

# CHATHAM COUNTY CONNECTION



July 20, 2014



Al Scott  
Chairman



Helen Stone  
District 1



James Holmes -  
District 2



Tony Center  
District 3



Patrick Farrell  
District 4



Yusuf Shabazz  
District 5



Lori Brady  
District 6



Dean Kicklighter  
District 7



Priscilla Thomas  
District 8

## HURRICANE EDITION

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Al Scott, Chairman

Over the July 4th weekend we were reminded how vulnerable Chatham County is to the destructive force of a hurricane. Thankfully, Hurricane Arthur stayed way off our coast, but the threat of a storm is always present during Hurricane Season. While Chatham County and Coastal Georgia have not been directly affected by a hurricane for quite some time we must always remember to have our hurricane plans in place should a disaster strike. History teaches that a lack of hurricane

awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerabilities and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster. Thanks to Clayton Scott and the CEMA staff for this edition of the Chatham County Connection. They have provided the necessary information to prepare yourself, your family and your home.

Since 1979, when Hurricane David made landfall as a minimal hurricane, Chatham County has been spared from the destructive force of a hurricane. Even though it was classified as a "minimal hurricane" with winds right at 60 mph, it tore down trees and power lines. Many residents were without power for over two weeks. We were spared massive destruction when Hurricanes Hugo and Floyd, both powerful Category 5 storms, turned away from our shores only to strike further north. Even with Hurricane Arthur staying out to sea, a feeling of complacency is the worst fear among CEMA and other public safety officials. If you think

because of our location we're safe from hurricanes, think again. The fact is hurricanes have hit this area before and one will hit us again.

Now is the time to make your plans and to use the information that CEMA has provided. Know what to take and where you will go if we need to evacuate. Make an inventory of your belongings and vital documents. If you need transport or medical assistance contact the Chatham County Health Department about the Functional/Medical Needs Registry. Don't forget your pets as you make your plans.

Because of the uncertainty of the weather and unpredictability of tropical systems, making your plans now will save you time and effort should we find ourselves in harm's way. Hurricanes and tropical storms are the threats that come from living in this beautiful coastal area, and hopefully we'll be able to enjoy the rest of our summer. Once again I would like to thank Clayton Scott and the CEMA staff for providing this valuable information.

## Five Gallon Emergency Kit



Building your Five Gallon Emergency Kit can Help you Save Money and Help you Survive a Disaster



### Organizing your kit:

#### HYGIENE SUPPLIES

- bar soap
- tissues
- floss
- baby shampoo
- hand lotion
- sunscreen
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- feminine hygiene pads
- comb
- toilet paper
- wash cloths

#### GENERAL SUPPLIES

- glow sticks (12 hrs)
- flashlight
- liquid candle
- matchbooks
- mylar blankets
- hand warmers

- AM/FM radio
- whistle and lanyard
- sewing kit
- blank notebook
- pencils
- batteries (for flashlight and radio)
- zip ties
- P-38 can opener
- trash bags
- N95 dust masks
- duct tape
- small tarp
- paracord
- safety goggles
- work gloves

#### FIRST AID SUPPLIES

- basic first-aid guide
- moist towelettes
- antiseptic towelettes
- latex gloves

- acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- aspirin
- diphenhydramine (Benedryl)
- loperamide (Immodium A-D)
- burn cream
- sting relief towelettes
- hydrocortisone cream
- earplugs
- instant ice pack
- tweezers
- nail clippers
- scissors
- digital thermometer
- cotton balls
- waterproof adhesive tape
- gauze rolls
- gauze pads
- moleskin
- band-aids
- butterfly bandages

- ace bandage
- triangular bandage
- hand sanitizer
- Q-tips

#### PET SUPPLIES

- collar
- leash
- medical and vaccination records
- food, water, treats, toys

A kit should always be tailored to what's likely to happen in your area and your family's needs.



# WATCH vs. WARNING

## What's the Difference?

### Hurricane Watch

When a Hurricane Watch is issued, there is a potential threat for hurricane conditions to a specific area within 36 hours. During a Hurricane Watch, you should get everything ready in preparation for an evacuation order. That way, when the call is made, you will be ready to leave at a moment's notice. During a Hurricane Watch, you should:

- Monitor radio, TV, NOAA weather radios for information on storm progression.
- Fill fuel tanks and service family vehicles.
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie-downs.
- Determine your evacuation destination.
- Prepare to cover your window and door openings with protective materials.
- Make a list of important things to take with you and begin compiling everything (important documents, prescription medication, photographs) (SEE BELOW).
- Secure outdoor lawn furniture and other loose, lightweight objects.
- Have cash with you in preparation for evacuating. ATMs may not be accessible or in service.



Do you have a list of things that you own? When a tropical system is approaching the area, you may not think to make an inventory of all of your belongings, but this is essential to making sure your items can be found or replaced after a storm. You don't have to wait until a storm threatens to create a database of personal items. You can do it now!

- Photograph or video tape your possessions (jewelry, family heirlooms, electronics, etc.).
- Remember to check your basement, attic, and closet spaces.
- Document landscaping and architectural details of your home's exterior.
- Create a written inventory of all of your items.
- Write down as many details as you can for each item (date of purchase, serial numbers, etc.).
- Get valuables appraised and contact your insurance company to update your records and policy.
- Organize all of your files electronically or in a booklet so you can easily find them in the future.

### Hurricane Warning

When a Hurricane Warning is issued, winds of 74 mph or greater are expected to affect a specified area within 24 hours. The warning is the signal to take immediate action to prepare for the full impact of a hurricane. The consequence for coastal communities could be devastating if proper emergency actions are not taken. You should:

- Closely monitor radio and TV weather reports.
- Follow instructions from local officials.
- Leave immediately if ordered to do so.
- Rush to complete preparation activities.
- Leave Mobile Homes. They are not safe.
- Notify neighbors and family members outside the warning area of evacuation plans.
- Take your pet and its medical records. Take collar, carrier, medication, food and water.
- Take vital documents with you.
- Public shelters should be your last option. They will only be available for people who do not have a place to go.

## Make an Inventory of your Belongings

## Remember to pack Vital Documents

- Immunization records for all family (and pets)
- Inventory of all of your belongings
- Pet records and supplies
- Medical and dental records
- Copies of all prescriptions
- Bank account and safe deposit box information
- Monthly bill information and addresses
- Paycheck information and addresses/phone #
- Vehicle and insurance documentation
- Marriage certificate
- Birth certificates
- Citizenship papers
- Adoption papers

- Social Security cards
- Passports/Visas
- Military records
- Power of Attorney
- State and Federal tax records
- Wills
- Insurance policies
- List of immediate family addresses and phone numbers
- Court Orders: Divorce, child support, child custody...
- Real estate documents (e.g. leases, deeds, and mortgages)
- Copies of installment contracts (car, furniture, etc.)



The Chatham County Health Department and Chatham Emergency Management Agency officials encourage those with functional or medical needs to apply to Chatham County's Functional and Medical Needs Registry.

The registry is made up of residents who may require transport and medical assistance during a hurricane evacuation and have no other resources to help them if they need to evacuate. For more information on the program and how to enroll, contact the Chatham County Health Department at 912-353-3255 or visit their website at [www.gachd.org/chatham](http://www.gachd.org/chatham). Call now to register; don't wait for an approaching storm.

## Functional/Medical Needs Registry

## Stay Up-to-Date with CEMA

CEMA is a unique emergency management agency in that we utilize technology to the fullest extent. Social media is a great platform to engage with county residents, and CEMA has created a Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube account to help disseminate important information to you, the citizens. In addition, you can get updates during emergency situations by calling our CEMA hotline.



[facebook.com/ChathamEMA](https://facebook.com/ChathamEMA)



@ChathamEMA



[youtube.com/chathamga](https://youtube.com/chathamga)



(912)-644-8811

CERT volunteers are needed to provide support to local agencies and to help with large scale emergencies.



## JOIN THE TEAM



Training takes about 20 hours.

Learn how to take care of yourself and your family immediately after a disaster before first responders arrive.

"...the greatest good for the greatest number..."

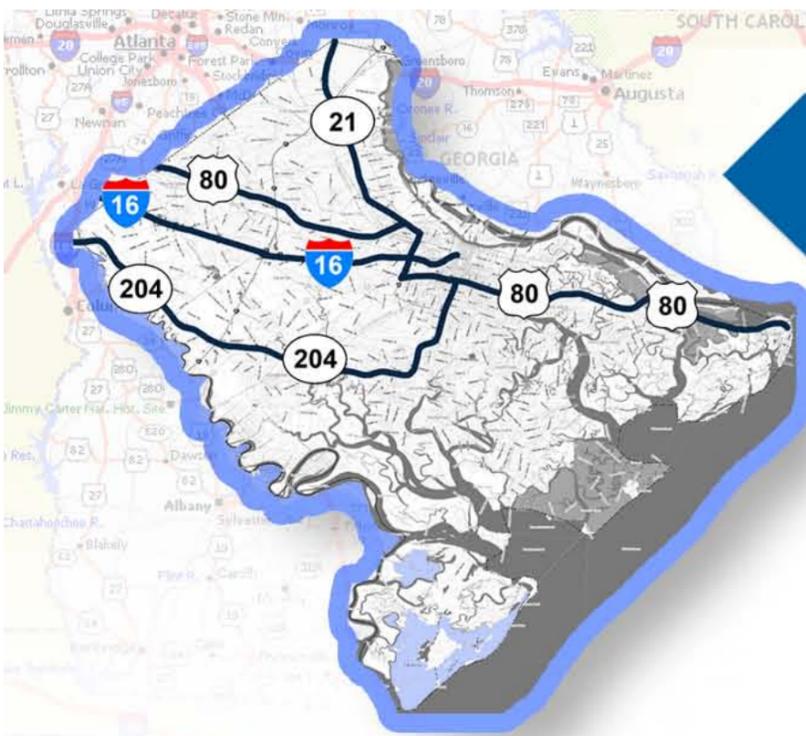
Community Emergency Response Team ■ Sign up today!  
912-201-4500 ■ [www.ChathamEmergency.org](http://www.ChathamEmergency.org)

## What you will learn

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Suppression
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Light Search and Rescue
- Incident Command Structure
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism

The CERT program is coordinated through the Chatham Emergency Management Agency





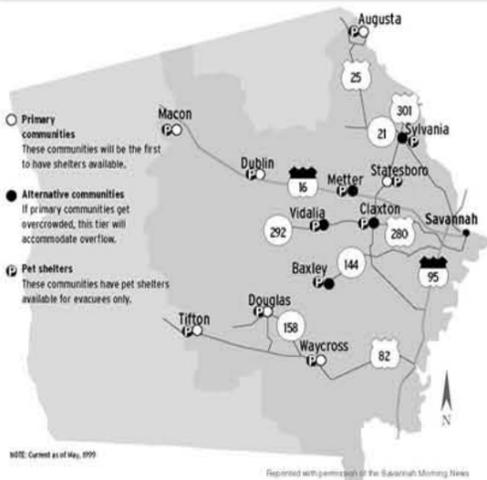
# Evacuation

When a storm threatens and you need to evacuate from your home, do you know which routes you should take? Interstate 16 is the primary highway for leaving Chatham County during a hurricane evacuation, but there are several other roadways you may choose to take. U.S. Highway 80 going out towards Statesboro is one option. Highway 21 out of Chatham County will lead through Effingham County towards Sylvania, and Highway 204 will lead you out of the county towards Ellabell. If you are still unsure, simply follow the "Hurricane Evacuation Route" signs along county roadways.



## Need Transportation to Evacuate?

In the event of a Mandatory Evacuation Order, Chatham Area Transit buses will be running their normal routines. However, every bus will make a stop at the Savannah Civic Center. Passengers with no other means of transportation will be taken to the Civic Center where they will register with the American Red Cross, and Board of Education buses will take them to inland public shelters. Because buses will likely be crowded, only two hand-carry bags will be allowed per person. Several seats will be left empty on each bus to accommodate stranded motorists. There will be no parking allowed in the vicinity of the Civic Center, so do not expect to board a bus if you drive to the Civic Center or drop off passengers there. This mode of evacuation is for residents with no other way to leave. Evacuees requiring transportation may bring dogs and cats on public buses if the animals are in owner-provided travel carriers.



## Public Shelters

When evacuees have no other place to go, an inland public shelter is the best option. During a hurricane evacuation, Chatham County WILL NOT OPEN any shelters in the county, so it is best to heed the evacuation order. Public shelters will be opened on an as-required basis in Augusta, Macon, Douglas, Statesboro, Waycross, Dublin, and Tifton. Shelter locations will be broadcast on radio and TV. While food and water are provided, it is best to bring some snacks and non-perishable foods. Do not expect a bed; be ready to set up a home away from home on the floor. Remember to limit the amount of items you bring with you. Up to two hand-carry bags are allowed per person. While public shelters DO NOT accept pets, there will be accommodations near the shelter for your animals.

## Don't Forget Your Pets!



Here are some items that we recommend you pack:



- Extra collars, tags, harnesses, and leashes for all pets.
- Muzzles to control agitated and aggressive animals.
- A secure pet crate which should be easily accessible and large enough for your pet to stand up and turn around.
- Identification tags that are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar.
- A 5-7 day supply of pet food to avoid diet changes in stressful situations.
- A can opener if your pet eats canned food.
- A supply of stored drinking water.
- Food and water bowls for each pet.
- Toys or blankets your pet will find familiar.
- A litter box and extra kitty litter.
- Copies of your pet's medical and vaccination records. Boarding facilities may not accept your pets without proof of health.
- If your pet is on medication, ask your veterinarian about keeping extra supplies of medication or a copy of the prescription for these medications in your kit.
- Include a recent photo of your pet (A photo of you and your pet is better).
- Your local animal shelter's number in your list of emergency numbers. They might be able to provide information concerning pets during a disaster.
- A first aid kit, which should include only materials that you know how to use.
- Paper towels, plastic bags, and spray disinfectant for animal waste clean-up.

Remember that if your pet has a problem and you do not know exactly what it is, you should consult a veterinarian.

Pets are treated like family members in many households across the country. According to a 2010 report, 53% of Chatham County residents have pets and nearly all of those residents plan to take their pets with them if they ever have to evacuate. Still, post-evacuation research shows that some people will not evacuate because they don't want to leave their pets. Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) has worked tirelessly to make sure there is an evacuation plan in place for pets. If you rely on public transportation during an evacuation, CEMA's evacuation plan will accommodate your pets. You can also find out which motels and hotels in your area allow pets— well in advance of needing them. The one thing to remember is to NEVER leave your pet behind if you evacuate. While they may be able to survive, they may never find you when you come back. CEMA recommends that when you prepare to leave with your pet, prepare a pet disaster kit.



## What Chatham County CERT's Are Doing in your Community:

### DID YOU KNOW...

- There is a good chance that your neighborhood will be on it's own during the early stages following a catastrophic disaster.
- After a catastrophic disaster, citizens will volunteer to help. Without proper training, these people can expose themselves to potential injury and even death.
- Experience has shown that basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills improves the ability of citizens to survive until responders or other assistance arrives.

- Preparedness Fairs
- Emergency Operations Center Support
- Damage Assessment Team Members
- CERT Instructors
- Community Outreach
- Shelter Assistance
- Exercise Support Staff
- Chatham County Hurricane Conference Support



**CERT is a free program that helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities.**

### Hands-on Training Takes You Out of the Classroom!

- Identify and anticipate hazards
- Identify and reduce fire hazards in your home and workplace
- Apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock
- Assist emergency responders
- Help reduce survivor stress
- Employ basic treatments for various wounds
- Identify planning and size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations
- Use safe techniques for debris removal and victim extraction

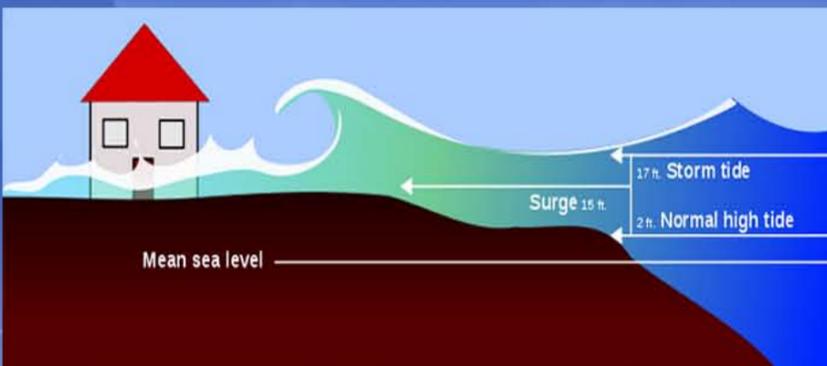
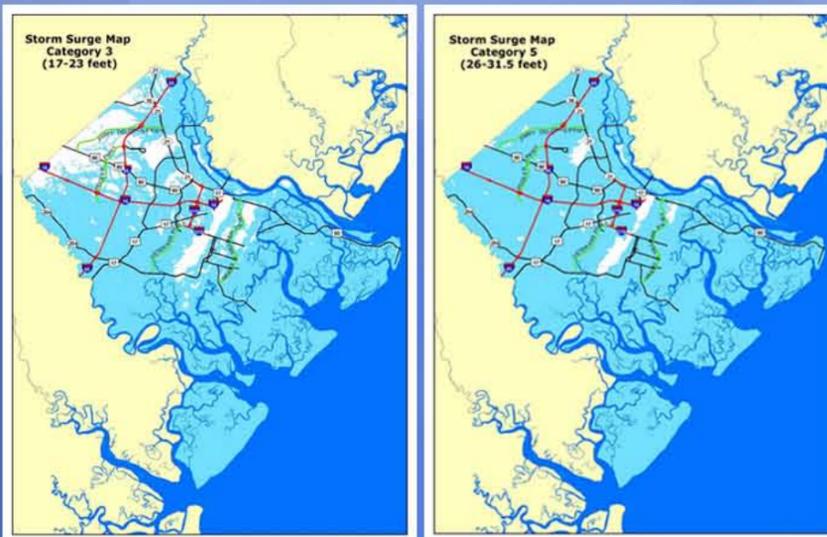
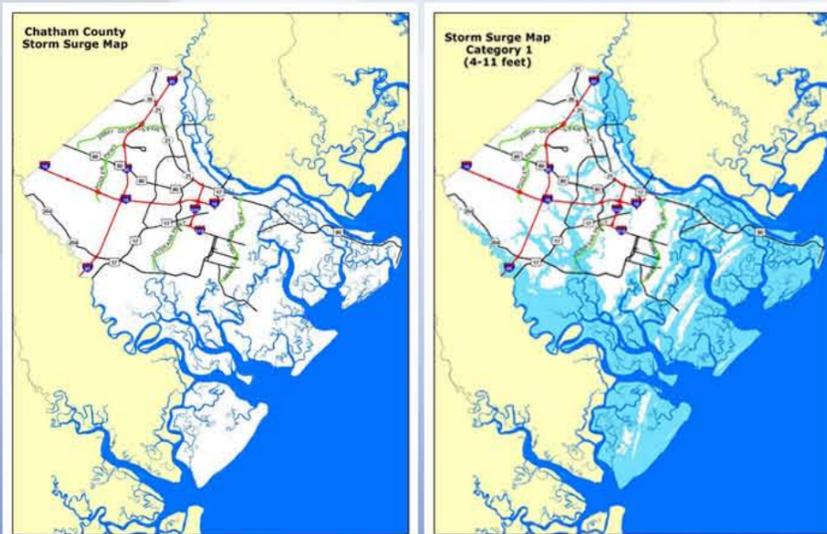
# Hurricanes

## The Fast Facts



Tropical cyclones are organized, rotating weather systems that develop in the tropics. In our part of the world, we usually refer to these storms as tropical storms or hurricanes. There are different classifications for tropical systems that are based on the level of a storm's maximum wind speeds and its overall organization.

### Storm Surge and Its Impacts on Chatham County



### Hurricanes

- 1 Winds: 74-95mph  
Storm Surge: 4-11 feet\*
- 2 Winds: 96-110 mph  
Storm Surge: 11-17 feet\*
- 3 Winds: 111-129 mph  
Storm Surge: 17-23 feet\*
- 4 Winds: 130-156 mph  
Storm Surge: 23-26 feet\*
- 5 Winds: 157+ mph  
Storm Surge: 26-31.5 feet\*

\* Storm Surge values vary depending on geographic location.

Storm surge can be thought of as the surface of the sea being raised due to the force of the hurricane's winds spiraling in towards the center of the storm. The storm surge can reach heights of more than 30 feet near the center of a Category 5 hurricane. In very large hurricanes, the surge can horizontally fan out over several hundred miles of coastline, gradually diminishing well away from the center. The surge of high water topped by battering waves can be devastating. It is important to note that the stronger and larger the size of the hurricane and the shallower the offshore water, the higher the surge will be. Storm surge is by far the greatest threat to life and property along the Georgia coast.

For Chatham County, the effects of storm surge can be catastrophic. Storm surge estimates are higher for our area due to unique geographical features, like shallow waters offshore. For instance, a typical Category 3 hurricane in our area could be expected to result in a storm surge of anywhere between 17-23 feet. In Chatham County, a Category 1 hurricane would leave Tybee Island and just about all of coastal Chatham under water. With a Category 3 storm, inland areas like Garden City and Pooler would be covered in water. The entire county would be inundated with water with a Category 5 hurricane.

The Storm Tide is the combination of the storm surge and the astronomical tide (normal daily tide). If the storm surge arrives at high tide, the water height will be even greater. For example, as a hurricane moves ashore, a 15-foot surge added to the 2-foot high wind-driven waves creates a storm tide of 17 feet. The mass of water, topped by battering waves, can travel miles and miles inland from the coast, submerging everything in its path. The combination of storm surge, battering waves, and high winds can be deadly as well as cause massive property damage.



The highest storm surge wave height was recorded in 1899 from Tropical Cyclone Mahina. The storm struck Bathurst Bay, Australia with winds in excess of 175 mph. The storm surge wave height was somewhere between 43-48 feet!



30 mph



x 1000

A cubic yard of water weighs almost 1700 pounds; a wave 50 feet long and 10 feet high moving at 30 miles per hour generates a forward momentum of more than 2,000,000 pounds. That's equivalent to 1000 cars crashing into your home!

## A Reminder: Prepare Your Vehicles

Now that hurricane season has started, we are being reminded to get our kits in order and prepare our homes. CEMA would like to remind you to prepare your vehicles too.

If you've fallen behind on your maintenance, now is a good time to get caught up. Ask your mechanic to look over the car as if you were leaving to go on a very long road trip, where you will spend hours stuck in traffic. Anyone remember Hurricane Floyd? Have your shop look over the air-conditioning system, radiator, spare tire and your belts. Do this now so you'll have time to fix anything that comes up.

Leave room in your trunk for a tool box for emergency repairs that may be needed on the road. Even if you're not skilled at repairs, some items will come in handy. We've listed a few items to get you started. Visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) for a more extensive list.

- Antifreeze/Coolant
- Fix-A-Flat or Tire Repair Kit
- Gas Can
- Pair of Gloves
- Jumper Cables
- Radiator Leak Repair Kit
- Road Flares

While you're getting important personal documents in order, don't forget about your vehicle information. You should locate your registration, title, insurance policies and any factory or extended warranties for your vehicle. In the event you need to evacuate, be sure to take them with you. If a breakdown happens away from home you may be able to obtain repairs from other dealers.

Speak with your insurance agent about the coverage on your vehicle. Basic auto liability policies do not cover



damage to your car caused by wind, hail, flood, hurricane or any similar natural disaster. Most comprehensive policies will afford you that coverage. Read your comprehensive policy carefully to see if hurricane damage is excluded. Ask about gap coverage if your vehicle isn't paid off. This will cover the difference between what you owe on the car

loan and what your car is worth, in the event of a total loss. Get your insurance in order now to avoid federally mandated waiting periods. Check with your agent for more information.

Getting these tasks done ahead of time will reduce stress when a hurricane is knocking at our door.