



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Are You Prepared for a Hurricane?

North Myrtle Beach, SC – August 23, 2017 – Currently, no hurricanes are headed to North Myrtle Beach but the hurricane season is young and you should prepare for the possibility that one or more storms could visit us this year.

EVACUATION ZONES

When South Carolina’s Governor calls for an evacuation in the face of a pending hurricane, he does not base his call so much on the wind speed of the approaching storm but on the potential storm surge associated with it. Along the coast, storm surge is often the greatest threat to life and property from a hurricane.



In order to ensure your safety and that of your loved ones, you should familiarize yourself with your evacuation zone, based on the level of storm surge associated with a given hurricane. You can do that by visiting:

<http://www.horrycounty.org/departments/emergencymanagement>

It is important that you know the zone in which your home or business is located so that you can respond effectively when the Governor orders an evacuation.

EVACUATION ROUTES

The evacuation process for North Myrtle Beach requires all people located north of Briarcliffe Acres to evacuate via SC 9 north to I-95 and beyond.

You may find yourself elsewhere in the County when an evacuation is ordered, so be aware that lane reversals occur automatically for two sections of Highway 501: U.S. Highway 501 from SC 544 to SC 378, and U.S. Highway 501 from SC 22 to the U.S. 501/SC 576 split in Marion. Once you enter a lane reversal pattern, you will not be able to get out.

Evacuation routes are based on the South Carolina Hurricane Evacuation Study for the Northern Conglomerate released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2012.

DISASTER "KIT" CHECKLIST

Given the variety of weather-related scenarios that can quickly turn one's world upside down, it is smart to create and maintain a Disaster "Kit."

FEMA suggests that you plan to be self-sufficient for at least two weeks. Place your items in sealable plastic tubs. Make sure everyone in the family knows where the tubs are located, and check them annually to make sure the contents are in good order.

Items might include a battery operated radio, NOAA weather radio, flashlight and extra batteries, First Aid kit, one gallon of water per person per day, canned and other non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, personal hygiene items, towels, rain gear, sturdy shoes or work boots, blankets or sleeping bags, a complete change of clothing, tarp, aluminum foil, plastic bags, local map, plastic utensils and plates, napkins, toilet paper, tools (wrench, hammer, screwdriver, etc.), baby care items, and pet care and pet food items. Be sure to include copies of important documents, such as insurance papers, family records, an inventory of household goods, wills and deeds.

DO A DETAILED HOME INVENTORY FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES

Inventorying your home before a disaster strikes can save you time and money. One of the easiest ways to document your household inventory is to take digital photos, stamped with date and time, of everything you own in every room of your home. Don't forget to record the small details, such as the serial numbers, makes and models of all appliances. Gather up any receipts you have for the big ticket items in your home, such as appliances, furniture, art, jewelry, and electronics, and store them in a safe place. It is wise to make a second copy of your inventory and store it outside your home with a trusted relative or in a safety deposit box. You stand to get the best and quickest return on your insurance policy when you can clearly document the contents of your home.

REENTRY PROCEDURES

You are not required to file proof of residency or property ownership with the City of North Myrtle Beach prior to an evacuation. However, when reentry to the city begins property owners and residents should be prepared to show officials located at their point of reentry a current driver's license, a copy of a recent utility or property tax bill, a copy of a deed, a rental lease agreement or other formal identification that proves residency or property ownership within the city.

Prior to evacuation, owners of businesses should provide to their employees a letter on company letterhead identifying them by name as being essential to the recovery of the business. Use each employee's name as it is shown on their driver's license. This is particularly important for employees who do not reside within the city limits.

HOW TO ACCESS CITY INFORMATION PRIOR TO, DURING AND FOLLOWING AN EMERGENCY

The City maintains a variety of information outlets that you can access prior to, during and following a hurricane or other emergency-- www.nmb.us, Channel 15 on Time Warner Cable (Spectrum), Channel 9 on HTC Cable, [Facebook.com/cityofnmb](https://www.facebook.com/cityofnmb), and Twitter [@cityofnmb](https://twitter.com/cityofnmb).

You can also receive City news releases by email at the same time they are sent to news media. Provide your email address to pcdowling@nmb.us and you will be added to this news group. You may drop out

at any time, and your email information will not be provided to others. *(For this service, if you want to receive only hurricane or other emergency related emails, let us know that when you provide us with your email address, otherwise you will get news releases on all topics.)*

You can also sign up for emergency traffic and other emergency alerts at www.nixle.com.

ADDITIONAL PREPARATION INFORMATION

You can learn more about how to prepare for a hurricane and other disasters by visiting this website: <https://www.ready.gov>

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