

THE Seabrooker

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JUNE – HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS



FROM TOWN HALL

JOHN GREGG

Hurricane season is upon us. Now, before the start of the Atlantic basin peak period (early August through the end of October), is the time to revisit personal preparedness. The Towns of Kiawah and Seabrook jointly sponsor an annual Disaster Awareness Day including a program of emergency preparedness presentations and panel discussions. Attendees have an opportunity to meet with firefighters, EMS representatives and Sheriff's deputies as well as with representatives of various emergency preparedness product and service providers. This year, Kiawah will host the event at the Kiawah Municipal Center on 13 June from 2:00 – 4:00 pm (wine reception to follow).

Once storm development poses an imminent threat to our community and residents are urged to evacuate, key preparedness considerations include:

Preparing Your Home for Evacuation

If your residence has removable coverings for openings (windows and doors) install or arrange their installation. Remove perishables that are not in sealed containers from freezers and refrigerators—some items may be donated to local charitable food pantries (call ahead for hours of operation and acceptable foodstuffs: Our Lady of Mercy Outreach-843-559-4109 extension 105; Hebron Zion Presbyterian Church-843-559-0865; Holy Spirit Catholic Church-843-768-0357). To prevent damage from broken interior water lines, close the main water supply valve to your residence. As a precaution against electrical fires, open the main electrical supply breakers at the power distribution cabinet inside your residence. Create an image inventory of valuable possessions that will be left in place when you evacuate. Secure personal valuables such as jewelry, coin collections and the like,

together with passports, in a travel safe you will be taking with you or in a safety deposit box.

Identifying Alternative Destinations

It is essential to travel far enough inland to be out of harm's way. The direction of approach of a storm will dictate the direction away from Seabrook Island most likely to avoid storm impacts. Identify evacuation destinations for travel in more than one direction away from Seabrook Island. Bear in mind that incoming storms that impact Florida and/or Georgia will increase demand on inland locations along major highways from those States.

Preparing an "Evacuation Kit" and Packing

Early evacuation is the best way to ensure that you will be able to travel to a selected evacuation destination without excessive delays. An evacuation kit for extended travel delays should include supplies for travel time (assuming delays): bottled water (2 gallons per person per day); non-perishable food (energy bars or emergency food bars (3 per person per day)); medications (prescription and supplements) for each person; personal hygiene items (toothpaste, toilet tissue, disposable towelettes); one flashlight (preferably LED with crank charging) per person; first aid kit; and plastic bags with closures for waste. In addition to packing your vehicle for normal travel, pack important documents including: insurance policy copies and insurance contact information; insurance identification cards; and checkbook(s) and pack your travel safe if you have secured items to take with you in it. Top up fuel in your evacuation vehicle.

Checking Information Sources

Broadcast radio and television will have current reporting of storm development and activity. Once away from familiar broadcast sources, updates of tropical storm information can be accessed from the internet at: www.wunderground.com/tropical; www.weather.gov/chs (National Weather Service-Charleston, SC). Information concerning actions being taken by the Town will be distributed via the internet using: the Town's website (townofseabrookisland.org); via Town

emergency bulk email; the Town's TWITTER feed (@seabrookisland87); the Town's FACEBOOK page (@townofseabrookisland); SIPOA eBlast; and SIPOA's BLOG (www.tidelines-blog.com); and, via the Town's Toll Free telephone service (888-314-3177 (recorded message)), and the CODE RED telephone notification system (recorded message). As a storm approaches, the Town will respond by increasing its readiness status and will issue announcements of changes of status together with recommended actions for residents. Once the storm has passed, the Town will issue announcements through the same channels concerning conditions within the Town (including extent of damage and status of utilities) and, when appropri-

ate, informing residents when they will be permitted to return.

Planning Evacuation Route

The South Carolina Department of Transportation has established and marked an evacuation route from Seabrook Island to Walterboro, SC and on to Augusta, GA. Early evacuation can enable travel to a selected evacuation destination along a route other than the established evacuation route. Once evacuation has been ordered by the Governor for an area including Seabrook Island, law enforcement will be deployed to direct traffic to follow the established evacuation route. The route from Johns Island includes the John F. Limehouse Bridge (at the Stono River) which can be de-

SPONSORED BY TOWN OF KIAWAH ISLAND THE TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

2018 DISASTER AWARENESS DAY

FIRST 10 ATTENDEES
RECEIVE A FREE NOAA RADIO

Emergency Management
Officials, Raffle Prizes,
Disaster Preparedness Info,
Free Flashlights and more!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018 | 2:00-4:00 P.M.

— WINE RECEPTION TO FOLLOW —

Kiawah Island Municipal Center
(4475 Betsy Kerrison Parkway)

clared unsafe for public travel when sustained winds reach forty miles per hour. Again, early evacuation is the best course to avoid delays that may arise with increasing storm impacts. Be prepared to encounter abnormally large volumes of traffic on interstate highways as storm impacts increase. As a measure to relieve extraordinary demand, the Governor may order reversal of westbound lanes of I-26 at the time evacuation is ordered.

Notifying Others

Once preparations and arrangements have been made for evacuation, inform family members of particulars

of your evacuation travel plans. In the event you are not able to make timely arrangements for evacuation and you will stay behind, notify Johns Island Fire District ((843) 559-9194) accordingly and be prepared to provide them your name and contact information, Seabrook Island address where you expect to be during the storm impact, and the name(s) and contact information for your next-of-kin who will not be staying behind with you. St. Johns Fire District personnel will undertake to assess your condition as early as possible once the storm has passed.▲