

Coosaw Point

Hurricane Preparedness Guide



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May, 2022

Dear Residents,

The most common risk to our beautiful low country location is a hurricane. This packet has been developed as a guideline for individual homeowners to prepare for a potential storm. The contents will assist you to plan, respond and recover safely in order to protect your family and home.

Whether you are new to the low country and have never experienced a hurricane or a seasoned resident with prior experiences, the packet contains valuable information on preparations, alert and warning communications, evacuation maps, emergency kit checklists and local information sites during emergencies.

Coosaw Point has also developed an Emergency Response Plan to protect our residents and respond as needed during a storm. Part of that plan is the ability to communicate with all homeowners during an emergency. We have chosen to use an application called **WhatsApp** that will allow text messaging to residents prior to, during and after an event with updates and community status advisements. We ask that one member from each household download the application onto their cell phone so that the Emergency Response Team and the POA can be in ongoing communication with all homeowners.

The Coosaw Point POA can be reached at 843-522-0041 for questions.

Stay safe,

The Coosaw Point POA

Homeowners Preparation and Response to Hurricanes

Make A Plan

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings? Listed are reliable information sources.
 - WhatsApp phone application for Coosaw Point member communications
 - Beaufort County Sheriff's Office
 - BCSO.net
 - 843-524-2777
 - Nixle.com
 - SCDOT
 - 511 for road conditions
 - National Hurricane Center
 - nhc.noaa.gov
 - Weather.gov
 - NOAA Weather Radio
 - Local Radio Stations
 - WHHW 93.5FM/1130AM
- **What information do I need in case of an emergency or evacuation?**
 - Photos of outside and inside of home including cars, carts, and boats
 - Contact Information
 - Medical providers
 - Insurance including copies of member cards
 - Veterinary care
 - Family emails and phone numbers
 - Copies of important documents both digital and hard copy
 - Locations and contact information for financial accounts, safety deposit boxes, wills, insurance policies, medical records.
 - Protect all valuable documents in zip lock or waterproof containers
 - Store originals in safety deposit box or safe including other valuables
 - Provide extra safety deposit box key and/or safe combination to trusted family member or friend
- **Establish a central-point-of-contact**
 - Out of town individual to for all family members to notify of status, location, well-being, plans
 - Provide copy of all family information to point of contact
- **Establish an emergency meeting place**
 - Out of town away from storm track if family is not together and evacuation is required

Create an Emergency Preparedness Kit

- Water and non-perishable food for at least 3 days
- Battery powered radio and flashlights with extra batteries
- First Aid kit
- Baby wipes for bathing
- Tool for utility turn off

- Manual can opener
- Sleeping bags/pillows
- Documents
- Cellphone/laptop with chargers
- Prescription medications and glasses (get medications refilled if possible)
- Infant supplies and pet food
- Change of clothing, boots, and raingear
- Paper goods/notebook and pen/toilet paper
- Face masks
- Cash

Prepare Your Home

- Remove and store all yard and porch items
- Clear gutters of debris
- Check generator for working order
- Fill cars, equipment, and generator with gas
- Purchase extra gas and store in safe containers
- Top off propane tanks
- Put up storm shutters
- Fill large zip lock bags with drinking water and freeze
- Fill bath tub with water for non-drinking purposes
- Turn off irrigation system
- Check emergency food and water supply and restock as needed

Make an Evacuation Plan

- Factors to consider regarding evacuation decision
 - What are local and state authority recommendations?
 - Is there a mandatory evacuation in place?
 - How long will it take for local responders to respond after the storm if I am unsafe?
 - Are there vulnerable family members that are at increased risk due to extended power loss?
 - Where would I go if required to evacuate or choose to leave?
 - Local shelter
 - Hotel
 - Family
 - Am I a caregiver to others outside the home that would need to evacuate as well?
 - What are my work responsibilities during and after the storm?
 - Are there family members that require special accommodations?
 - Disability or access needs
 - Medical care
 - Communication barriers i.e., language, hearing impairment, visual impairment
 - Small children
 - Pets

Evacuation Plan

- Coosaw Point is Zone A of SC Evacuation Plan which is one of the first Zones to be evacuated
- Beaufort County Evacuation map included in packet
- Determine where you will stay during storm and plan route
 - Prepare home
 - Bring Emergency Kit supplies to last at least 24 hours until you arrive at your destination
 - Bring document copies
 - Contact the CP Emergency Response Team via WhatsApp to advise of evacuation
 - Lock house and turn off utilities and irrigation
 - Post note inside front door to advise of evacuation and list emergency contact for family
 - Evacuate as early as possible to avoid traffic congestion or change in timing of storm
 - Monitor local authority advisements regarding when it is safe to return
 - Do not return to home until advised that it is safe to do so by authorities

Aftermath and Recovery

- Do not return to community until advised it is safe to do so by local authorities
- Be prepared for extended power outage after a storm
- Advise the CP Emergency Response Team via WhatsApp of return to home
- Upon return do not enter home if there is visible damage. Contact the CP Emergency Response Team for guidance
- When safe to do so, assess gas and power services for damage and turn on if safe
- Stay clear of roadway debris
- Take photos of all interior and exterior damage
- Clean up home debris and transport to burn pile
- If able to do so, volunteer to assist the Emergency Response Team with recovery efforts
- Do not be scammed! Assure that all contractors hired are licensed, insured, and have complimentary reviews from prior customers

The Coosaw Point Emergency Response Plan

The Coosaw Point Emergency Response Plan was created in 2022 at the request of community members to assure our development had a strategy to deal with different types of emergencies including hurricanes.

The Plan (ERP) is a structured, coordinated process to mitigate damage to common areas, roadways, and amenities owned by the POA and respond after an incident for road and debris clean-up, building repairs, and well-being checks of homeowners.

The CP POA oversees the plan along with ERP leaders and is staffed solely with dedicated community volunteers for all activities. If you are interested in being a volunteer for the ERP, please contact Marc Gustafson at mgust33@gmail.com.

A critical part of the ERP is accountability and safety for community members. All residents are asked to download **WhatsApp** to your phone. This messaging system will be used by the POA and ERP leadership to provide emergency updates prior to and during an emergency. The application is free and works on wi-fi as well as data.

Further details regarding the ERP can be obtained from the POA at coosawpointpoa@gmail.com.



South Carolina Emergency Management Division

Office of the Adjutant General
2779 Fish Hatchery Road, West Columbia, S.C. 29172

EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

It is important to keep enough supplies in your home to meet the needs of your family for at least three days. Assemble a Family Emergency Kit with items you may need in an emergency or evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as suitcases, duffle bags or covered storage containers.

Include at a minimum:

- Water**, two gallons of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food**, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit**
- Whistle to signal for help
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Family emergency contact information
- Cash or traveler's checks and change

Additional items to consider include:

- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Fire extinguisher
- Multipurpose tool
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Duct tape
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Water:

- Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles or plastic milk jugs. Avoid using containers that will break, such as glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers and ill people will need more.
- Store two gallons of water per person per day (one gallon for drinking, one gallon for food preparation/sanitation)
- Keep at least a three-day supply of water for each person in your household.

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Food:

- Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, little preparation or cooking and little or no water. Select food items that are compact and lightweight.
- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- Canned juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water)
- Staples--sugar, salt, pepper
- High energy foods--peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix
- Vitamins
- Foods for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets
- Comfort/stress foods--cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, tea bags

First Aid Kit:

- Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter to obtain a basic first aid manual. Each first aid kit should include:
 - 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
 - 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
 - Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
 - Triangular bandages (3)
 - 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
 - 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
 - Scissors
 - Tweezers
 - Needle
 - Moistened towelettes
 - Antiseptic
 - Thermometer
 - Tongue blades (2)
 - Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
 - Assorted sizes of safety pins
 - Cleansing agent/soap
 - Latex gloves (2 pair)
 - Sunscreen

SUGGESTIONS AND REMINDERS:

- Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the Family Emergency Kit in the trunk of your car.
- Keep items in air-tight plastic bags.
- Change your stored water supply every six months so it stays fresh.
- Rotate your stored food every six months.
- Re-evaluate your kit and family needs at least once a year. Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.
- Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

South Carolina Southern Hurricane Evacuation Routes

