
- Trees

Know if you live in a Hurricane Evacuation Zone and/or a flood zone. Visit Horry County's Map Your Move tool at [www.horrycountysc.gov](http://www.horrycountysc.gov) to see all the zones.

Review and understand your insurance policies.

## Emergency Plan

Create an emergency plan that includes different scenarios that could be considered "worst-case".

Write your plan down and share it with loved ones so they know what you will do in the event of a storm.

## Do Before Hurricane Season

### Create An Emergency Kit



Water  
(2 gallons/person/day)



Electronic  
Chargers



Identification



Batteries



Nonperishable  
Food



Radio



First Aid Kit



Toiletries



Blankets



Flashlights



Important  
Documents  
(insurance, mortgage,  
medical, banking, etc.)



Cash  
(include small bills)



Extra Clothes



Pet Items



Medications

# Before a Storm

## Secure Your Home

Bring in or secure outdoor furniture and yard items.

Look to areas where you can mitigate the effects of wind and rain from getting into the structure. Reinforce garage doors, cover windows and check for leaks.

Know how to shut off utilities.



## Unique Circumstances

If you have young children, elderly adults, pets or livestock that reside at your home, make sure you have the items they will need to get through the storm.

Those with disabilities or medical needs should talk to their doctors and pharmacists when preparing for a storm.

## *Do When a Storm Is In Our Forecast*

### Decision Trigger Points

Deciding if to evacuate for a storm or not can be difficult. HCEMD will always encourage you to seek a safe option away from the hazards of a storm.

In your emergency plan, determine at which points within a forecast would trigger an action for you. Waiting till the last minute to evacuate or to shelter-in-place can leave you unprepared and vulnerable to the storm.

Plan ahead where you will evacuate to, a backup location, and alternative routes to arrive at your destination.

### Stay Weather Aware

Monitor the forecast for any changes. Little movements in a storm's track can have big implications.

Follow credible sources such as the National Hurricane Center and local meteorologists.

# During a Storm

## Stay Put if Safe

Do not leave your shelter if you are safe. Remember, hurricanes have two sides with a lull in impacts while the eye of the storm moves overhead. Do not go outside to sightsee when within the eye of the storm.

## Preserve Battery

Power outages are likely during a hurricane. Make sure devices you charged ahead of time maintain their battery life as long as possible.

Keep in mind that text/SMS messaging requires less of a signal and data to send than a phone call.



## *Actions to Take When Hazards Are Impacting the County*

### Emergency Response

If you decide to stay for the duration of a hurricane, understand that emergency resources may not be able to reach you if you need them. Safety of public safety crews are taken into account once tropical storm force winds are impacting the county.

If you need help, do not hesitate to call 911, but understand help could be delayed in getting to you.



# After a Storm

## Re-entry

News on re-entry will be shared once officials are able to assess the safety of roads.

Please be patient and await instructions before returning home if you evacuated.

News will be shared on county social media accounts, the county website and through local news outlets.

## Assess Damage

As conditions improve, carefully assess your property for damage. Make sure you take pictures of any damage to dwellings, cars, property, etc.

If possible, contact family and friends outside the area to let them know your status.

Contact your insurance agent.

## Debris Removal

Depending on the severity of the storm, the county may or may not provide debris removal/pick up service.

Be prepared to haul any storm debris to your nearest Horry County Solid Waste Authority Recycling and Convenience Center.

## *When the Storm Has Passed*

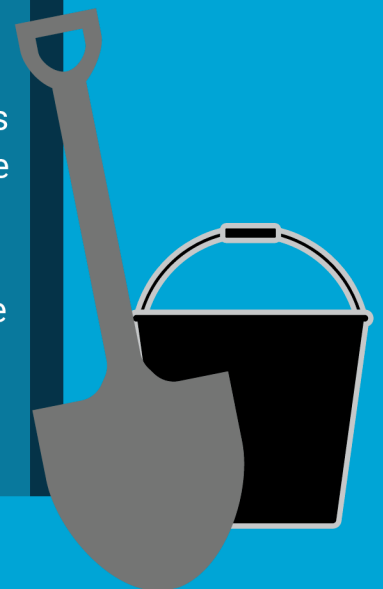
## Recovery Operations

Recovery is often the longest part of a disaster. It can take weeks, months and even years for areas to get back to what they once were.

Horry County Government and state partners will conduct damage assessments of public buildings and infrastructure to determine the extent of damage.

Financial assistance from FEMA and loans from the Small Business Administration are not guaranteed for each storm. Having adequate insurance coverage and a rainy day fund are crucial to recovery.

For homes and businesses that have damage, Horry County has the Waccamaw VOAD (volunteer organizations active in disasters) to assist with needs. Information on coordination of recovery resources will be shared after each storm event, when applicable.





# Shelters

Upon an evacuation being ordered, public shelters will be opened on an as needed basis. The location of the shelters will be communicated as they are opened. These shelters are managed by the American Red Cross. Public shelters are available to everyone.

For major storms that meet certain criteria, no public shelters will be opened in Horry County. For those seeking shelter, a state-led transportation plan will be activated. Evacuees will board busses and be transported to shelters outside of Horry County for the duration of the storm. Busses will then bring those evacuees back to the county once safe.

For those with medical equipment requiring electricity, or who need space for a hospital bed, the SC Department of Public Health (DPH) offers Medical Equipment Power Shelters (MEPS) with generator power and extra space. Staff in these shelters are trained to provide CPR for medical emergencies while calling 911, but they do not provide any other medical care and may not be licensed health care workers. For this reason, a caregiver is generally required to come with the person seeking shelter. Bring medications, medical supplies, special foods, and comfort items. Access these shelters by calling 833-351-9990, where transport arrangements can be made if needed.

If you plan on going to a shelter, bring only your essentials: hygiene products, blankets, a pillow and identifying information.

Pets are not allowed at public shelters with the exception of service animals.

## Evacuations

Hurricane evacuations in South Carolina are issued by the Governor. All evacuations issued are considered mandatory.

In Horry County there are three evacuation zones: A, B, C. These zones are based off of storm surge potential and not the category of the storm.

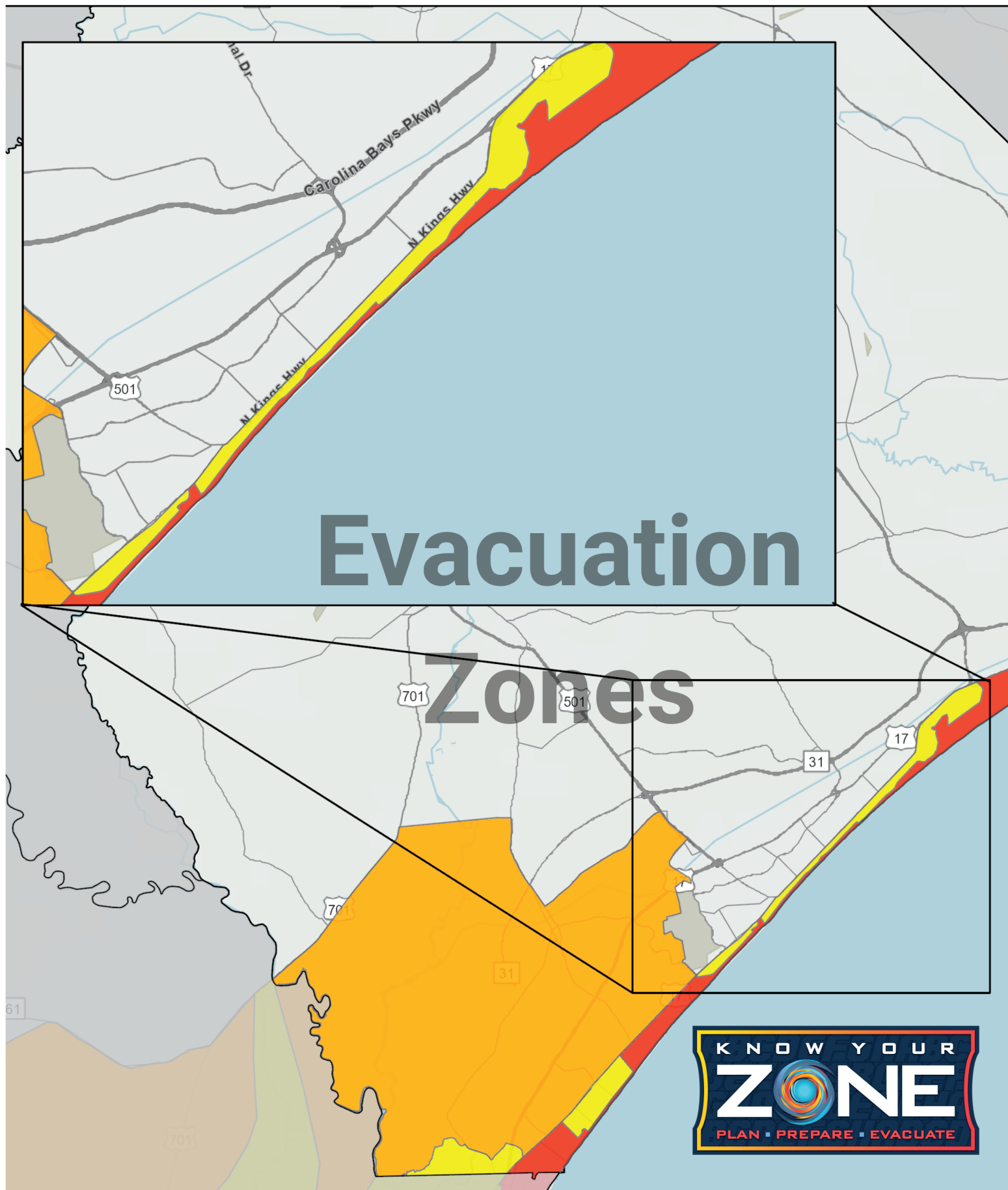
Even if you do not live in an evacuation zone, you can evacuate. Do what you feel most comfortable to stay safe.

If you are a visitor to the Horry County area, contact your hotel, rental host and airline to stay aware of any operational changes.



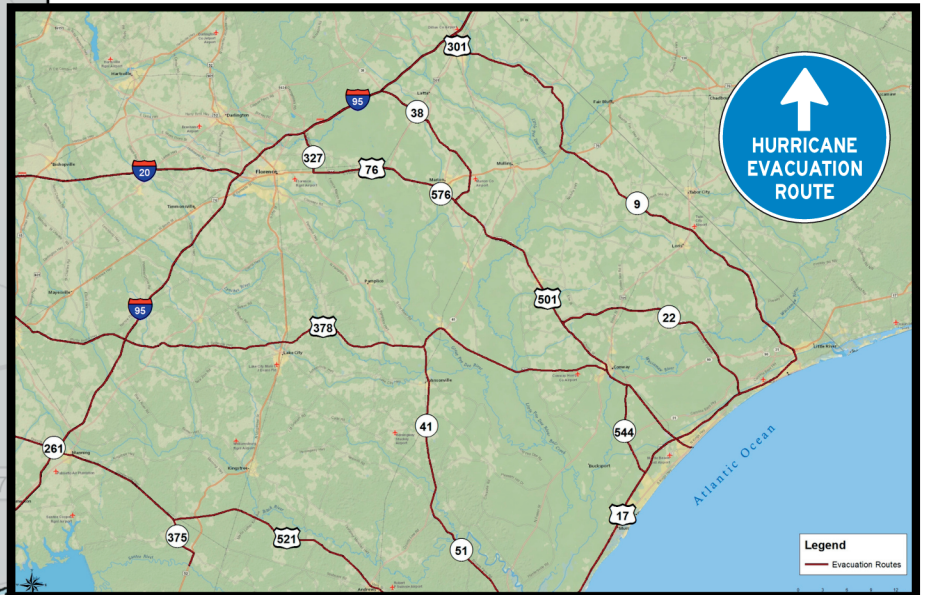
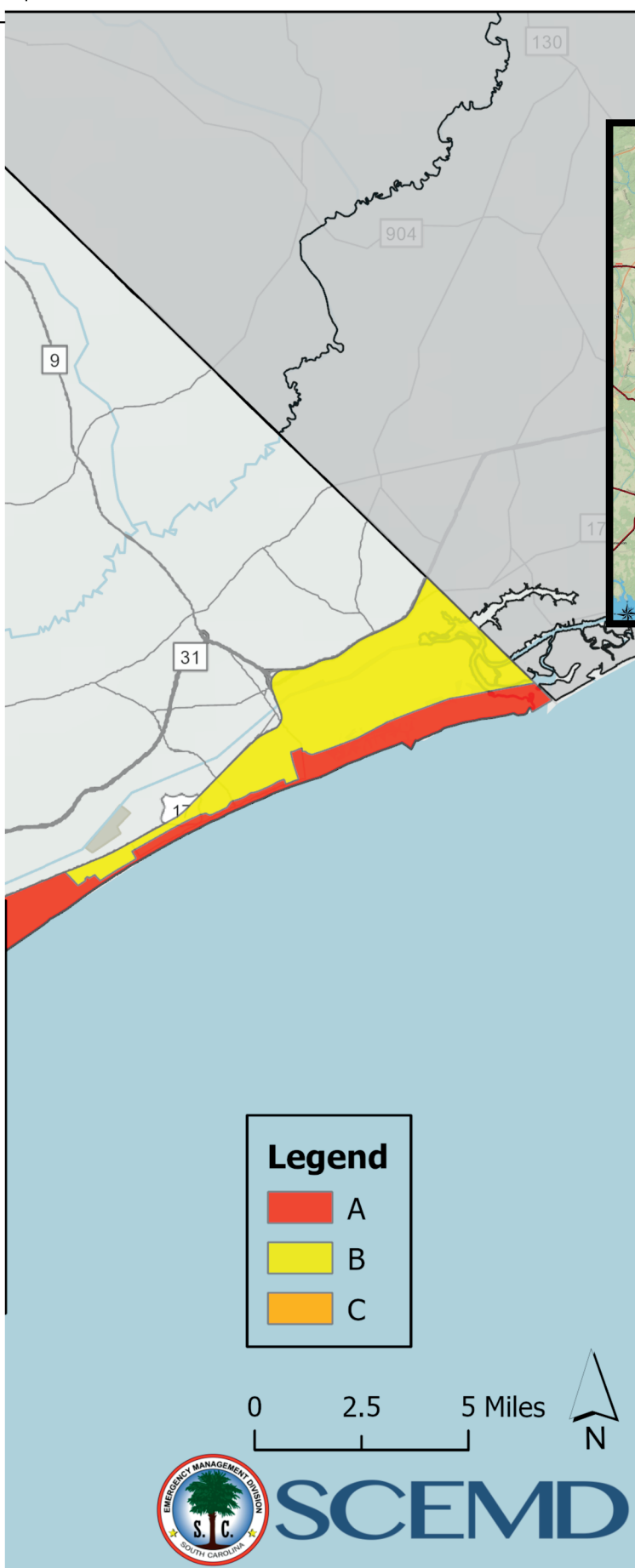
Once an evacuation is ordered, Coast RTA begins transporting residents to the local shelters.

During an evacuation, all Coast RTA rides end at officially designated emergency shelters. Return trips will only stop at the hurricane shelter evacuation designated pickup points. When using Coast RTA for transportation to the local shelters, look for the temporary blue and white hurricane evacuation bus stop signs to designate the pick up location. This is a FREE service.



Evacuation zones are based on storm surge potential. This map does not depict how deep water could get or a final determination of where it could go.

# Evacuation Routes



**North Strand area residents:** take SC 9 north to I-95 or take SC 22 (Conway Bypass) to US 501 to Marion.

**Central Coast area residents:** take US 501 to either US 378 to Columbia or stay on US 501 to Marion.

**South Strand area residents:** take US 17 south through Georgetown. Then take US 521 to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia.

When evacuating, **ALWAYS TAKE A ROAD MAP WITH YOU!** Be aware that law enforcement and the South Carolina National Guard may be posted along evacuation routes to assist you. If you deviate from the primary evacuation route, you may experience delays and you may be rerouted back to the primary route.

For an interactive map, where you can search your home or business address directly, visit [www.horrycountysc.gov](http://www.horrycountysc.gov) and go to Resident then Flooding & Disaster Prep.



# Pet Resources

Pets are an important part of the family so make sure you have plan for them.

Talk to your veterinarian, boarding/daycare facility or groomer about your options to keep your pets safe.

Make sure your pets are up-to-date on vaccinations and are easily identifiable (microchipping is great) if they get lost.

If you have livestock, make sure you plan for them as well.

After a storm, be careful about letting your pets/livestock outside as floodwaters and other hazards may be present.

# Other Hazards

Disasters do not exist in a vacuum. Horry County can see many different disaster events throughout a year - that includes during hurricane season.

If you prepare for a hurricane in Horry County, you will likely have many of the supplies and knowledge to get through other disasters.

Other hazards in Horry County to be aware of:

Severe thunderstorms  
Tornadoes  
Flooding  
Wildfires  
Droughts  
Snow/Ice  
Earthquakes  
Tsunamis  
Nuclear incidents  
Pandemics

## Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan



Horry County Emergency Management

You can learn more about these other hazards at [www.horrycountysc.gov](http://www.horrycountysc.gov).

# The First "72" Are on You



Regardless if you live in an evacuation zone or outside of them, understand that each tropical system that impacts Horry County has the potential to take lives and destroy property. If you decide to "ride out" a storm and not evacuate, you could find yourself in a life-threatening situation.

Horry County Emergency Management recommends everyone prepares for a minimum of three days (72 hours) for survival without outside assistance or help. With this guide, you should now have an idea of how to prepare for a hurricane and what to do, but remember: the first "72" are on you.