

# Emergency Planning

## Hurricanes and Flooding

### ***Before Hurricane Season Arrives Are You Prepared for a Hurricane?***

**Code Red Emergency Notification System:** Code Red is a message system operated by Brunswick County Emergency Services. Code Red provides a way for residents and homeowners to receive informational messages in the event of a weather or disaster emergency. To receive emergency information, you MUST register with CODE RED. [Click here](#) to register your contact information and begin receiving public safety alerts on your cell phone, home phone, unlisted number, or other mobile devices.: <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/7BC24EDE14D3>

**Special Medical Needs Registration:** Brunswick County Emergency Services has developed a computerized registry for people with special medical needs who require assistance in the event of a disaster such as a severe weather or evacuation. You MUST register with Brunswick County Emergency Services Special Needs Service. [Click here](#) to register your information. After you have filled out the form *click submit*, all information will be automatically placed in the Brunswick County Emergency Services Special Medical Needs database. After you have registered with the Brunswick County Special Medical Needs Service someone from Brunswick County Emergency Services will contact you to assess your particular needs. <http://fs19.formsite.com/ubwatts/form165290145/index.html>

**Emergency Plan:** Will you be ready in the event of a hurricane? Make sure you have an emergency plan in place before the storm arrives. Visit <http://readync.org> for assistance with making your emergency plan or to download the NC Ready app.

### ***Oak Island Bridge Closure & Opening:***

- The Caswell Beach and Oak Island Police Department will jointly control access to the G.V. Barbee Bridge (east end) the Oak Island police will control access to Swains Cut Bridge. The Towns of Oak Island and Caswell Beach will jointly decide when the bridge should be closed and re-opened.
- Time of bridge closing and re-opening will be publicized in the same manner as the evacuation information: Town Notify Me email notification system (sign up at [www.caswellbeach.org](http://www.caswellbeach.org) click on Notify Me) local radio and TV stations, Caswell Beach web sites or by calling the county Hurricane Information Hotline 1-800-522-2366 or 1-910-253-5383.
- The bridge will close to all traffic when high winds (40 mph sustained) and heavy rain make travel dangerous.
- Once closed, the bridges will not re-open until the storm has passed and a safety assessment has been conducted. Only properly identified emergency personnel will be allowed access to the island until the bridge is open to the public.
- If there is severe damage on Oak Island/Caswell Beach, re-entry will be strictly limited. Vehicle Access Decals are required to return to Caswell Beach.
- For up to date status reports on bridge & road closures and storm events call: the Hurricane Information Hotline number at 1-800-522-2366 or 910-253-5383. Brunswick County road closures can also be found at <http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/map>

### ***When a Watch Is Issued:***

- Make sure you have your Vehicle Access Decal and/or proof of residency or property ownership to be able to re-enter after the storm, such as a valid and current driver's license, tax or utility bill. If access to the island is limited after a storm, you must have proof of residency or property ownership to gain access.
- Check the status of your flood and wind insurance policies.
- Decide where you will go during an evacuation.
- Identify important papers and other items you do not want to lose (like family photos and insurance policies). Make sure you will have access to your insurance no matter where you are after a storm.
- Take inventory and gather supplies so your family can endure an evacuation or home confinement. Store these items in a container that could be easy to carry in the event of evacuation.
- If you plan to "board up," ensure you have the items needed (wood, nails, screws and a good battery-powered drill). If you hire a person to do the work, confirm that this will be done every year.
- Refill prescriptions for your family and pets, ensuring at least a 2-week supply.
- Monitor radio and TV broadcasts for information regarding the storms.
- Service and fill up vehicles with fuel.
- Clear yard and deck of all potential flying debris. Anchor items that cannot be brought inside.
- Prepare to cover windows and doors.
- Check food and water supplies. Replenish as necessary.
- Plan for several days after the hurricane, and stock up on things like bottled water, non-perishable foods, and batteries to use in case there is no electric power. **During and after a storm you may not have electric, water or sewer utilities.**
- Get cash since ATMs and banks may not be operating following the storm.
- Check generator and fuel supplies.
- Check additional tanks for gas grill.
- If you have a propane gas tank, make sure it is securely strapped down to prevent it from becoming a potential "bomb" in the event it is washed away.

### ***When a Warning Is Issued:***

- Monitor radio, TV broadcasts and Caswell Beach web site ([www.caswellbeach.org](http://www.caswellbeach.org)) , for storm advisories and evacuation announcements. Make sure to sign up for Notify Me on the Caswell Beach web site to receive town information by email.
- Close all windows and doors with hurricane shutters or plywood.
- Turn off LP Gas at tank.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs and bottles. Turn freezers and refrigerator to coldest settings. Then open only when necessary and close quickly.
- Close damper in the fireplace.
- Store valuable papers in a safe place or in a container to take with you in event of evacuation.

### ***When an Evacuation Order is Issued:***

- Make final checks, secure your home (all locked up tight?) and leave in an orderly fashion. Under no circumstances elect to remain in your home. Not only is this unwise from a personal safety standpoint, **the bridge will most likely be closed and electric, water and sewer utilities may not be available.**
- If you are going to the identified evacuation center, go there immediately after departing the island. If you are going elsewhere, you may want to let friends know where you can be located. Beware that you may pay a considerably higher price than normal for a motel room nearby in the event of an evacuation.

- The Police Department will block the bridge and not allow anyone off or onto the island once the storm hits.

### ***If You Have Pets***

- Not all of the public evacuation shelters allow pets. Kennels or veterinarians may not have room unless prior arrangements are made.
- **If you are evacuating, take your pets with you...Do not leave your pets at home during an evacuation. Failure to provide for an animal's well-being or placing the animal in harm's way may subject the owner to criminal charges.**

### ***After the Storm/Re-entry***

- Listen to the local radio and TV stations to learn when you can return to the island. For up to date status reports, you may call: the Hurricane Information Hotline for storm and local road & bridge closure information number at 1-800-522-2366 or 910-253-5383. Brunswick County road closures can also be found at <http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/map/>
- Please understand that town information sources, web site and town phone messages, will be updated as conditions allow. If there is no electricity, Town staff may not be able to update its electronic communications. Brunswick County CODE RED and the Hurricane Information Hotline operate independently from the Town phone system. [Click here](#) to sign up for CODE RED Emergency messages or call the Hurricane information hotline at 1-800-522-2366 or 910-253-5383.
- When the Town safety assessment is complete, Caswell Beach and Oak Island personnel will determine when to open the bridges.
- Remain calm and remember that reports of damage are often exaggerated.
- If there is severe damage, the bridges may be open to residents only and parts of the island may not be accessible. Every effort will be made to allow you to return AS SOON AS IT IS SAFE TO DO SO. If access is being limited, you will need your vehicular re-entry sticker and possibly proof of residency (such as a valid driver's license, or proof of property ownership such as a recent tax or utility bill).
- Assess your damages, throw out spoiled food and begin to clean up property. Place storm debris on the right-of-way in front of your house.
- Please be patient! **After the storm you may not have electric, water or sewer utility service.**

### ***If You Choose to Stay***

- **REMEMBER! YOU WILL BE RISKING YOUR LIFE and will be placing individuals who stay with you in harm's way.** All emergency personnel may evacuate to the mainland and will not be available to provide services during the storm.
- **During and after the storm you may not have electric, water or sewer utility service.** The Town of Caswell Beach may declare a State of Emergency and implement a curfew that will be enforced by law enforcement personnel.
- If a hurricane impacts our area, swimming or walking on the beach is not advisable due to possible contaminants and hidden debris!