

# DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN



**DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON, SC**

Introduction .....	3
Parish Disaster Response Team “To Do” List.....	5
Steps for Developing the Parish Disaster Plan .....	6
Identifying Parishioners with Special Need.....	7
Role of the Regional Coordinator in Disaster Response .....	8
Role of the Diocesan Director in Disaster Response .....	10
Organizational Chart .....	11
Diocesan Disaster Response - Organizations and Individuals Involved .....	12
Sequence of Actions in the Event of Disaster .....	13
Materials for Regional Offices to Have on Hand in Preparing for the Disaster .....	15
Getting Your Family Prepared:	
Creating a Family Emergency Plan—Part 1 .....	16
Creating a Family Emergency Plan - Part 2 .....	17
Creating a Family Emergency Plan - Part 3 .....	18
Putting Together a Disaster Supply Kit - Part 4 .....	19
Putting Together a Disaster Supply Kit — Check Sheet.....	22
Creating a Family Emergency Plan - Part 5 .....	23
Internet Websites for Disaster Preparation .....	24
Important Phone Numbers .....	25
Other Organization/Parish Contacts .....	26
Pet Safety .....	27
Pet Friendly Hotels/Motels .....	28
Shelters .....	30
(Listed alphabetically according to County)	
Evacuation Routes and Lane Reversals .....	33
Coastal Evacuation Zones.....	35
Parish Pairings for Disaster Support .....	36
Disaster Facts: Hurricanes .....	50
Disaster Facts - Floods and Flash Floods .....	52
Disaster Facts - Tornadoes .....	54
Disaster Facts - Fires .....	56

## INTRODUCTION

### **Definition of Disaster:**

*A disaster is an event that negatively affects a number of people in the community to an extent that serious hardship is experienced - an earthquake, hurricane, storm surge, drought, blizzard, pestilence, fire, explosion, building collapse, transportation accident, or other situation that causes human suffering or creates human needs that those affected cannot alleviate without assistance.*

The Catholic Church has been responding to human suffering caused by natural disasters, both large and small, for centuries, as part of its mission of evangelization. The Diocese of Charleston, encompassing all of the State of South Carolina, has been no stranger to natural disasters. The Catholic community has always responded with compassion and generosity. With the flooding that occurred after hurricane Floyd, Catholic Charities assisted individuals and families affected by the disaster with financial and material assistance, case management services, advocacy and referral for other assistance. Since the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and FEMA are better prepared and equipped to meet immediate emergency needs, Catholic Charities' role is to provide information to those living within the Diocese on how best to mitigate disaster damage and then to provide assistance with long term recovery in its aftermath. Catholic Charities' plan for disaster preparedness and response is comprehensive, and the goal is to help prevent or alleviate human suffering in the event of a natural disaster.

The Diocesan Disaster Response Plan is intended to assist Diocesan staff, parishes and the Catholic community with preparing for a disaster and to guide collaborative relief efforts in response to whatever calamity may occur. The plan serves as a tool that parishes and schools can use to assist them in preparing, developing, implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of their own disaster response plan.

An effective disaster response plan is best implemented on a regional basis – one which would provide for a coordinated effort among Catholic Charities offices, parishes, county, State and Federal emergency authorities, the Red Cross, and other organizations charged with responding to human needs. Collaboration is essential to maximize resources, to minimize duplication of services, to avoid gaps in service delivery, and to ensure that those persons most in need receive assistance. Often after a disaster the people most affected will say: “If only we had..., If only they had... If only the storm had...” In the aftermath of a disaster, it is easy to see how proper planning would have helped avert at least some pain and suffering.

The goal of the plan, then, is to reduce human suffering by more effectively meeting the spiritual, emotional and human needs of the diocesan community in the aftermath. Being prepared can diminish greatly the traumatic effects experienced both during and after a disaster. Most importantly, proper planning can save lives.

### **Deanery Disaster Plans**

Catholic Charities USA, which has experience in responding to disasters, suggests that each parish have at least one representative who would serve on a Deanery Disaster Advisory Committee and, along with other parish representatives, develop a regional plan to best respond to the needs of the Deanery in the event of a disaster. The formation of these Committees in the Diocese of Charleston is facilitated by the Catholic Charities Regional Coordinators and Diocesan Disaster Relief Director. The Bishop has asked each pastor to appoint at least one

representative to serve on these committees. The Regional Coordinators maintain the list of parish representatives who serve on the Deanery Advisory Committee. Their names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are kept up-to-date by the Regional Coordinators.

An essential element of the Deanery Disaster Plan is the coordination of ongoing meetings led by the Regional Coordinators to train the parish coordinators and their team of volunteers in disaster preparedness and response efforts at the parish and the local community levels. Regional staffs of Catholic Charities have received training from both state and national entities in disaster response and have, in turn, cross-trained others in their deaneries in these methods.

One of the first tasks of the Deanery Advisory Committees is to assist in the development of local disaster plans, revise them as needed and assist each parish in keeping its local plan up to date. This Disaster Response Plan is a living document that will be amended as circumstances, needs and resources change. It includes information that is intended to serve as a guide for the development of deanery, parish, and personal disaster planning. Each Catholic Charities Regional Coordinator will insure that the Deanery Plans are in place and that all pastors have copies.

### **Planning at the Parish Level**

Another essential element of the plan is to “pair” parishes in hurricane-vulnerable areas with potentially unaffected parishes that might be able to offer host homes, shelter, or other assistance. As the disaster plan is updated in the future, pastors and parish coordinators will be e-mailed copies of the plan for their use so that the information pertaining to them in the plan may be updated. Information about these parish pairings appears in the Disaster Response Plan. One aspect of parish pairing is the identification of someone as the parish disaster representative. These persons work with the Catholic Charities Regional Coordinators to update the deanery disaster plans and identify changing needs within the region or parish. Since the Diocesan Disaster Plan will appear on the diocesan website linked to Catholic Charities, if a disaster were imminent, it is likely that parishioners would contact the parish office of the twinned parish rather than the parish coordinator if one has not been named. The Regional Office of Catholic Charities works with the parish disaster representative to aid with understanding of their role as liaison and to assist, support, and collaborate on the local parish response plan. The parish disaster representative also has this planning manual to assist in developing the local parish plan.

Parishes might consider whether they have the facilities to serve as shelters during a period of disaster. The Red Cross has excellent resources for setting up temporary shelters and it is constantly looking for facilities that could be used as shelters, and for volunteers to serve as shelter managers. If a parish is considering offering its facilities as a temporary shelter, it is recommended that it sign on with the Red Cross and have a team of volunteers who will serve as shelter managers. The Red Cross offers training for shelter managers several times throughout the year. Their telephone numbers appear in this plan.

## PARISH DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM “TO DO” LIST

- Conduct survey of Parishioners with Special Needs
- Establish “Talent Bank” Registry
- Obtain volunteers for various activities
- Prepare parish facility
- Provide for security of Blessed Sacrament, chalices, vessels and other precious items
- Develop a list of emergency telephone numbers
- Make contingency plans for worship
- Determine where a cash reserve can be safely stored
- Arrange for safe storage of records
- Prepare inventory of equipment
- Obtain first aid kit
- Store necessary emergency non-medical supplies
- Create evacuation plan
- Have trees trimmed
- Have loose objects picked up
- Have windows properly covered
- Inform Regional Coordinator of plans to evacuate and contact numbers

## STEPS FOR DEVELOPING THE PARISH DISASTER PLAN

**REMEMBER: Parish teams are not expected to stay in the disaster area during a disaster event. Evacuate when necessary.**

Pastor identifies a parish representative to serve on the Deanery Disaster Advisory Committee coordinated by Catholic Charities Regional Coordinator.

Parish representative establishes a Parish Disaster Committee.

A relationship with a “twin” parish in another area is established for purposes of mutual support. The contact person between parishes is intended to be the Parish Disaster Representatives.

Parishioners are informed about how they can be best prepared for a disaster. They are encouraged to develop their own family disaster plan.

Disaster-related material/information is disseminated to parishioners.

Parishioners are surveyed to determine:

- Who would need assistance in evacuating
- Which individuals/families would be willing to assist others (see Talent Bank form )
- A transportation network is developed to relocate people who need help to be evacuated.
- It is determined whether a parish facility should be considered for a shelter.
- Parish facility prepared for the disaster.
- A team of volunteers is identified who are willing to serve in anticipation of and following a disaster. These names are provided to Catholic Charities Regional Offices.
- Site where emergency liturgies could be held are identified
- Parish volunteers who want to be involved in immediate disaster response efforts (such as working in a shelter) must be trained by the Red Cross or other emergency response agency and work with that agency. Untrained, spontaneous volunteers in a disaster situation can actually impede disaster relief efforts.

## IDENTIFYING PARISHIONERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The parish representative should ascertain who in the parish might be in need of special consideration, should a disaster occur. Parishes are asked to identify any high risk individuals or groups who would be particularly vulnerable in a disaster and might not be in a position to evacuate or to seek safe shelter on their own. These would include: the elderly, the infirm, those living alone, those without transportation, those whose native language is not English, migrant workers and others in similar circumstances. It is important that this information be kept on hand and available to the parish disaster relief coordinator, the Regional Coordinator of Catholic Charities and the pastor. Circulating a form at all Masses and asking people to voluntarily submit this information for future need will assist those who are most vulnerable. The form might include the following information.

- Name:
- Spouse's Name:
- Address:
- Phone:
- Residence type: Single Family, Mobile Home, Apt. /Condo, Floor Number
- Name of Residential Complex:
- Type of Resident: All Year, Part of Year (What months are spent in South Carolina?)
- Specific medical needs:
- Are you homebound?
- Age:
- Are You legally Blind? Deaf? Mute?
- Do you use a wheelchair?
- Do you use a walker/cane?
- Do you require a special diet?
- Family Physician:
  - Phone:
- Nearest friend/relative
  - Phone:
- Do you have pets?
  - How Many?

*Note: Pets are NOT allowed in shelters. Make evacuation sheltering arrangements for them BEFORE a disaster strikes.*

- Do you have transportation in an emergency?
- Would you need transportation in an evacuation?
- If yes, what type: standard vehicle, wheelchair accessible, ambulance
- Special medical needs: (e.g., severe cardiac, diabetic on insulin)
- Do you rely on electricity for home medical treatments?

NOTE: Most Special Needs Shelters require the special needs individual to be accompanied by another person.

## ROLE OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR IN DISASTER RESPONSE

### Parish and Deanery Disaster Planning

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Charleston has five regional offices, each with its own Regional Coordinator.

They are:

**Coastal Coordinator :** Helen O’Leary  
3921 St. John’s Ave.  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
(843) 308-9361

**Low Country Coordinator:** Pam Rice  
10 Office Way, Suite 200  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928  
(843) 785-9595

**Midlands Coordinator:** Mary Gohean  
1529 Assembly Street  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 254-9776

**Pee Dee Coordinator:** Daryl Kangaroo  
537-B Highway 90  
Conway SC 29526  
(843) 234-1999

**Piedmont Coordinator:** Deacon Gabriel Cuervo  
204 Douthit St. Suite A1  
Greenville SC 29601  
(864) 242-2233

Each Regional Coordinator is responsible for establishing and maintaining a collaborative relationship with deanery disaster committees and community disaster agencies, as well as for serving on any local VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) group that forms. The Regional Coordinator for the Midlands serves on the statewide VOAD that meets in Columbia and regularly reports back to the Director of Catholic Charities and other Regional Coordinators. Because it is the mission of Catholic Charities to fill gaps in available services, each deanery’s response to disasters is going to be different. Traditionally, Catholic Charities has offered long term case management in times of disaster. Regional Coordinators help with the disbursement of funds that become available in emergencies – either through special collections called for by the Bishop of Charleston or obtained from other charitable organizations such as Catholic Charities – USA. Each Regional Coordinator, working with local disaster officials, will keep the Diocesan Director informed about services provided, as well as ongoing needs. Regular contact between Regional Coordinators and the Diocesan Director during disasters is important to the seamless coordinating efforts to assist affected individuals.



## **ROLE OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR IN DISASTER RESPONSE**

### **CONTINUED**

**During a disaster, Regional Coordinators' responsibilities generally include:**

- Contacting each parish and finding out the extent of damage/impact to the parish area and report this information to the Diocesan Director
- Meeting and coordinating local response with officials offering appropriate Catholic Charities services depending on the needs of effected community
- Hiring/training additional help when necessary to provide services (only as approved by the Diocesan Director )
- Coordinating local volunteers
- Coordinating recovery response with other Regional Coordinators
- Serving on FEMA's "Unmet Needs Committee" should the area be declared a Federal Disaster Area
- Maintaining a tracking system of funds disbursed and expenses incurred by Catholic Charities
- Maintaining a tracking system of statistics of services provided during the disaster
- Maintaining a tracking system of items disbursed due to disaster
- Maintaining a tracking system of items and services offered/donated during a disaster
- Recruiting, organizing, training and supervising the activities, during a disaster, all volunteers working with the Regional Office
- The Regional Coordinator on an annual basis will request pastors to distribute (during the month of June) a brief questionnaire to determine who if anyone needs special assistance/needs in the event of a natural disaster or evacuation.
- Setting up a formal referral system with the Red Cross
- Maintaining supply of emergency food vouchers
- Maintaining records of all disaster related activities, (for example, client intake, daily logs, reporting, financial, and other necessary forms)
- Preparing an inventory of all equipment

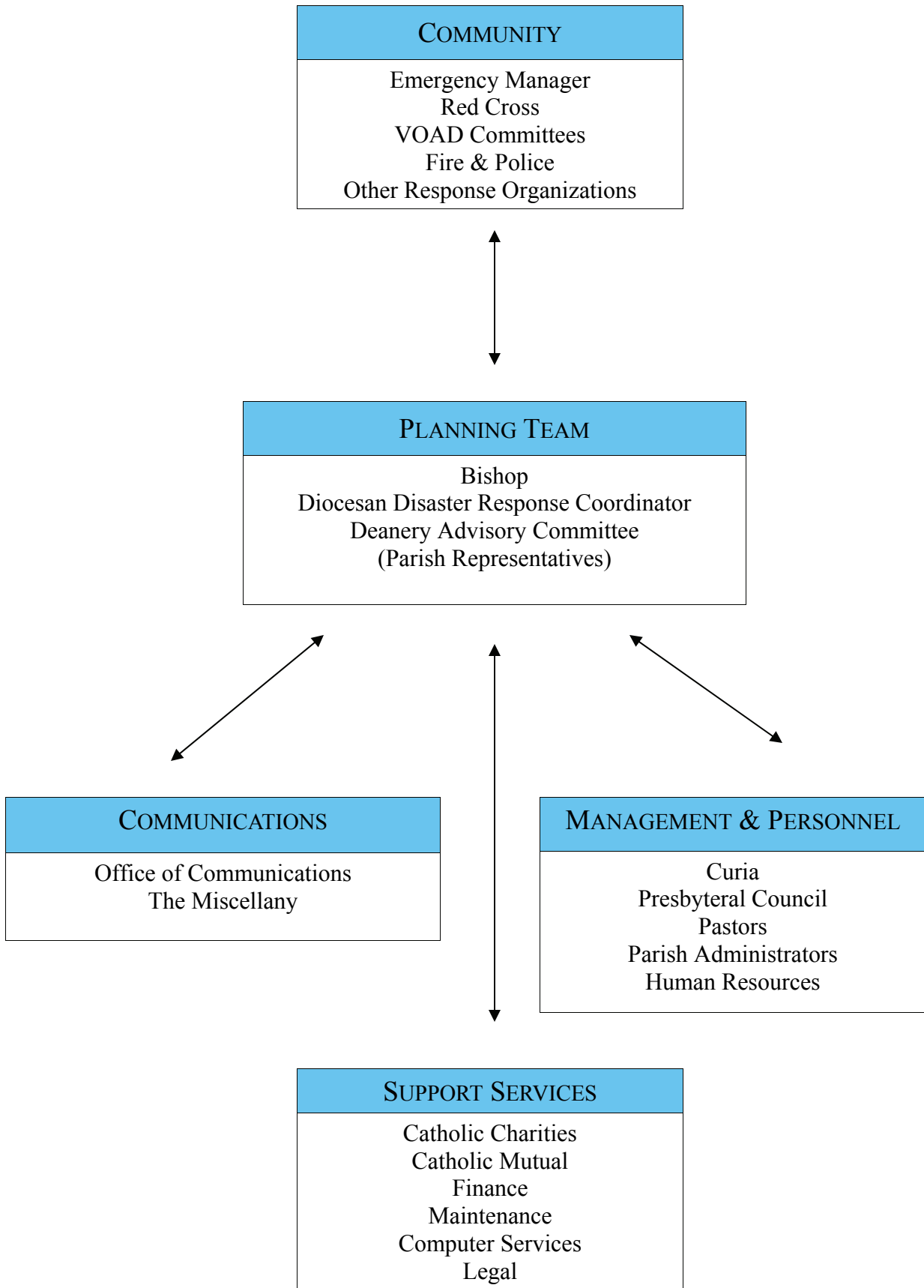
## **ROLE OF THE DIOCESAN DIRECTOR IN DISASTER RESPONSE**

### **During a disaster, the Diocesan Director's responsibilities include:**

- Maintaining contact with the Bishop and diocesan entities as disaster issues surface
- Reporting to the Miscellany and other media outlets
- Coordinating Catholic Charities response
- Reporting disaster information received from Regional Coordinators to Catholic Charities USA and Diocese
- Coordinating financial needs with finance, diocese, Catholic Charities USA
- Coordinating disaster needs with statewide officials
- Supporting local disaster efforts of Regional Coordinators
- Collating statistical reporting
- Disbursing funds as soon as possible.

### **Role of the Main Office of Catholic Charities during Disasters:**

- Finance reports
- Production of necessary forms
- Production of written materials
- Appeals for financial assistance



## **DIOCESAN DISASTER RESPONSE - ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED**

In the event of a disaster in a community, the primary responsibility for providing individual basic needs such as food, shelter, medical help, clothing, and other essentials such as electricity, police protection and emergency communication, rests with civil authorities (e.g., American Red Cross, County Emergency Management, Police and Fire departments, etc.). The Diocese of Charleston, including Catholic Charities and parishes, collaborates with these agencies in providing maximum disaster response. Those involved in disaster relief and response may include the following, depending on the circumstances of the disaster:

## SEQUENCE OF ACTIONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTER

A guide to disaster response is only a guide. Every disaster is different. It is important to be flexible in order to respond properly to unexpected contingencies. With this in mind, a general idea of the actions that will be taken both in anticipation of a potential disaster, such as a hurricane situation, or in the aftermath of a disaster is described below. This represents only a possible scenario, but at the same time should guide the thinking of those whose responsibility it is to respond to the needs of those affected by a disaster.

### **When a disaster is imminent:**

1. The Regional Coordinators in conjunction with the Director assess the circumstances of the pending disaster. Caroline Weisberg, Director of Social Ministry, will consult with the Bishop about the preparedness of the Diocese, provide an assessment of the situation and make recommendations about possible actions that might need to be taken in the Diocese.
2. The Bishop will indicate what, if any, immediate steps should be undertaken.
3. Regional coordinators will contact pastors and parish coordinators to offer assistance.
4. Regional Coordinators in affected areas will contact other Regional Coordinators about the situation in their deanery.

**Coastal:** Helen O'Leary (843) 709-0841 (cell) holeary@catholic-doc.org

**Low Country:** Pam Rice (843) 812-3078 (cell) price@catholic-doc.org

**Midlands:** Mary Gohean (803) 361-2700 (cell) mgohean@catholic-doc.org

**Pee Dee:** Daryl Kangaroo (843) 251-9798 (cell) dkangaroo@catholic-doc.org

**Piedmont:** Deacon Gabriel Cuervo (864) 201-5582 (cell) gcuervo@catholic-doc.org

**Central Office:** Jennifer Elkins (843) 324-1257 (cell) jelkins@catholic-doc.org

5. Regional coordinators will ask parish coordinators to contact those parishioners who:
  - a. need assistance
  - b. have special needs and/or disabilities or
  - c. who are non English speaking
6. Regional coordinators will contact their staffs and/or volunteers to alert them to be on standby to respond after the disaster.
7. Regional Coordinators will prepare Catholic Charities offices for disaster (protect equipment, secure supplies, have vouchers in place, insure that sufficient monies are in accounts and plan for possible evacuation of office as well as region.

## SEQUENCE OF ACTIONS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTER

### CONTINUED

8. Regional Directors and Director of Catholic Charities will continue to monitor conditions as they develop and maintain regular communication among themselves and with Diocesan officials about any actions that need to be taken.
9. Regional Coordinators will assist Deanery Disaster Committees with obtaining supplies, making preparations for evacuation, locating evacuation routes and locating safe havens outside their community.

#### **After a disaster has occurred:**

1. The Regional Coordinators in conjunction with the Director will assess the conditions pertaining to the effects of the disaster.
2. The Director will provide the Bishop with this assessment of damage and make recommendations for assistance, especially with regard to any special collections needed to provide assistance to those impacted.
3. The Bishop will determine whether to authorize the implementation of the Diocesan Emergency Disaster Plan, if this has not been done earlier in anticipation of a disaster.
4. The Director, in conjunction with Regional Coordinators, will determine whether a request should be submitted to Catholic Charities USA for immediate funding for those affected.
5. Regional Coordinators will contact the Director of the local Red Cross and other community coordinating agencies to offer collaboration and assistance, where feasible.
6. Following the disaster, there should be a debriefing session conducted by the Regional Coordinators with the Deanery Disaster Response teams and all others involved in disaster relief efforts.

#### **In the event of a localized disaster:**

1. The pastor contacts the Parish Disaster Response Representative and the appropriate Catholic Charities Regional Office with notification of a disaster. Any damage to parish property is reported to Catholic Mutual directly by the Pastor.
2. The Catholic Charities Regional Coordinator notifies the Director of Catholic Charities/Diocesan Disaster Response Coordinator about the disaster; and he, in turn, notifies the Bishop and the Curia, if this has not been done already by the pastor.
3. The Catholic Charities Regional Coordinator will obtain information from any parish affected and assess the needs and resources of the parish and the community. The Regional Coordinator will develop an appropriate response to the disaster.
4. The Catholic Charities Regional Coordinator will be the contact person for the Red Cross and other civil emergency organizations responding to the disaster as pertains to parishes affected.
5. Catholic Charities may provide limited funding for those affected. Assistance requests should be directed to the local Catholic Charities Regional Office.
6. The Catholic Charities Regional Office coordinates with FEMA, county emergency management offices, and appropriate community groups to develop a program of short and long term recovery.

## **MATERIALS FOR REGIONAL OFFICES TO HAVE ON HAND IN PEPARING FOR THE DISASTER**

- First Aid Kit
- Lock Box for money and vouchers
- Locking storage cabinet
- Phone cards
- Cell phone
- Access to lap top computer
- Plastic carrying file boxes for field office
- Calculator
- Catholic Charities weatherproof sign for temporary site location
- Insect repellent
- Hand sanitizing lotion
- Lysol
- Rain gear and mud boots
- Water
- Food
- Batteries for electrical devices

## **GETTING YOUR FAMILY PREPARED: CREATING A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN—PART 1**

- Decide where to go if you must evacuate and how to get there.
- Make plans for the elderly or disabled.
- Show family members how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches.
- Keep a shut-off wrench or pliers accessible.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers available and have them with you in case you have to evacuate.
- Keep a list of family physicians and phone numbers plus a list of special medical devices, such as pace makers, with style and serial number.
- Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative as your “contact” for family members to call during a disaster.
- Teach children how to dial long distance and help them memorize the names and numbers of your local and out-of-state emergency contacts.
- Keep family records and documents accessible and protected.
- Inventory property and catalogue possessions with a camera or camcorder. Consider sending copies to friends or relatives.
- Review your insurance policy for adequate coverage. Many insurance companies require a 30-day waiting period.
- Keep a hurricane tracking map accessible.
- Call your veterinarian or kennel about reserving space for your pets. Ask about food and medicine. Public shelters do not allow pets.
- Have money or travelers checks available or plan to visit an ATM (remember ATMs may not be operable after a storm).
- Clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts and make sure they are secure. Prune trees. Clean your garage so space is available to park your car or boat.
- Install hurricane shutters or have precut  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch plywood ready to cover each window, skylight and sliding glass door. Install anchors for plywood and pre-drill holes, so plywood can be put up easily.
- Disaster experts also suggest a reinforcing kit for garage doors. Tape, such as masking and duct tape, should not be used to secure windows. It is not strong enough to keep hundreds of pounds of wind pressure from



## **GETTING YOUR FAMILY PREPARED: CREATING A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN - PART 2**

### **If A Hurricane Threatens**

- Closely monitor radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for storm warnings, evacuation routes and shelter openings.
- Cover windows, skylights and sliding doors with shutters/boards.
- Fill up the car with gasoline. Check tire pressure and oil.
- Wrap irreplaceable items (family photos, videos, etc.) in plastic and pack them so you can take them with you if you evacuate.
- Move furniture away from windows and cover with plastic.
- Move lawn furniture inside with other loose outdoor items.
- Secure doors and garage doors from the inside.
- Remove TV and cable antennas and turbines from roof.
- To secure dumpsters and land-docked boats, fill with water.

### **If You Stay at Home**

- Only stay in a home if you have not been ordered to leave.
- Stay in a large, center room with few windows.
- Move to higher floors if flood waters begin to rise dangerously.
- Keep all windows and doors tightly closed through the storm.
- Monitor radio for news and weather reports continuously.
- Turn off propane tank. Unplug small appliances.
- Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes.
- Use flashlights instead of candles. Cook with canned heat. Do not use charcoal or pressurized gas inside.
- Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- If you are in a multiple-story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls or interior rooms.
- Stay inside until “all clear” is announced. Don’t leave your home when the eye of the storm passes.
- Be alert for tornadoes, which can happen during and after a hurricane passes over.

## **GETTING YOUR FAMILY PREPARED: CREATING A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN - PART 3**

### **If You Must Evacuate**

- Stay calm.
- Follow instructions and advice of your local government. If you are advised to evacuate, do so promptly.
- If certain travel routes are specified or recommended, use those routes. Once an order is given, you may not be allowed to select your route.
- Leave as quickly as possible. Don't wait until the last minute.
- Turn off electricity at main breaker. Shut off gas. Lock the house.
- Leave early in daylight if possible.
- Make arrangements for pets. DO NOT leave pets tied up outside.
- Take food and water for at least three days plus all medicine and blankets.
- For the elderly or disabled: take all walkers, wheelchairs, extra oxygen and other special health care necessities with you.
- Take family records and documents.
- If you are driving your car to another location, keep in mind it is best to leave early enough to avoid being marooned by flooding roads, fallen trees and wires.
- Make sure the gas tank is full and listen to the radio for additional information and instructions.
- Make sure you have a South Carolina highway map in your vehicle.
- Evaluate and be prepared to use parallel routes out of the community – this may include smaller roads that run parallel to the interstates and other highways.
- If you must travel with more than one vehicle, plan to leave early to avoid traffic.
- When an emergency is declared and an evacuation order is announced, designated shelters are opened by school officials, operated by the Red Cross and announced on local radio and television stations.
- While shelters are available, officials urge citizens to use alternative housing options, such as traveling to a friend's or relative's inland home or to a motel. Even inland shelters and motels may experience loss of electrical power. Be sure you take your Disaster Kit with you.
- Citizens who do relocate to a shelter are asked to bring blankets and pillows, some food for the first day and any necessary medications and sanitary supplies. It is highly recommended that you bring your Emergency Supplies Kit.
- Tell someone where you are going.
- If you live in a mobile home, LEAVE.
- If evacuation notice is issued, review checklist, take your carry-out bag or luggage and LEAVE.

## **GETTING YOUR FAMILY PREPARED: PUTTING TOGETHER A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT - PART 4**

- Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- At least one week's supply of nonperishable, packaged or canned food and a non-electric (manual) can opener, plus matches, paper plates, cups, trash bags and re-sealable plastic bags.
- Two weeks' supply of bottled drinking water – one gallon of water per person per day. Store water in sealed unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months. Extra month's supply of prescription medicine refills.
- Baby items, clothes, formula, medicine and disposable diapers.
- First aid kit and fire extinguisher.
- Map to locate shelters or follow evacuation routes.
- Extra sets of car keys and prescription glasses or contacts.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- Change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- Keep an evacuation kit packed and ready to go!**
- Assemble supplies you might need in an evacuation and store them in easy-to-carry containers like backpacks or duffel bags. Include children's games, books, decks of cards, pens and paper.
- Have plastic sheeting available to cover furniture.
- Consider bringing a cellular phone.

**Important Papers:** *Place all important documents in a waterproof container and store in a safe place. Among the documents to include are:*

- Birth certificates
- Ownership documents
- Insurance policies
- Passports, Visas and Social Security cards
- Bond and stock issues
- Wills and living trusts
- Medical records, such as children's vaccinations history
- Photocopies of all cards carried in your wallet
- Backup disks or tapes of computer information
- Irreplaceable photographs, videotapes and family heirlooms
- Inventory of personal property for filing insurance claims. List everything and include receipts of big-ticket items
- Videotape or photos of home's contents to supplement the written inventory of your the home.

## GETTING YOUR FAMILY PREPARED:

### PUTTING TOGETHER A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT (CONTINUED)

#### **Food, Water, Tools and Supplies:**

*Prepare yourself and your family for a minimum of three days. Due to time required to move relief support, the overwhelming need and disruption of roads and bridges, assistance from emergency services may not be available for up to 72 hours following a major disaster.*

It's never too early to prepare for a disaster. Disasters seldom give warning and are often devastating to their victims. Some people only prepare for Hurricane Season, but it's always Earthquake Season in Charleston.

Keep informed. Emergency Management officials in the Low-Country work with local, state and national weather officials and the media to keep residents informed of the best ways to prepare or respond during a disaster situation. The purchase of a Weather Alert Radio for your home and place of employment can help you remain informed of changing conditions.

#### **Storing Your Kit**

Choose a location to store your kit where it is cool and dark, such as a closet or "safety corner" in the garage. If you live in an apartment or have limited space, be innovative. Other possible storage locations include under the bed, under stairways or even a large box or plastic tub that can be covered with a tablecloth and used as an end table.

#### **Layer and Monitor Supplies.**

Layer supplies and keep them together in a container such as a plastic garbage can with wheels. Check the items every 6 months for expiration dates, changes in your children's clothing sizes and weather requirements. A good way to remember to inspect your kit is to do it when you set clocks back and change your smoke detector batteries.

#### **Use What You Have.**

Start with what you already have and prepare as if you are going camping for three days in the mountains with no facilities. If you're a camper, you've got a head start; camping supplies, tent, camp stove and water jugs can double as emergency supplies.

## GETTING YOUR FAMILY PREPARED:

### PUTTING TOGETHER A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT (CONTINUED)

#### **Food:**

Use canned foods for easy storage and long shelf life. However, be aware that they must be changed out at least annually. Choose ready to eat canned meat, fruits and vegetables that your family likes. A disaster is not the time to try new foods, your mind and body are already stressed.

#### **Your Kit Should Include:**

- Foods and supplements for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets.
- Don't forget your pets. Take canned or dry pet food along with an extra collar and leash. Pets are not allowed in public shelters, you may need to make special arrangements for your pet or seek a hotel/motel that allows pets during emergencies.
- Store canned or dried juice mixes; powered or canned milk; high energy food (peanut butter, jelly, crackers, unsalted nuts and trail mixes); cereals and rice.
- Store foods in single or family meal-size packaging. Un-refrigerated leftovers can cause food poisoning.
- Include comfort/stress foods - cookies, hard candies, instant coffee and tea bags.
- Add a manual can opener, cooking and eating utensils, and basic food seasoning (salt, pepper, sugar, etc.).

#### **Water:**

Store a three-day supply of water for your family. One gallon per person per day is recommended for drinking, cooking and washing. Remember to include water for pets. Date your water containers and replace them every six months.

#### **Tips for Storing and Using Water:**

Learn how to remove water from your hot water heater in case you need it. Be sure to turn off the gas or electricity before draining water for emergency use.

Purify water by boiling it for five to 10 minutes or by adding drops of unscented household bleach containing 5.25 percent hypochlorite. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends 16 drops of bleach per one gallon of water. Purification tablets or a filter system designed for backpackers also work well.

Store water in plastic three-liter soda bottles instead of plastic milk-type jugs. Milk jugs will break-down over time, soda bottles last considerably longer. You can also freeze water and it will last until needed. This frozen water also can be used for non-emergency situations such as camping, fishing, hunting, etc. However, don't forget to replace the water jugs when you get home.

**GETTING YOUR FAMILY PREPARED:  
PUTTING TOGETHER A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT**

×	<b>Household Items</b>	×	<b>Clothing and Bedding</b>
	Paper goods, plates, cups, plastic utensils		Sturdy shoes or work boots
	First Aid Kit		Rain gear
	Flashlights with extra batteries		Hat and work gloves
	Battery powered radio with extra batteries		Thermal underwear
	Battery powered clock with extra batteries		Sunglasses
	Waterproof matches		Blankets or sleeping bags
	Fire Extinguisher, small ABC type		<b>Special Items</b>
	Basic tool kit: adjustable wrench, screw drivers, hammer, etc.		Important Family documents to keep in a water-proof container.
	Plastic sheeting or tarps		Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds, passports, green cards
	Sewing kit		Social Security cards
	Plastic storage bags		Immunization records
	Paper, pens, pencils		Bank account numbers
	Aluminum foil		Credit card companies and account numbers
	Rope		Inventory of valuable household items
	Duct tape		Family records: birth, marriage, death certificates.
	<b>Baby</b>		Map of area to find shelters or distribution points (Street signs may be gone)
	Diapers / wipes / diaper rash ointment		Cash or travelers checks and change
	Formula		<b>Sanitation/Hygiene</b>
	Bottles		
	Powered milk		Soap, liquid detergent
	Medications		Feminine toiletries
	<b>Older Adults</b>		Personal hygiene items: tooth brushes, tooth paste, shampoo, deodorant, etc.
	Heart and blood pressure medications		Plastic Garbage bags with ties
	Insulin		Plastic bucket with tight lid
	Other prescription drugs		Disinfectant
	Denture needs		Unscented household bleach
	<b>Personal Items</b>		Insect repellent sun screen
	Contact lenses and supplies		<b>Miscellaneous</b>
	Extra eye glasses		Entertainment—books, toys and games
	Prescriptions		Bottled Water / Canned and non perishable food

## **GETTING YOUR FAMILY PREPARED: CREATING A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN - PART 5**

### **After The Storm**

- Keep listening to radio, television or NOAA Weather Radio for updates.
- Wait until an area is declared safe before entering. If you evacuated, only return home when local officials tell you it is safe to do so.
- Roads may be closed for your protection. Do not walk or drive into flooded areas. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Check gas, water and electrical lines and appliances for damage.
- Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
- Avoid using candles and open flames indoors. Use a flashlight.
- Be very cautious if using a chain saw to cut fallen trees.

## INTERNET WEBSITES FOR DISASTER PREPARATION

<http://www.scemd.org/> - South Carolina Emergency Preparedness Division (SCEMD). South Carolina state agency responsible for disaster management and preparedness. Includes downloadable Hurricane Guide (updated yearly) and Earthquake Guide (English and Spanish), plus information on other types of disaster. “Am I in an Evacuation Zone?” link allows one to type in an address and determine one’s hurricane evacuation zone.

<http://www.fema.gov> -- Federal Emergency Management Agency web site.

<http://www.fema.gov/help-after-disaster/> - FEMA - Applicant’s Guide to the Individuals & Households Program. Information on Individual Assistance programs and Public Assistance programs. Answers many questions concerning where to turn for food, water, contacting family members, assistance for persons with disabilities.

<http://www.fema.gov/spanish> -- Entire Federal Emergency Management Agency web site in Spanish.

<http://www.ccc-arc.org/> - Coastal South Carolina Chapter American Red Cross — 2795 Pampas Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 **E-mail: [redcross@coastalscarc.org](mailto:redcross@coastalscarc.org)**— Georgetown Service Center: 537 Lafayette Circle, Georgetown, SC 29440, Serving: Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg counties

<http://www.scdot.org/getting/evacuation.aspx>- South Carolina Department of Transportation’s (SCDOT) Evacuation Route webpage. Allows one to view both maps and written instructions for getting onto evacuation routes. Also links to web pages showing evacuation routes of neighboring states.

<http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/> - National Weather Service’s “Storm Ready” site.

<http://www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov/> - National Weather Service’s “Tsunami Ready” site.

<http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/> - FEMA – FloodSmart program. Includes tool that allows one to type in address and determine flood risk, plus link to online Map Service Center which allows one to view Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for your location.

<http://www.lcert.org/> - Lowcountry Community Emergency Response Team website. CERT training is conducted by the Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Division and is associated with FEMA’s Citizen Corps.

<http://www.charlestoncounty.org/Departments/EPD/index.htm> - Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Division website, includes downloadable Charleston County Hurricane Guide and Disabilities and Other Special Needs Emergency Preparedness Guide.



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### PUBLIC INFORMATION PHONE SYSTEMS

Evacuation information will be available in 5 languages 1-866-246-0133

SC Dept of Transportation (during a declared emergency) - traffic & road conditions 1-888-877-9151

#### State Agencies

Insurance Information 1-800-768-3467  
 Dept. Of Consumer Affairs 1-800-922-1594  
 Dept of Health & Human Services  
1-803-898-2500

#### Federal Agencies

FEMA Helpline 1-800-525-0321  
 FEMA Registration 1-800-462-9029

#### Federal Agencies Apply by Phone

Disaster Aid Help Line 1-800-621-3362  
 Disaster Aid Help Line 1-800-462-7585  
 (TTY)  
 National Flood Insurance Program  
1-800-720-1090  
 Individual Family Grant Program  
1-800-203-7001

#### American Red Cross

All Counties 1-800-HELP-NOW  
 Carolina Low Country 843-764-2323  
 Chesterfield County 843-623-7395  
 Darlington County 843-662-8121  
 Dillon County 843-774-0125  
 Florence County 843-662-8121  
 Georgetown County 843-546-5422  
 Horry County 843-477-002  
 Lee County 803-540-1241  
 Marion County 843-662-8121  
 Marlboro County 843-479-5637  
 Williamsburg County 843-546-5422

#### All Special Medical Needs Shelters:

Call DHEC 843-365-7684

#### Salvation Army

All Counties 1-800-SAL-ARMY  
 Beaufort County 843-524-3727  
 Berkeley County 843-761-8626  
 Charleston County 843-747-5271  
 Chesterfield County 843-662-4462  
 Darlington County 843-662-4462  
 Dillon County 843-662-4462  
 Dorchester County 843-851-2368  
 Florence County 843-662-4462  
 Georgetown County 843-527-4479  
 Horry County 843-488-2769  
 Lee County 803-775-9336  
 Marion County 843-662-4462  
 Marlboro County 843-662-4462  
 Williamsburg County 843-527-4479

#### United Way

Berkeley County 843-761-6033  
 Charleston County 843-740-9000  
 Dorchester County 843-821-5000  
 Chesterfield County 843-623-5418  
 Darlington County 803-393-1991  
 Dillon County 843-774-7485  
 Florence County 843-662-2407  
 Georgetown County 843-546-6317  
 Horry County 843-347-5195  
 Lee County 803-773-7935  
 Marion County 843-423-3411  
 Marlboro County 843-479-1882  
 Williamsburg County 843-546-6317

## OTHER ORGANIZATION/PARISH CONTACTS

Sorted by County, then Listed by City

### **Beaufort County**

St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Peter Church  
70 Lady's Island Drive, **Beaufort**, SC  
Deacon Mike Beeler, 843-522-9555

Knights of Columbus of St. Gregory the Great Church  
333 Fording Island Road, **Bluffton**, SC  
Joe Bast, 843-705-7928

Knights of Columbus of Holy Family Church  
24 Pope Avenue, **Hilton Head Island**, SC  
Joe Ruoto, 843-405-2772

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Holy Family Church  
24 Pope Avenue, **Hilton Head Island**, SC  
843-785-2895, ext. 232

Knights of Columbus of St. Francis by the Sea Church  
45 Beach City Road, **Hilton Head Island**, SC  
Robert Oppenheimer, 843-342-6333

### **Greenville County**

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Our Lady of the Rosary Church  
3710 Augusta Road, **Greenville**, SC  
Saturdays 9 am - 10 am, Food Pantry Only, 864-298-8002  
President: Tom Kassekert, 864-676-1408, tkassekert@aol.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church  
8 Gillian Drive, **Simpsonville**, SC  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, 864-963-3959  
President: Sheila Guidry, 864-569-9595, orenathome@aol.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary Magdalene Church  
2252 Woodruff Road, **Simpsonville**, SC  
Appt Mon & Wed, 9:30 am - 11:30 am, 864-288-4884, ext. 233  
President: Pam Flynn, 864-286-9154, pfzim6@aol.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Prince of Peace Church  
1209 Brushy Creek Road, **Tailors**, SC  
864-268-4352 President: Kathy Boddicker, 864-801-2560,  
kaboddickersvdp@charter.net

### **Lexington County**

Crisis Ministry of Corpus Christi Church  
2350 Augusta Highway, **Lexington**, SC  
803-951-7632

### **Pickens**

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Holy Cross Church  
558 Hampton Avenue, **Pickens**, SC  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month, 9 am - noon  
President: Tim Scully, 864-878-5585,  
clmscully@netscape.net

### **Richland County**

Knights of Columbus of Transfiguration Church  
9720 Wilson Boulevard, **Blythewood**, SC  
Ed Hogue, 803-788-5798

Crisis Ministry of Our Lady of the Hills Church  
120 Marydale Lane, **Columbia**, SC  
Sherry Marshall, 803-465-1644

Crisis Ministry of St. John Neumann Church  
100 Polo Road, **Columbia**, SC  
Jim and Darlene Gaebel, 803-865-6724

St. Vincent de Paul of St. Joseph Church  
3512 Devine Street, **Columbia**, SC  
Al Alvarez, 803-238-0682

St. Vincent de Paul of St. Peter Church  
1529 Assembly Street, **Columbia**, SC  
Robert Keeder, 803-796-9802

## PET SAFETY

When disaster strikes, you may not have time to prepare yourself or your pet for an evacuation, so plan now. If emergency management officials want you to evacuate, it's not safe for your pet either. **Pets should never be left outside or tied.**

**Emergency shelters do not accept pets, so make plans in advance.** Contact friends or family living on high ground. Make reservations early with veterinary hospitals and boarding kennels. Recognize that space may be limited and costly.

Make sure all pets are vaccinated, since many pet shelters require proof of the following:

Dogs – rabies vaccine, distemper/Parvo group, Bordetella and Corona.

Cats – rabies vaccine, feline leukemia, Rhinotracheitis/Calci virus and Panleukopenia.

Make sure pets wear an identification collar throughout the year with rabies tab and ID tag included. Have a properly sized plastic or wooden pet carrier (for each pet) that allows space to stand and turn around.

Keep a photograph of your pet easily accessible in the event that your pet becomes lost or separated from you.

### **If Your Pet Stays at Home During the Storm**

Bring your pet inside well in advance of the storm. Have extra pet food, water and medication in your disaster supply kit.

Prepare a safe area in your home away from windows. A bathroom is usually an ideal place.

After the storm has passed, take caution in allowing your pet outdoors. Snakes, insects and other animals will be seeking higher ground. Downed power lines pose another hazard. Familiar landmarks and scents may be altered and your pet can easily become confused and lost. Water and food exposed to the storm may be contaminated.

### **Care for Larger Animals**

Make sure all large animals have current immunizations, necessary papers and some brand or tattoo identification. If you are in an evacuation area, locate safe areas relatively nearby and make arrangements to evacuate your valuable animals at least 72 hours before the storm is expected to hit.

ID tag/rabies tag on pet	Water/food bowls
Leash	Carrier or cage
ID on all belongings	Medication
Water/food bowls	Ample water and food supply
Carrier or cage	Diet/medicine specifications
Medication	Newspapers, plastic trash bags for waste disposal

## PET FRIENDLY HOTELS/MOTELS

### Aiken County

Comfort Inn	(803) 641-1100	\$10/pet/night
Days Inn-Downtown	(803) 649-5524	\$10/pet/night
Holiday Inn Express	(803) 648-0999	\$45 per stay, per pet
Ramada Limited	(803) 648-6821	\$10/pet/night

### Anderson County

Quality Inn	(864) 226-6051	\$35 per stay, per pet
Holiday Inn Express	(864) 231-0231	\$25 fee, \$5/night, 30lb limit
La Quinta Inn	(864) 225-3721	**No Cost, No Limit**
Super 8 Motel	(864) 225-8384	Call, policy varies

### Columbia Area

Best Western– Fort Jackson	(803) 695-0666	\$20 per day
Comfort Inn	(803) 798-5101	\$15/night, 2 pet limit per room, 20 lbs. or less
Econo Lodge	(803) 772-7275	\$25
Riverside Inn	(803) 939-4688	\$20 fee, no limit on size or number
La Quinta	(803) 736-6400	**No Cost, No Limit**
Western Inn - Bush River	(803) 772-9672	\$10/night, no weight limit
Motel 6	(803) 798-9210	**No Cost, No Limit**
Quality Inn – Piney Grove Rd	(803) 798-0500	\$15 per pet/night
La Quinta	(803) 783-5410	**No Cost, No Limit**
Masters Inn - Cayce	(803) 796-4300	Small pets, \$10 per pet/stay
Masters Inn - I-26	(803) 791-5850	\$10 per night/pet, no weight limit
Red Roof Inn - West	(803) 798-9220	**No Cost, No Limit**
Inn Place Suites	(803) 779-7000	\$50 fee, \$10/night up to \$100
Super 8 Motel - Downtown	(803) 735-0008	\$15/pet/night

### Florence County

Best Western – Bennettsville	(843) 479-1700	\$25/day, no limits
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#### Dillon Area

Comfort Inn	(843) 774-4137	\$25/day, under 45lbs, 2 pets/room
Super 8 Motel	(843) 774-4161	\$10/night/small, \$20/night large

#### Florence Area

Days Inn South	(843) 665-8550	\$10/night, no limit as long as house trained
Holiday Inn- Everett	(425) 339-2000	\$40 fee
Travelers Inn	(843) 665-8558	\$5/pet/night
Tree Top Inn	(843) 662-7712	\$10/pet/night
Ramada Inn I-95	(843) 665-4555	\$15 fee, more than 3 pets and another \$15
Howard Johnson’s I-95	(843) 664-9494	\$10 fee, if more than 2 let know, under 35lbs, no fighting dogs
Howard Johnson’s	(843) 669-4241	\$10 fee for 2, \$20 fee for 3, no size limit
Ramada - Young’s Plantation	(843) 669-4171	\$10/night/pet
Red Roof Inn	(843) 678-9000	1 pet per room, no fee, 80lbs or less
Suburban Extended Stay	(843) 665-2575	\$25/night, \$75/week
Super 8 Motel	(843) 661-7267	\$10/night/pet
Thunderbird Motor Inn	(843) 669-4611	**No Cost, No Limit**

### Greenville-Spartanburg Area

#### Easley Area

Days Inn	(864) 859-9902	\$20 fee, up to 7 days, call about size/number
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#### Gaffney Area

Sleep Inn - Traveler’s Rest	(864) 834-7040	\$15/night, no limits
Carolina Inn and Suites	(864) 578-5400	Small pets - some rooms

#### Greenville Area

Comfort Inn	(864) 288-6221	\$25 fee/pet, no more than 2 pets, 50lb weight limit
Best Western Airport	(864) 297-5353	\$10/night/pet, no really big pets
Holiday Inn - Augusta Rd.	(864) 277-8921	\$35 fee
Comfort Inn	(864) 288-6900	\$10/pet/night, under 30lbs
La Quinta Inn	(864) 297-3500	**No Charge, No Limit**
Red Roof Inn	(864) 297-4458	1 pet per room, less than 50lbs
Hawthorn Inn	(864) 297-0099	\$20 fee, 2 pets max., 50lbs or less
Days Inn Simpsonville	(864) 963-7701	\$15/night, no weight limit, 3 pet limit

## PET FRIENDLY HOTELS/MOTELS - CONTINUED

Extended Stay America	(864) 213-9698	\$25/day, no limits
Holiday Inn Express & Suites	(864) 213-9331	\$25/night, 2 per room, 50lb limit
La Quinta Inns & Suites	(864) 233-8018	**No Charge, No Limit**
Camelot Inn	(864) 277-8430	\$5/pet/day
Quality Inn	(864) 963-2777	\$10/night/pet, no limit
Quality Inn Executive	(864) 271-0060	\$20/pet, 20lb limit
Comfort Inn (Laurens Rd)	(864) 288-6900	\$10/night/pet, 2 pet limit, 30lb limit
Mainstay Suites	(864) 987-5566	\$10/day/pet, no more than \$50 per month
Quality Inn & Suites	(864) 770-3737	\$25 fee, 2 pets per room, no size limit
Residence Inn	(864) 627-0001	\$100 fee, no limit
Sleep Inn	(864) 240-2006	\$15 fee, 2 pets
Studio Plus	(864) 288-4300	\$25/night, not to exceed \$150, reasonable size and number
Super 8 Motel	(864) 848-1626	\$20 night/pet, no weight limit
Townplace Suites by Marriott	(864) 675-1670	\$100 fee, no limits
Relax Inn	(864) 987-0125	\$10 fee, \$5/night/pet, \$10/week/pet, no vicious breeds
Westin Poinsett	(864) 421-9700	Dogs only, 40lb max, \$50 fee, waiver required
<b><u>Spartanburg Area</u></b>		
Carolina Inn & Suites	(864) 578-5400	Small pets - some rooms
Residence Inn	(864) 576-3333	\$100 deposit, \$50 fee, tame pets, 35lb limit
Quality Inn of Duncan	(864) 433-1333	\$15/pet/night, 2 per room, no size limit
Days Inn	(864) 814-0560	\$10 fee, 2 pets, no size limit
Days Inn	(864) 576-7300	\$10/night/pet, no limits, do not leave unattended
Econo Lodge	(864) 587-0129	\$10/night/pet, 2 pets, no weight limit
Extended StayAmerica	(864) 573-5949	\$25/night, not to exceed \$150, call for multiple or large pets
Holiday Inn Express/Duncan	(864) 486-9191	\$50 flat fee, 35lb limit, more than one negotiable if small
Jameson Inns Inc.	(864) 433-8405	\$15 fee, 2 pets, no weight limit
<b><u>Pickens County</u></b>		
<b><u>Easley</u></b>		
Comfort Inn of Easley	(864) 859-7520	\$25/pet/room, no limits
<b><u>Orangeburg County</u></b>		
Econo Lodge	(803) 531-4600	\$10 fee, 2 pets per room, size negotiable w/management
<b><u>Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area</u></b>		
<b><u>Fort Mill Area</u></b>		
Plaza Hotel	(803) 548-2400	\$50 fee, \$25/small dog, no large dogs or dangerous pets
Holiday Inn Express	(864) 297-5353	\$10/pet/night, 2 per room, medium-sized

## SHELTERS

IMPORTANT: This list is provided as a resource only. Shelters listed below may not be opened, or may change during the approach of a storm. Tune to radio and television stations for current information. Shelters that have an asterisk (\*) may be opened when citizens are asked to voluntarily leave the coast. All of the following shelters may be opened when the Governor orders a mandatory evacuation. Additional shelters will be opened as necessary.

### Aiken County

South Aiken High School	232 East Pine Log Road	Aiken
Silver Bluff High School	64 Desoto Drive	N. Augusta

### Allendale County

Allendale Primary School	4561 Allendale-Fairfax Hwy.	Allendale
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### Bamberg County

Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School	267 Red Raider Drive	Bamberg
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### Barnwell County

Barnwell Elementary School	10524 Marlboro Avenue	Barnwell
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### Berkeley County

*Goose Creek High School	1137 Red Bank Road	Goose Creek
*Berkeley High School	406 W. Main Street	Moncks Corner
*St. Stephen Elementary School	1053 Russellville Road	St. Stephen
*Hanahan Middle School	5815 Murray Drive	Hanahan
Cainhoy Middle/Elementary Schools	2434 Cainhoy Road	Huger
Cross Elementary School	1325 Ranger Drive	Cross
Sangaree Elementary School	1460 Royle Road	Summerville
Stratford High School	951 Crowfield Boulevard	Goose Creek
Westview Primary School	98 Westview Boulevard	Goose Creek
Macedonia Middle School	200 Macedonia Foxes Circle	Moncks Corner

### Calhoun County

Calhoun County High School	150 Saints Avenue	St. Matthews
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### Charleston County

*North Charleston High School	1087 East Montegue Avenue	North Charleston
*Stall High School	7749 Pinehurst Street	North Charleston
*Midland Park Elementary	2415 Midland Park Road	North Charleston
*Morningside Middle School	1999 Singley Lane	North Charleston
Garrett Academy of Technology	2731 Gordon Street	North Charleston
A.C. Corcoran Elementary	8585 Vistavia Road	North Charleston
Pepperhill Elementary School	3300 Creola Road	North Charleston
Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science	6401 Dorchester Road	North Charleston
Lambs Elementary School	6800 Dorchester Road	North Charleston

### Clarendon County

Manning High School	2155 Paxville Highway	Manning
East Clarendon Complex	1171 Pope Street	Timmonsville

### Colleton County

*Colleton County High School	1379 Mighty Cougar Drive	Walterboro
Ruffin Middle School	155 Patriot Lane	Ruffin

### Darlington County

Darlington Middle School	160 Pinedale Road	Darlington
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**Darlington County - Continued....**

Hartsville Middle School	1427 Fourteenth Street	Hartsville
Lamar High School	214 N. Darlington Avenue	Lamar
Rosenwald Elementary School	508 Church Street	Society Hill

**Dillon County**

Dillon High School	1730 Highway 301 North	Dillon
Latta High School	618 N. Richardson Street	Latta
Lake View High School	401 East 3rd Avenue	Lake View

**Dorchester County**

*Fort Dorchester High School	8500 Patriot Boulevard	North Charleston
*Summerville High School	1101 Boone Hill Road	Summerville
*Harleyville-Ridgeville Elementary School	1650 East Main Street	Dorchester
Woodland High School	4128 US Highway 78	Dorchester
Summerville Elementary School	835 South Main Street	Summerville
Beech Hill Elementary School	1001 Beech Hill Road	Summerville

**Florence County**

Wilson High School	1411 East Old Marion Hwy.	Florence
South Florence High School	3200 S. Irby Street	Florence
Lake City High School	652 N. Matthews Road	Lake City
Hanna-Pamplico Elementary/Middle School	2131 S. Pamplico Highway	Pamplico
Timmons Education Center	304 Kemper Street	Timmonsville

**Georgetown County**

*Pleasant Hill Elementary	127 Schoolhouse Drive	Hemingway
Andrews Primary	13072 County Line Road	Andrews

**Hampton County**

*Varnville Elementary School	395 Pine Street, East	Varnville
*Wade Hampton High School	201 Airport Road	Varnville
*Estill High School	1450 Columbia Highway North	Estill
Hampton Elementary School	505 South Hoover Street	Hampton

**Horry County**

*Loris Elementary School	901 East Hwy. 9 Business	Loris
Aynor Elementary School	516 Jordanville Road	Aynor
Aynor High School	201 Highway 24	Aynor
Green Sea Floyd Elementary School	5000 Tulip Grove Road	Green Sea
Green Sea Floyds High and Middle Schools	5265 Highway 9	Green Sea
Loris High School	301 Loris Lions Road	Loris
Pee Dee Elementary School	6555 Highway 134	Conway
Whittmore Park Middle School	1808 Rhue Street	Conway

**Jasper County**

*Jasper County High School	US Highway 278 West	Ridgeland
Ridgeland High/Junior/Elementary School	250 Jaguar Trail	Ridgeland

**Lee County**

Lee Central High School	1800 Wisacky Road	Bishopville
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**Lexington County**

White Knoll High School	5643 Platt Springs Road	Lexington
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**Marion County**

*Marion High School	1205 South Main Street	Marion
Mullins High School	747 Millers Road	Mullins
Creek Bridge High School	6641 S. Highway 41	Marion
Britton's Neck Elementary School	223 Gresham Road	Gresham

**Marlboro County**

Marlboro High School	951 Fayetteville Avenue	Bennettsville
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**Orangeburg County**

Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School	601 Bruin Parkway	Orangeburg
Lake Marion High School	3635 Tee Vee Road	Santee

**Richland County**

St. Andrews Baptist Church	230 Bush River Road	Columbia
Sumter High School	2580 McCray's Mill Road	Sumter

**Williamsburg County**

*Hemingway High School	402 South Main Street	Hemingway
*Kingstree Senior High West	615 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue	Kingstree
Kingstree Senior High East	615 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue	Kingstree
C.E. Murray High School	222 C.E. Murray Boulevard	Greeleyville
Kingstree Junior High School	710 Third Avenue	Kingstree



# EVACUATION ROUTES AND LANE REVERSALS

## Grand Strand Area

### North Myrtle Beach and Northward

- Use SC 9 to proceed to I-95 and beyond.

### Myrtle Beach

- 10th Avenue North and northward to Briarcliff Acres use SC 22 (Conway Bypass) to US 501. Motorists using SC 31 (Carolina Bays Parkway) or the Grissom Parkway will be directed north to SC 22.
- South of 10th Avenue North southward to the Myrtle Beach Airport use US 501 toward Marion and beyond.
- Myrtle Beach Airport southward through Surfside Beach use SC 544 to US 501.
- Under certain conditions, US 501 will be converted to four lanes northbound from SC 544 to US 378. The reversed lanes will carry SC 544 traffic onto US 378 where it will travel westbound to I-95 or Columbia.
- Under certain conditions, US 501 will be converted to four lanes westbound from SC 22 to SC 576. Instructions will be given to motorists through signs and highway advisory radio.

### Garden City Beach south to Winyah Bay, Georgetown

- Take US 17 south through Georgetown, then take US 521 to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia. Under certain conditions, a third southbound lane will be formed by reversing flow on the inside northbound lane of US 17 at the Prince George entrance. When this occurs, an additional alternate route from Georgetown will be Black River Road to US 701 to SC 51 to SC 41 to US 378 at Kingsburg. Instructions will be given to motorists through signs and highway advisory radio.

## Charleston Area

### Edisto Island, Adams Run

- Evacuees will take SC 174 to US 17. They will then take US 17 south to SC 64. This will take them to Walterboro, and then on to North Augusta.

### Yonges Island, Meggett, Hollywood, Ravenel

- Use SC 165 to US 17, then US 17 south to SC 64.

### Johns Island, Kiawah Island and Seabrook

- Evacuees will use SC 700 to Road S-20 (Bohicket Road) to US 17.
- Evacuees will take US 17 south to SC 64 where they will go to Walterboro, then on to North Augusta.

### James Island and Folly Beach

- Use SC 171 to US 17.
- Evacuees should then travel south on US 17 to I-526 to the reversed lanes of I-26.

### City of Charleston

- The west side of the city (West Ashley) will use SC 61 to US 78, then to Aiken and North Augusta.
- Downtown will use the normal lanes of I-26.

### North Charleston

- Evacuees will take US 52 (Rivers Avenue) to US 78 to US 178 to Orangeburg or continue on US 52 to US 176 or continue north on US 52.
- The right lanes of US 52 at Goose Creek will continue on to Moncks Corner. In Moncks Corner, evacuees will be directed onto SC 6, where SC 6 will proceed toward Columbia.

- The left lane of US 52 at Goose Creek will go onto US 176 to Columbia.
- Evacuees using SC 642 will travel west toward Summerville and take road S-22 (Old Orangeburg Road) to US 78 west.

#### East Cooper

- Evacuees leaving Mount Pleasant will take I-526 or US 17 south to I-26.
- Those leaving Sullivans Island will use SC 703 to I-526 Business to access I-526, then I-26.
- Evacuees from the Isle of Palms will use the Isle of Palms connector (SC 517) to go to US 17, where the right lane will turn north on US 17, then proceed to SC 41, to SC 402, then to US 52 to SC 375, then to US 521, to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia.
- Evacuees using the left lanes of the Isle of Palms connector will turn left to go to I-526 and then on to I-26.
- Evacuees on I-526 approaching I-26 from East Cooper will be directed to the normal lanes of I-26 if in the right lane of I-526.
- Those in the left lane of I-526 will be directed into the reversed lanes of I-26.

#### Awendaw and McClellanville

- Evacuees will take SC 45 to US 52 where they will be directed right onto US 52 to SC 375 to US 521 to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia.

### **Hilton Head and Beaufort Areas**

#### Hilton Head Island

- Hilton Head Island evacuees will use both the William Hilton Parkway (US 278 Business) and the Cross Island Parkway toll facility (US 278).
- As these two roads merge, a third lane will be formed by reversing flow on the inside eastbound lane of US 278. This lane will carry the traffic from the toll facility.
- When US 278 reaches I-95, lane assignments will be as follows:
  1. The right lane on westbound US 278 will exit to I-95 northbound.
  2. The left lane on US 278 westbound will continue on US 278 to Hampton and eventually North Augusta.
  3. The reversed lane will take I-95 southbound.
- Should a third lane not be necessary, then both lanes on US 278 will be routed to I-95 with the right lane to I-95 north, and the left lane continues on US 278.
- Under certain conditions, US 278 will be converted to four lanes westbound from the Cross Island Parkway to SC 170, where one lane will be directed onto SC 170 eastbound to SC 462 to I-95 northbound. The remaining three lanes on US 278 will continue toward I-95.
- I-95 southbound - Access to I-95 southbound is available, but severe congestion may be encountered.

#### Beaufort

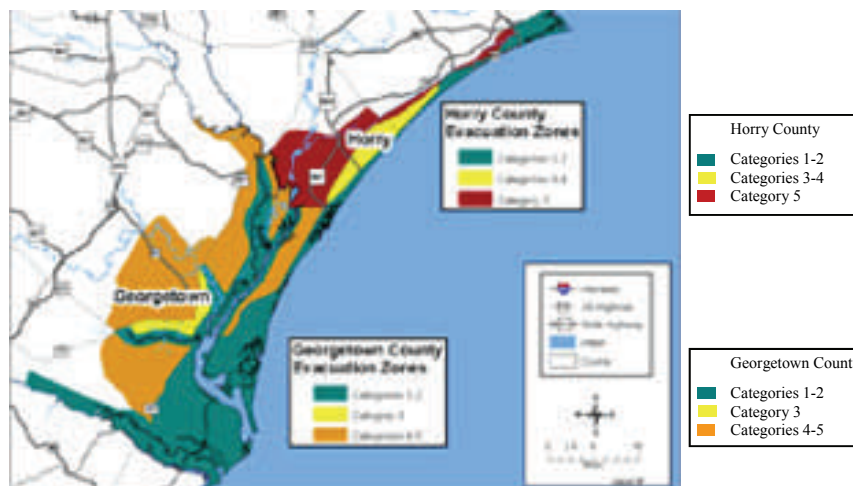
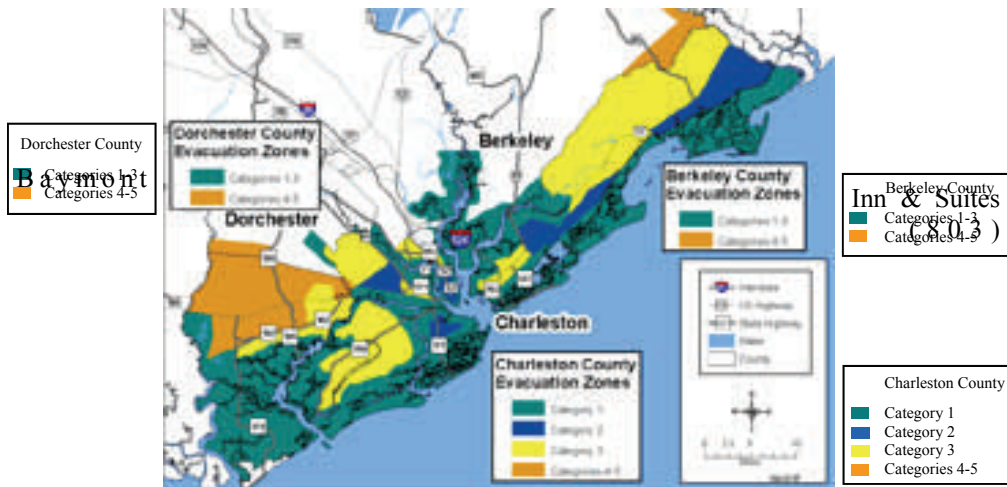
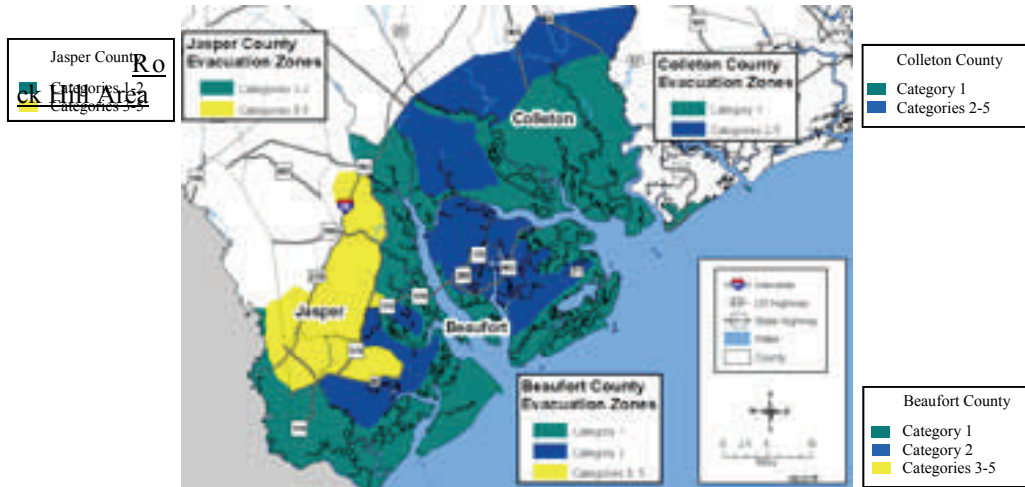
- Two lane evacuation: Evacuees will use the two present northbound lanes on US 21 to US 17. Upon reaching US 17, these lanes will be directed onto US 17 southbound. The left lane will proceed to Exit 33 (Point South) to I-95 north and the right lane will be directed to Yemassee and then ultimately to North Augusta.
- Three/four lane evacuation: Under certain conditions, a third northbound lane will be formed by reversing flow on the inside southbound lane of US 21 at SC 280. This lane will carry traffic from SC 280. When these three lanes are used, the right lane will be directed to US 17 north to SC 303 to Walterboro. The remaining two lanes will be used as described above for the two lane evacuation. Should all four lanes be used for evacuation, lane assignments will follow the three lane plan with both reversed lanes merging into one lane on US 21 prior to going southbound on US 17. The right lane will continue north on US 17 at Gardens Corner.

# COASTAL EVACUATION ZONES

These close-up maps of the South Carolina coast show areas that are subject to possible evacuation based on the category of the hurricane. Hurricanes range in intensity from Category 1 to Category 5.

Actual storm conditions may require changes to the planned evacuation zones. Stay tuned to state and local media for specific emergency management evacuation instructions.

*The boxes outside the map contain the same information that is inside the map, beside them.*



[http://www.scmd.org/News/publications/2010%20HG%20English/EVACUATE\\_Evacuation\\_Zones\\_2010.html](http://www.scmd.org/News/publications/2010%20HG%20English/EVACUATE_Evacuation_Zones_2010.html)

## INDEX OF PARISHES

**Please Note: the parish addresses listed in this section are the physical addresses of the parishes, not the mailing addresses. If you wish to obtain the mailing addresses of the parishes, please check the parish listings on the diocesan web site ([www.catholic-doc.org](http://www.catholic-doc.org)) or contact the parish directly.**

- All Saints Mission—Lake Wylie ~ 40  
Blessed Sacrament—Charleston ~ 48  
Blessed Trinity—Greer ~ 46  
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist—Charleston ~ 48  
Christ Our King—Mount Pleasant ~ 49  
Church of the Infant Jesus Mission—Marion ~ 41  
Church of the Nativity—Charleston ~ 46  
Church of the Resurrection Mission—Loris ~ 44  
Corpus Christi—Lexington ~ 41  
Divine Redeemer—Hanahan ~ 47  
Good Shepherd—Columbia ~ 38  
Good Shepherd—McCormick ~ 44  
Holy Cross—Pickens ~ 44  
Holy Cross Mission—St. Helena Island ~ 38  
Holy Family—Hilton Head Island ~ 48  
Holy Spirit—Johns Island ~ 42  
Holy Spirit Mission—Laurens ~ 47  
Holy Trinity—Orangeburg ~ 42  
Immaculate Conception—Goose Creek ~ 39  
Jesus, Our Risen Savior—Spartanburg ~ 48  
Our Lady of Good Counsel—Folly Beach ~ 42  
Our Lady of Hope—Manning ~ 41  
Our Lady of the Hills—Columbia ~ 39  
Our Lady of the Lake—Chapin ~ 38  
Our Lady of the Rosary—Greenville ~ 45  
Our Lady of Lourdes—Greenwood ~ 46  
Our Lady of Mercy—Charleston ~ 47  
Our Lady of Peace—North Augusta ~ 42  
Our Lady of Peace Mission—Bonneau ~ 41  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help—Camden ~ 37  
Our Lady, Star of the Sea—North Myrtle Beach ~ 40  
Our Lady of the Valley—Gloverville ~ 37  
Precious Blood of Christ—Pawleys Island ~ 46  
Prince of Peace—Taylors ~ 49  
Sacred Heart—Abbeville ~ 44  
Sacred Heart—Charleston ~ 45  
Sacred Heart—Gaffney ~ 45  
Sacred Heart Mission—Blackville ~ 37  
St. Andrew—Clemson ~ 44  
St. Andrew—Myrtle Beach ~ 38  
St. Andrew—Barnwell ~ 37  
St. Ann—Florence ~ 39  
St. Ann—Kingstree ~ 43  
St. Ann—Santee ~ 42  
St. Anne—Rock Hill ~ 43  
St. Anne—Sumter ~ 39  
St. Anthony—Florence ~ 39  
St. Anthony—Walterboro ~ 42  
St. Anthony Mission—Hardeeville ~ 49  
St. Anthony of Padua—Greenville ~ 45  
St. Augustine—Union ~ 48  
St. Benedict—Mount Pleasant ~ 46  
St. Boniface—Joanna ~ 47  
St. Catherine—Lancaster ~ 41  
St. Cyprian—Georgetown ~ 45  
St. Denis Mission—Bennettsville ~ 45  
St. Edward—Murphy Village ~ 42  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton—Mauldin ~ 47  
St. Francis by the Sea - Hilton Head Island ~ 39  
St. Francis Mission—Walhalla ~ 44  
Sts. Frederick & Stephen Mission—Edisto Island ~ 42  
St. Gerard—Aiken ~ 37  
St. Gregory the Great—Bluffton ~ 39  
St. James—Conway ~ 44  
St. James, the Greater Mission—Walterboro ~ 42  
St. John—North Charleston ~ 37  
St. John the Beloved—Summerville ~ 43  
St. John Neumann—Columbia ~ 39  
St. Joseph—Anderson ~ 45  
St. Joseph—Charleston ~ 38  
St. Joseph—Chester ~ 38  
St. Joseph—Columbia ~ 39  
St. Joseph Mission—Darlington ~ 43  
St. Jude—Sumter ~ 43  
St. Louis—Dillon ~ 40  
St. Luke Mission—Easley ~ 44  
St. Mark—Newberry ~ 47  
St. Martin de Porres—Columbia ~ 49  
St. Mary, Our Lady of Ransom—Georgetown ~ 45  
St. Mary—Greenville ~ 46  
St. Mary—Rock Hill ~ 43  
St. Mary—Our Lady of Hope—Summerton ~ 42  
St. Mary—Yonges Island ~ 44  
St. Mary, Help of Christians—Aiken ~ 37  
St. Mary Magdalene—Simpsonville ~ 48  
St. Mary Mission—Allendale ~ 37  
St. Mary Mission—Hampton ~ 37  
St. Mary of the Angels—Anderson ~ 45  
St. Mary of the Annunciation—Charleston ~ 41  
St. Mary, the Virgin Mother—Hartsville ~ 38  
St. Michael—Garden City ~ 46  
St. Michael Mission—Great Falls ~ 41  
St. Patrick—Charleston ~ 45  
St. Patrick Mission—Johnsonville ~ 43  
St. Paul the Apostle Mission—Seneca ~ 48  
St. Paul the Apostle—Spartanburg ~ 48  
St. Peter—Beaufort ~ 37  
St. Peter—Cheraw ~ 45  
St. Peter—Columbia ~ 40  
St. Philip Benizi—Moncks Corner ~ 47  
St. Philip Neri Mission—Fort Mill ~ 40  
St. Philip, the Apostle—Lake City ~ 43  
St. Theresa Mission—Springfield ~ 37  
St. Theresa—Winnsboro ~ 49  
St. Theresa, the Little Flower—Summerville ~ 44  
St. Thomas the Apostle—North Charleston ~ 44  
St. William—Ward ~ 41  
Stella Maris—Sullivan's Island ~ 40  
Transfiguration—Blythewood ~ 49

## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP ONE

**St. Andrew**  
Midlands  
110 Madison Street  
Barnwell, SC  
803-259-7593

**St. Mary Mission**  
Lowcountry  
703 5th Street E  
Hampton, SC  
803-943-4019

**St. Mary Mission**  
Midlands  
3457 Bluff Road  
Allendale, SC  
803-534-8177

**Sacred Heart Mission**  
Midlands  
Dexter & Lartigue Streets  
Blackville, SC  
803-259-7593

**St. Theresa Mission**  
Midlands  
155 Railroad Avenue  
Springfield, SC  
803-259-7593

## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWO

**St. Mary Help of Christians**  
Midlands  
203 Park Avenue, SE  
Aiken, SC  
803-649-4777

**St. Gerard**  
Midlands  
640 Edrie Street NE  
Aiken, SC  
864-649-3030

**St. Peter**  
Lowcountry  
70 Lady's Island Drive  
Beaufort, SC  
803-522-9555

**Our Lady of the Valley**  
Midlands  
2429 Augusta Road  
Gloverville, SC  
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Cell - 843-441-0401

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP THREE

**St. John's Church**  
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3921 St. John's Avenue  
North Charleston, SC  
843-744-6201

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
Midlands  
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Camden, SC  
803-432-6131

Brother Ed Bergeron  
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Cell 843-367-7065  
brothered@saintjohncatholicsc.org

## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP FOUR

**St. Joseph Church**  
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jaumes@cofc.edu

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**Our Lady of the Lake**  
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Home 803-345-2698

## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP FIVE

**St. Mary the Virgin Mother**  
Pee Dee  
363 North Fifth Street  
Hartsville, SC 29550  
843-332-2812

Alex Yarborough  
843-857-0750

**St. Joseph**  
Midlands  
110 West End Street  
Chester, SC  
803-377-4695

David Fougerousse  
803-581-1461

**Divine Savior**  
Midlands  
232 Herndon Avenue  
York, SC  
803-684-3431

Montgomery (Monte) Waddill  
Cell 803-526-6528  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP SIX

**Holy Cross Mission**  
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kwidenhouse@stpeters-church.org

**St. Andrew Church**  
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503 37th Avenue North  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
843-448-5930

**Good Shephard**  
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809 Calhoun Street  
Columbia, SC  
803-765-1334

## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP SEVEN

**St. Gregory the Great**  
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333 Fording Island Road  
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**Our Lady of the Hills**  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP EIGHT

**St. Anthony Church**  
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Bernie Mong  
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stphilipneri@comporium.net

## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP ELEVEN

### **Stella Maris Church**

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### **St. Peter Church**

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWELVE

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### **All Saints Mission**

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP THIRTEEN

### Church of the Infant Jesus Mission

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP FOURTEEN

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### Corpus Christi Church

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### Our Lady of Hope Church

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### **St. Edward Church**

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### **St. Mary Help of Christians**

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP SEVENTEEN

### **Holy Spirit Church**

Coastal  
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### **Our Lady of Peace**

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP EIGHTEEN

### **St. Anthony**

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### **St. James the Greater Mission**

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### **Sts. Frederick & Stephen Mission**

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### **St. Ann Church**

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info@stannsantee.org

### **Holy Trinity Church**

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2202 Riverbank Drive  
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### **St. Mary - Our Lady of Hope**

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Summerton, SC  
803-485-2925  
www.myoloh.org

Jeanette "Jen" Palladino  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP NINETEEN

### St. John the Beloved Church

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### St. Anne Church

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWENTY

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### St. Mary Church

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Rock Hill, SC  
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Fr. Augustin Guzman, C.O.  
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### St. Philip the Apostle Church

Pee Dee  
120 Westover Street  
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843-394-8343

Greg Thomy  
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[greg@thomy.us](mailto:greg@thomy.us)

### St. Patrick Mission

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Johnsonville  
843-394-8343

Robert Jordan  
843-386-3857  
Gil Cosme

## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWENTY-ONE

### St. Joseph Mission

Pee Dee  
1308 North Main Street  
Darlington, SC  
843-332-7773

Alex Yarborough  
843-857-0750

### St. Jude Church

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWENTY-TWO

**Church of the Resurrection Mission**

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**Sacred Heart**

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Marilyn Buffaloe  
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**St. James Church**

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**Good Shepherd**

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McCormick, SC  
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bwzust@wctel.net

## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWENTY-THREE

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

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**St. Andrew Church**

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWENTY-FOUR

**St. Theresa, the Little Flower**

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**St. Mary Church**

Coastal  
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Yonges Island, SC  
843-889-8549

Virginia Watson  
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**Holy Cross Church**

Piedmont  
558 Hampton Avenue  
Pickens, SC  
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Fr. Emmanuel Efiang  
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Phil Cournoyer  
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**St. Luke Church**

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Easley, SC  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWENTY-FIVE

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Georgetown, SC  
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**St. Mary Our Lady of Ransom**  
Pee Dee  
317 Broad Street  
Georgetown, SC  
843-546-7416

**Sacred Heart Church**  
Piedmont  
407 Grace Street  
Gaffney, SC  
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Chris Caggiano  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWENTY-SIX

**St. Denis Mission**  
Pee Dee  
100 Tyson Avenue  
Bennettsville, SC  
843-537-7351

**St. Peter Church**  
Pee Dee  
602 Market Street  
Cheraw, SC  
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**Our Lady of the Rosary**  
Piedmont  
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864-422-1648  
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Deacon Richard Ballard  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWENTY-SEVEN

**St. Patrick Church**  
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Greenville, SC  
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**Sacred Heart Church**  
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Charleston, SC  
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Neil Nohrden  
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**St. Joseph**  
Piedmont  
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**St. Mary of the Angels**  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWENTY-EIGHT

### Precious Blood of Christ

Pee Dee  
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### St. Michael Church

Pee Dee  
542 Cypress Avenue  
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Karen Nierengarten  
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### St. Mary Church

Piedmont  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP TWENTY-NINE

### Church of the Nativity

Coastal  
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843-693-8120  
piersonjim@gmail.com

### Our Lady of Lourdes

Piedmont  
915 Mathis Road  
Greenwood, SC  
864-223-8410

Pat Johnson  
864-980-3282

## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP THIRTY

### St. Benedict Church

Coastal  
950 Darrell Creek Trail  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466  
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### Blessed Trinity Church

Piedmont  
901 River Road  
Greer, SC  
864-879-4225

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP THIRTY-ONE

### **Our Lady of Mercy**

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### **Holy Spirit Mission**

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Jeanne Croyle  
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### **St. Boniface Church**

Piedmont  
403 North Main Street  
Joanna, SC  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP THIRTY-TWO

### **Divine Redeemer Church**

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Hanahan, SC  
843-553-0340

Rev. Edward Fitzgerald  
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### **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church**

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP THIRTY-THREE

### **St. Philip Benizi Church**

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### **St. Mark Church**

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Al de Lachica  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP THIRTY-FOUR

### **Blessed Sacrament Church**

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### **St. Augustine Church**

Piedmont  
103 East South Street  
Union, SC  
864-427-7240

Rev. Mr. Bill Bower  
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### **St. Paul the Apostle**

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161 North Dean Street  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP THIRTY-FIVE

### **Cathedral of St. John the Baptist**

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### **Jesus, Our Risen Savior**

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### **St. Mary Magdalene**

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP THIRTY-SIX

### **Holy Family Church**

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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP THIRTY-SEVEN

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### **Prince of Peace Church**

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Deacon Bob Smith  
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## PARISH PAIRING - GROUP THIRTY-EIGHT

### **St. Anthony Mission**

Lowcountry  
1 Charles Street  
Hardeeville, SC  
843-784-2943

### **St. Theresa Mission**

Midlands  
162 Highway 321 Bypass, North  
Winnsboro, SC  
803-635-2541

### **St. Martin de Porres Church**

Midlands  
2229 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC  
803-254-6862

Geraldine Douglas  
Parish - 803-254-6862

### **Church of the Transfiguration**

Midlands  
9720 Wilson Boulevard  
Blythewood, SC  
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## DISASTER FACTS: HURRICANES

A **Tropical Storm** sustains winds of 39 to 73 miles per hour; a storm is assigned a name when it reaches tropical storm strength.

A **Hurricane** sustains winds of 74 miles per hour or more, accompanied by heavy rain. Hurricanes are designated from categories one through five as they increase in wind strength and height of expected storm surge. Hurricane Hugo in 1989 was a Category 4 storm. Hurricane Andrew in 1992 also was a Category 4 hurricane.

A **Storm Surge** is a rise in tide caused by a hurricane as it moves over or near the coastline, often with breaking waves on top. A storm surge can cause devastating damage: entire buildings can collapse once the storm surge wipes away the foundation; millions of fish are killed by the crash of the storm surge against the coastline; and, many people drown in the strong current produced by the storm surge.

A **Hurricane Watch** is issued when hurricane conditions pose a possible threat to an area within 36 hours.

A **Hurricane Warning** is issued when a hurricane is expected to strike within 24 hours.

The hurricane belt is described as the area along the Atlantic coast from Virginia south to Key West, Florida, and along the Gulf of Mexico from Key West to and including Texas.

Tornadoes often accompany hurricanes.

Hurricanes spiral counterclockwise around a relatively calm center known as the eye of the storm. This calm is bordered by hurricane force winds and torrential rains. Additional winds, rains, etc. will follow the calm down (eye of the storm). **Remain indoors until experts advise that the storm has passed.**

Hurricane winds do much damage, but huge waves can raise tides 15 feet or more. These waves often come rapidly and produce flooding and flash floods. **Drowning is the greatest cause of hurricane deaths.**

Vertical evacuation (i.e., moving to second or third floor) is not safe. Storm surges can wipe out the foundation and/or first floor, destroying the upper floors in the process.

Using tape on windows is not the preferred method of securing windows. A greater danger than flying glass exists when hurricane winds enter a building through a broken window and blow the roof off of a building. Boarding windows where strong winds are expected is a safer method to protect the roof, the interior and the overall structure of the property.

Officials may advise that all utilities be shut off to homes and other property. Locate shut off valve(s) in advance and know how to use them safely. Write down step-by-step instructions and make sure more than one person knows how to use them.

When storm conditions arrive, secure all outside items such as lawn furniture, children's toys, etc. so they don't become airborne.

Important records such as tax documents, insurance policies, social security cards, birth certificates, passports, bonds, stocks, wills and medical information should be placed in a waterproof container and stored in a safe place.

## DISASTER FACTS: HURRICANES ( CONTINUED)

**Parishes should also include financial information, personnel records, insurance policies, certificates, backup copies of computer files and sacramental records among the items needed to safeguard.**

If sheltering at home, stay in the room or area most central to the home, preferably without windows.

Take pictures of your home and property before a storm hits. If your property is damaged, take more photos after the storm. Develop 2 sets and give one set to your insurance company. Keep one set and the negatives in a safe location. Do not begin clean up until insurance agent has inspected the damage.

When flooding accompanies a hurricane, snakes and rodents can become a hazard. Stray dogs and cats can cause problems also. Pets can become hostile once they have endured the effects of a serious storm.

Disruption of garbage and trash pickup can pose a problem. Food, which cannot be used or saved after a storm, should be buried rather than left outside to attract animals.

To avoid accidents in the home after a storm, clean up a room where small children can stay safely.

Looting can also be a problem after a storm. Work with your neighbors and friends and consider taking turns standing watch if looting becomes a problem.

Check with local civil defense or emergency management authorities before using any water after a flood. Water sources may have been contaminated.

### **Rating The Hurricane:**

Hurricanes vary in power and speed. The Saffir-Simpson scale breaks them into the following categories according to wind speeds:

Category 1:	74-95 mph
Category 2:	96-110 mph
Category 3:	111-130 mph
Category 4:	131-155 mph
Category 5:	155+ mph

**Category 1 & 2** – Minor damage to stable structures, major damage to mobile homes, vegetation and piers. Some coastal flooding.

**Category 3** – Structural damage to small residences and utility buildings. Mobile homes are destroyed. Terrain continuously lower than 5 feet above sea level may be flooded inland 8 miles or more.

**Category 4 & 5** – Most deadly and destructive. Can create complete roof failure and building collapse. Massive beach erosion is caused by the storm surge. Flooding occurs in areas 15 feet above sea level and along the coastline requiring evacuation of residential areas for up to 10 miles inland.

## DISASTER FACTS - FLOODS AND FLASH FLOODS

The two key elements to flash flooding are rainfall intensity and duration. Topography, soil conditions, and ground cover also play an important role. Flash floods occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall, a dam or levee failure, or a sudden release of water held by an ice jam. Flash floods can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels. Rapidly rising water can reach heights of 30 feet or more. Flash flood-producing rains can also trigger catastrophic mud slides. You will not always have a warning that these deadly, sudden floods are coming. Most flood deaths are due to Flash Floods.



Floods claim an average of 263 lives every year. Flood waters only one foot deep can sweep you off your feet and a depth of 2 feet will float your car. Never try to walk, swim, or drive through such swift water. If you come upon flood waters, Stop! Turn around and go another way.

Officials will forecast flood(s) when the rainfall is heavy enough to cause rivers to overflow their banks.

**Flood warnings** or forecasts of impending floods will include a description of the potential body of water affected, the severity of the expected flooding, and when and where the flooding will begin.

A **flash flood watch** is issued when heavy rains that may cause sudden flash flooding in specified areas are occurring or expected to occur. A flash flood often occurs without any visible sign of rainfall in your area.

A **flash flood warning** means flash flooding is occurring or is imminent along certain streams and designated areas. Move to high ground immediately.

Property damage and/or loss due to flood is not covered under the usual homeowners' insurance policies. Flood insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance Program. Your insurance agent would have further information about how to insure your property against flood damage.

**Do not stack sandbags directly against the outside walls of a building.** Pressure against the foundation can cause severe damage. Stack sandbags away from building walls to prevent floodwaters from reaching your home or business.

To avoid structural damage to the foundation of your home if you have a basement, some experts recommend permitting flood waters to flow into the basement or flood the basement yourself if you are sure it will be flooded anyway. This equalizes the water pressure on the outside of the walls. Basements should be pumped out gradually (about one-third of the water per day) to avoid damage. The walls may collapse and the floor may buckle if the basement is pumped out while the surrounding ground is still waterlogged.

**Be careful of electrical and gas utilities.** Have experts inspect and reconnect after a flood.

Check with local civil defense or emergency management authorities before using any water after a flood. Water sources may have been contaminated.

## DISASTER FACTS - FLOODS AND FLASH FLOODS (CONTINUED)

### **Hidden Dangers of Areas Flooded by Storm**

#### **Don't walk through flowing water.**

Drowning is a major cause of flood deaths. Use a pole or stick to make sure the ground continues in front of you.

#### **Do not drive through a flooded area.**

If you come upon a road barrier, turn around and go the other way; the road or bridge may be washed out.

#### **Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.**

Electrocution is also a major killer in floods. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines.

#### **Turn off your electricity when you return home.**

Some appliances, such as TV sets, can shock you even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried by a professional.

#### **Watch for animals – especially snakes.**

Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a stick to poke and turn items over and scare away small animals.

#### **Look before you step.**

After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris, including broken bottles and nails, and may be slippery.

#### **Be alert for gas leaks.**

Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flame unless you are sure that the gas has been turned off and the area aired out.

#### **Carbon monoxide exhaust kills.**

Use a generator, gas powered machine and camping stove outdoors. Cook with charcoal outdoors only.

#### **Clean everything that got wet.**

Floodwaters have picked up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms, factories and storage buildings. Spoiled food and flooded cosmetics and medicine are health hazards. When in doubt, throw them out.

#### **Environmental cues – storm flooding:**

Listen for distant thunder. A faraway thunderstorm could be headed your way.

Look out for water rising rapidly.

If you are in an automobile, look out for flooding at highway dips, bridges, and low areas.

## DISASTER FACTS - TORNADOS



Tornadoes often accompany hurricanes, and while they can strike at any time of the year, they occur most frequently during April, May and June. In an average year, 800 tornadoes are reported nationwide, resulting in 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries. A tornado is defined as a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or more. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

What causes tornadoes?

Thunderstorms develop in warm, moist air in advance of eastward-moving cold fronts. These thunderstorms often produce large hail, strong winds, and tornadoes. Tornadoes occasionally accompany tropical storms and hurricanes that move over land. Tornadoes are most common to the right and ahead of the path of the storm center as it comes onshore.

Tornadoes may form during the early stages of rapidly developing thunderstorms. Tornadoes may appear transparent until dust and debris are picked up. Occasionally, two or more tornadoes may occur at the same time.

A **tornado watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop (often during severe thunderstorms).

A **tornado warning** means that a tornado has actually been sighted.

The safest place to be during a tornado is in a basement, under something sturdy like a workbench or strong table. If there is no basement, **go to a small interior room in the middle of the house, like a closet or a bathroom.** Stay away from outside walls and windows. Never seek shelter in a car.

**Opening windows to equalize pressure during a tornado is ineffective** in reducing damage, and adds to the risk of flying glass.

Hail often accompanies severe storms, so move cars inside a garage or carport, if possible, to avoid damage. Keep your car keys and house keys on your person.

If time permits, move lawn furniture and yard equipment inside so that they do not become airborne.

## DISASTER FACTS - TORNADOS (CONTINUED)

### Environmental Clues - Tornadoes

#### Look out for:

- › Dark, often greenish sky
- › Large hail
- › Loud roar – similar to a freight train
- › Some tornadoes appear as a visible funnel extending only partially to the ground.
- › Look for signs of debris below the visible funnel.
- › Some tornadoes are clearly visible while others are obscured by rain or nearby low-hanging clouds.

#### Other Hazards:

- › Flash floods
- › Lightning
- › Damaging straight-line winds
- › Large hail – can reach the size of a grapefruit

### Tornado Myths

**Myth:** Areas near rivers, lakes and mountains are safe from tornadoes.

**Fact:** No place is safe from tornadoes.

**Myth:** The low pressure with a tornado causes buildings to “explode” as the tornado passes overhead.

**Fact:** Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause most structural damage.

**Myth:** Windows should be opened before a tornado approaches to equalize pressure and minimize damage.

**Fact:** Opening windows allows damaging winds to enter the structure. Leave the windows alone; instead, immediately go to a safe place.

## DISASTER FACTS - FIRES

From 1900-1990, more Americans died in fires than have been killed in all of the wars during the same period. Residential fires are the leading cause of accidental death for children under the age of five. (Source: "Are You Ready", FEMA publication)

**Fire spreads quickly; you may not have time to grab valuables or make a phone call.**

In two minutes a room can become life threatening. In five minutes your house can be engulfed in flames.

**A fire's heat and smoke are more dangerous than the flames.**

Inhaling the super-hot air can sear and scorch your lungs.

**Fire produces poisonous gases that may make you disoriented and drowsy.**

Instead of being awakened by a fire, you may fall into a deeper sleep.

**Most injuries due to fire come from smoke inhalation rather than burns.**

**Working smoke detectors double your chance of surviving a fire.**

Experts advise that you clean smoke detectors regularly and replace batteries once a year.

**Plan two escape routes from every room in the house.**

Visibility is severely limited during a fire. Practice escaping from rooms with your eyes closed or blindfolded, since during a fire, the house will be filled with thick, black smoke. Pick a place outside your home for the family to meet after escape.

**Windows should be easily opened, not nailed or painted shut.**

If you have security bars on windows, have a fire safety opening feature so they can be easily opened from inside.