



## Hurricane Preparedness Week 2012

### **Monday: Hurricane Hazards – Storm Surge "The greatest potential for loss of life related to a hurricane is from the storm surge."**

Storm surge is water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the mean water level 15 feet or more. In addition, wind driven waves are superimposed on the storm tide. This rise in water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, particularly when the storm tide coincides with the normal high tides, making the danger from storm tides tremendous. Hugo's storm tide was the highest ever recorded on the East Coast. It was estimated at 20 feet just north of Charleston.

#### **STORM SURGE SAFETY ACTIONS**

- Select the nearest possible evacuation destination, preferably in your local area, and map out your route. Don't get on the road without a planned route, or place to go.
  - Choose the home of the closest friend/relative not in a designated evacuation zone and discuss your plan with them before hurricane season.
  - You may also choose a hotel/motel outside of the vulnerable area.
  - If neither of these options is available, consider the closest possible public shelter, preferably within your local area.
- Use the evacuation routes designated by authorities and, if possible, become familiar with your route by driving it before an evacuation order is issued.
- Register or get information regarding anyone in your household whom may require special assistance in order to evacuate.
  - Medical Needs
    - SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) at (843) 953-2450
  - Mobility & Other Special Needs
    - Disabilities Resource Center at (843) 225-5080
- Prepare a separate pet plan, most public shelters do not accept pets.
- Prepare your home prior to leaving by boarding up doors and windows, securing or moving indoors all yard objects, and turning off all utilities.
- Before leaving, fill your car with gas and withdraw extra money from the ATM.
- Take prescription medicines and special medical items, such as glasses and diapers.
- If you live in an evacuation zone and are ordered to evacuate by officials, do so as quickly as possible. Do not wait or delay your departure, to do so will only increase your chances of being stuck in traffic, or even worse, not being able to get out at all.
- Expect traffic congestion and delays during evacuations. Expect and plan for significantly longer travel times than normal to reach your family's intended destination.

Stay tuned to a local radio or television station and listen carefully for any advisories or specific instructions from local officials. Monitor your [NOAA Weather Radio](#).