



DARE COUNTY'S HURRICANE PUBLIC INFORMATION GUIDE



Prepared by the Dare County Public Relations Department For Public Use

2005

Website

- www.darenc.com

Dare County Emergency Management

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- (252) 473-2799 FAX

Dare County Public Relations Office

- (252) 475-5900
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Thousands of calls for information come in to the Emergency Operations Center during an emergency situation, and sometimes information is not easy to obtain. In order to make information as accessible as possible, Dare County Emergency Management (DCEM) provides this guide to supply the public with useful information during an emergency situation.

According to North Carolina General Statute, the County Government has the responsibility of organizing a plan for the protection of life and property from the effects of an emergency situation. In a case where the emergency situation spans several jurisdictions, direction and control in Dare County is assumed by the Dare County Control Group.

The Dare County Control Group is comprised of the Mayor of each municipality in Dare County, the Superintendent National Park Service (Outer Banks Group), the County Sheriff, and a designated member of the County Commissioners who serves as chairman.

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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION



County of Dare
Evacuation Information

www.darenc.com
1-877-629-4386

ROAD CONDITIONS

NC DOT
1-877-DOT-4YOU or dial 511
1-877-638-4968
www.ncsmartlink.org
www.dot.state.nc.us

NC Highway Patrol
1-800-441-6127
www.ncshp.org

Virginia DOT
1-800-367-7623
<http://virginiadot.org>

Ferry Service
1-800-BY-FERRY
www.ncferry.org

UTILITY COMPANIES

Dominion / NC Power
1-888-667-3000
www.dom.com

Cape Hatteras Electric
1-866-511-9862
1-252-995-5616
www.capehatteras-ec.com

Tideland Electric (Mainland)
1-800-637-1079
1-252-943-3046
www.tidelandemc.com

Dare County Water
252-475-5790
www.darenc.com

Cape Hatteras Water Association
252-995-5061

OTHER NUMBERS

Attorney General (Price Gouging)
877-5-NO SPAM
919-716-6000 (Outside of North Carolina)
919-716-0058

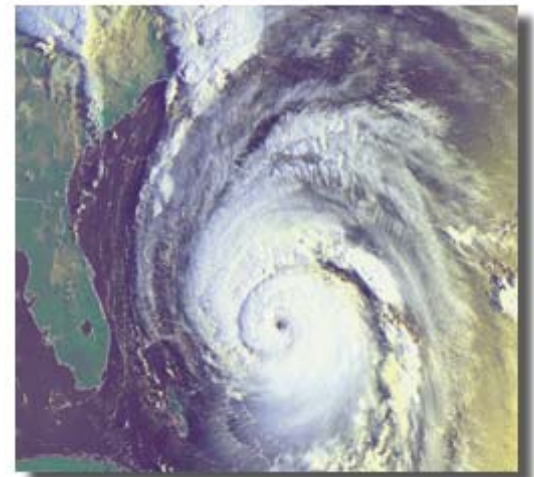
Hyde County
1-888-493-3826
252-926-4178
www.hydecountry.org

Currituck County
252-232-2115
www.co.currituck.nc.us

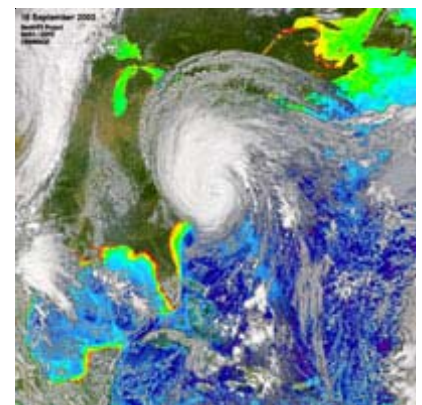
SPCA
252-475-5620 or www.darenc.com

Poison Control
800-222-1222

Salvation Army (Elizabeth City)
252-338-4129



Hurricane Fran 1996



Hurricane Isabel 2003

WHAT IS A HURRICANE?



A **hurricane** (or typhoon as it is known in the Pacific) is a large tropical complex of thunderstorms forming spiral bands around an intense low pressure center (the eye of the storm).

- A storm qualifies as a hurricane when sustained winds reach at least 74 mph, but they may reach more than 200 mph in the strongest of these storms. The strong winds drive the ocean's surface, building waves as high as 40 feet on the open water.
- As a hurricane moves into shallower waters approaching the land, the waves lessen, but water levels rise, bulging up on the storm's front quadrant in a *storm surge*. The "storm surge" is the deadliest part of a hurricane.
- The storm surge and wind-driven waves can devastate a coastline and bring ocean water miles inland. Inland, the hurricane's bands of thunderstorms produce torrential rains and sometimes tornadoes.
- During a hurricane, a foot or more of rain may fall in less than a day and cause flash floods and mudslides. The rains eventually drain into large rivers that may still be flooding days after the storm has passed.
- A **tropical storm** has winds of 39 to 74 mph. While a tropical storm does not produce a high storm surge, its thunderstorms can pack a dangerous punch.
- A **tropical depression** is an organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.

The **storm surge** is a great dome of water, often 50 miles wide, that comes sweeping across the coastline near the area where the eye of the hurricane makes landfall.

- A storm surge is unquestionably the most dangerous part of a hurricane
- The stronger the hurricane, the higher the storm surge will be. Nine out of ten hurricane fatalities are caused by storm surge.
- During the infamous Hurricane Camille in 1969, a 25-foot storm surge inundated Pass Christian in Mississippi. Lesser heights are more usual but still extremely dangerous.
- Some of the factors involved in the formation and movement of a storm surge are the strength of the storm, sea floor conditions where the storm comes ashore and the position of the storm center in relation to the shore.

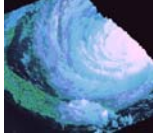
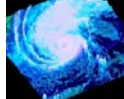
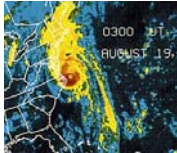
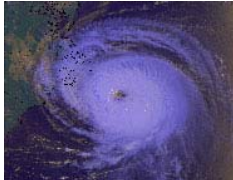
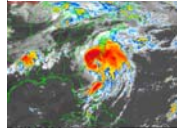
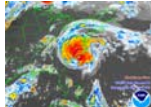
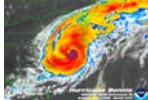
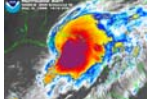
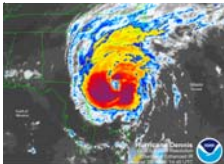
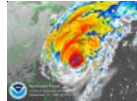
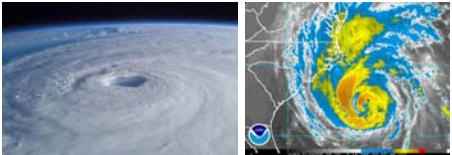

ACRONYMS



ARC	American Red Cross	MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Services	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
DCO	Defense Coordinating Officer	MRE	Meals Ready to Eat
DFO	Disaster Field Office	NFDA	National Funeral Directors Association
EMS	Emergency Medical Services	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
EOC	Emergency Operations Center	NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ERT	Emergency Response Team	NRT	National Response Team
ESF	Emergency Support Function	NWS	National Weather Service
FAA	Federal Aviation Association	OSC	On-Scene Commander
FCO	Federal Coordinating Officer	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	RACES	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration	REC	Regional Emergency Coordinator
HF	High Frequency	RRT	Regional Response Team
IAEA	Federal Atomic Energy Agency	SAR	Search and Rescue
ICS	Incident Command System	SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
JIC	Joint Information Center	SCO	State Coordinating Officer
JIS	Joint Information System	SO	Standard Operating Procedure
JTF	Joint Task Force	TSP	Telecommunications Service Priority

Hurricanes Affecting Dare County Since 1985

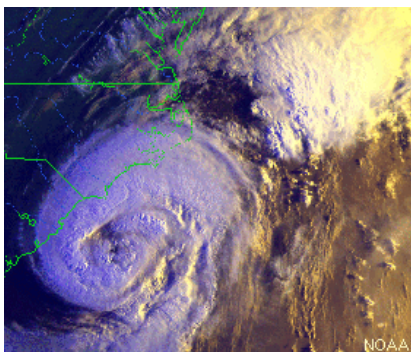


<p>1985 – Gloria Sept 16 – Oct 2</p> <p>Max Wind Speed: 144 mph</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landfall: Hatteras - 9/26/85 ▪ Category 2 at Landfall with a 6-8 ft Storm Surge and 104 mph winds 	
<p>1985 – Kate Nov 15 – Nov 23</p> <p>Max Wind Speed: 123 mph</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landfall in Florida ▪ Affected NC 11/22/85 ▪ Tropical Storm when arrived in NC with 52 mph winds 	
<p>1991 – Bob Aug 16 – Aug 29</p> <p>Max Wind Speed: 115 mph</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Never made landfall in NC ▪ Reached Category 3 off of NC coast ▪ Coast received winds at 115 mph ▪ Affected NC 8/19/91 	
<p>1993 – Emily Aug 22 – Sept 6</p> <p>Max Wind Speed: 115 mph</p> <p>Estimated \$12 million in damages in Dare County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Never made landfall in NC ▪ Reached Category 3 off of coast ▪ Winds of 115 mph on land ▪ Affected NC 8/31/93 	
<p>1996 – Bertha July 5 – July 17</p> <p>Max Winds: 115 mph</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landfall: Topsail Beach 7/13/96 ▪ Category 2 at landfall with 104 mph winds and a 5 ft storm surge 	
<p>1996 – Fran Aug 23 – Sept 10</p> <p>Max Winds: 121 mph</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landfall: Cape Fear ▪ Category 3 at landfall with 115 mph winds and an 8-12 ft storm surge 	
<p>1998 – Bonnie Aug 19 – Aug 31</p> <p>Max Winds: 115 mph</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landfall: Cape Fear ▪ Category 3 at landfall with 115 mph winds and 6-8 ft storm surge 	
<p>1998 – Earl Aug 31 – Sept 8</p> <p>Max Winds: 98 mph</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tropical Storm when reached NC 	
<p>1999 – Dennis Aug 24 – Sept 8</p> <p>Max Winds: 104 mph</p> <p>Estimated \$10 million in damages in Dare County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landfall Dare County 9/14/99 ▪ Tropical Storm at landfall with 69 mph winds 	
<p>1999 – Floyd Sept 7 – Sept 19</p> <p>Max Winds: 155 mph</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landfall Topsail Island 9/16/99 ▪ Category 2 at Landfall with 109 mph winds 	
<p>2003 – Isabel Sept 7 – Sept 29</p> <p>Max Winds: 160 mph</p> <p>Estimated \$400 million in damages in Dare County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landfall Drum Inlet 9/18/03 ▪ Category 2 at Landfall with 104 mph winds and 6-10 ft storm surge ▪ Created a breach in island between Hatteras Village and Frisco 	
<p>2004 – Alex August 3</p> <p>Estimated \$2.4 million in damages in Dare County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Category 2 at the time of landfall ▪ Caused sound side flooding ▪ Did most damage in the form of flooding damaging cars and homes 	

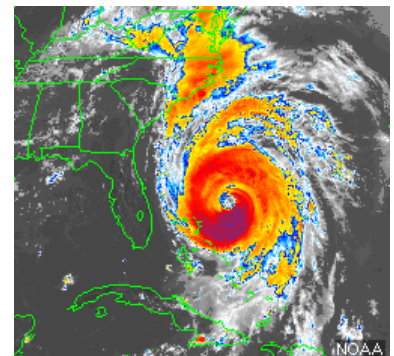
Notable Hurricanes and Tropical Storms Affecting North Carolina 1989 - 2004



Year	Month	Name	Area of Greatest Impact
1989	September	Hurricane Hugo	Piedmont and Mountains
1990	October	Tropical Storm Marco	Piedmont and Sandhills
1991	August	Hurricane Bob	Coast
1992	August	Hurricane Andrew	Mountains
1993	September	Tropical Storm Danielle	Coast
1994	August	Tropical Storm Bertha	Mountains
1995	June	Hurricane Allison	Coastal Plain
1995	August	Tropical Storm Jerry	Mountains
1995	October	Hurricane Opal	Mountains
1996	June	Tropical Storm Arthur	Coast
1996	July	Hurricane Bertha	Coastal Plain
1996	September	Hurricane Fran	Coastal Plain and Piedmont
1996	October	Tropical Storm Josephine	Coastal Plain
1997	July	Tropical Storm Danny	Piedmont and NE Coastal Plain
1998	August	Hurricane Bonnie	Coastal Plain
1999	August	Hurricane Dennis	Coastal Plain
1999	September	Hurricane Floyd	Coastal Plain and Piedmont
2003	September	Hurricane Isabel	NE Coastal Plain
2004	August	Hurricane Alex	NE Coastal Plain
2004	August	Hurricane Charlie	NE Coastal Plain



Hurricane Bonnie
August 1998



Hurricane Fran
September 1996

HURRICANE DAMAGE-POTENTIAL SCALE



Saffir/Simpson Scale

CATEGORY	WINDS (MPH)	SURGE (FT)	PRESSURE
1	74 - 94	4 - 5	28.94
2	96 - 110	6 - 8	28.50 - 28.91
3	111-130	9 - 12	27.91 - 28.47
4	131 - 155	13 - 18	27.17 - 27.88
5	156 or +	18 or +	27.16 or less

CATEGORY ONE

The potential for damage is minimal. Shrubby, tree foliage and unanchored mobile homes damaged. No real damage to other structures. Low-lying coastal roads inundated, minor pier damage, some small boats in exposed areas torn from moorings. Storm surge is four to five feet above normal tide level.

CATEGORY TWO

Potential for damage is moderate. Considerable damage to shrubby and tree foliage with some trees uprooted. Major damage to exposed mobile homes. Some damage to roofing material. Coastal roads and low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water two to four hours before arrival of hurricane center. Considerable damage to piers and marinas flooded. Small boats in unprotected areas torn from moorings. Evacuation of some shoreline homes in low-lying areas. Storm surge of six to eight feet above normal levels.

CATEGORY THREE

Potential for extensive damage. Foliage torn from trees with some large trees blown down. Some damage to roofing materials, windows and doors. Some structural damage to small buildings and mobile homes destroyed. Serious flooding at coast and many small structures near coast destroyed. Larger structures near coast damaged by waves and floating debris. Major erosion of beaches with low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water three to five hours before hurricane center arrives. Evacuation of all residences within 500 yards of shore and single-story homes on low ground within two miles of shore possible. Storm surge 9 to 12 feet above normal tide level.

CATEGORY FOUR

Potential for extreme damage. Shrubs, trees and signs blown down. Complete failure of roofs on small homes. Mobile homes destroyed. Flat terrain 10 feet or less above sea level flooded inland up to six miles. Major damage to lower floors of structures near shore due to flooding and floating debris. Major erosion of beaches. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water three to five hours before hurricane center arrives. Evacuation of all homes up to 500 yards from shore and single-story homes on low ground up to two miles from shore possible. Storm surge 13 to 18 feet above normal tide level.

CATEGORY FIVE

Potential for catastrophic damage. Shrubs and trees blown down, considerable damage to roofs of buildings. Major damage to lower floors of all structures less than 15 feet above sea level within 500 yards of shore. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water three to five hours before hurricane center arrives. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within five to ten miles of shore required.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS



ADVISORY: A method for disseminating hurricane and storm data to the public every six hours. Small craft warnings are released as necessary.

BULLETIN: A public-oriented message released from the national Hurricane Center at a time other than when scheduled advisories are required. The format is somewhat variable, but will normally include a recap of warnings already in effect and salient information of a nature similar to the scheduled advisories.

CATASTROPHIC DISASTER: Although there is no commonly accepted definition of a catastrophic disaster, the term implies an event or incident that produces severe and widespread damages of such a magnitude as to result in the requirement of significant resources to come from outside the affected area to provide the necessary response. For example, whether a given earthquake qualifies as catastrophic disaster depends on the combine effect of geologic parameters (e.g., magnitude, duration, type of earth movement, etc.); sociological parameters (e.g., magnitude, duration, type of earth movement, etc.); sociological parameters (e.g. preparedness of population, warning, enhanced building construction, etc.); environmental parameters (e.g., location, time of occurrence, existing weather conditions, etc.) and destructive parameters (e.g., building damage and collapse, damage to infrastructure and systems, etc.). According to the Federal Response Plan, a catastrophic disaster is defined as an event that results in large numbers of deaths and injuries; causes extensive damage or destruction of facilities that provide and sustain human needs; produces and overwhelming demand on state and local response resources and mechanisms; causes a severe long-term effect on general economic activity; and severely affects state, local and private sector capabilities to begin and sustain response activities.

DEFENSE COORDINATING OFFICER: Supported and provided by the Department of Defense (DOD) to serve in the field as a point of contact to the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) and the ESFs regarding requests for military assistance. The DCO and staff coordinate support and provide liaison to the ESFs.

DESIGNATED AREA: The geographical area designated under a Presidential major disaster declaration which is eligible to receive disaster assistance in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 93-288, as amended.

DISASTER FIELD OFFICE: The office established in or near the designated area to support federal and state response and recovery operations. The DFO houses the FCO And the Emergency Response Team (ERT), and where possible the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and support staff.

DRILL: An activity that tests, develops, or maintains skills in a single emergency response procedure, usually involving hands-on activity, activation of emergency communications, and use of equipment that would be used in a real emergency.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER: A site from which civil government officials (municipals, county, state and federal) exercise direction and control in an emergency or disaster.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM: An interagency team, consisting of the lead representative from each federal department or agency assigned primary responsibility for an ESF and key members of the FCO's staff, formed to assist the FCO in carrying out his or her coordination responsibilities. The ERT provides a forum for coordinating the overall federal response, reporting on the conduct of specific operations, exchanging information, and resolving issues related to ESF and other response requirements. ERT members respond to and meet as requested by the FCO. The ERT may be expanded by the FCO to include designated representatives of other Federal departments and agencies as needed.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION: A functional area of response activity established to facilitate the delivery of federal assistance required during the immediate response phase of a disaster to save lives, protect property and public health, and to maintain public safety. ESFs represent those types of federal assistance which the state will most likely need because of the overwhelming impact of a catastrophic or significant disaster on its own resources and response capabilities, or because of the specialized or unique nature of the assistance required. ESF missions are designed to supplement state and local response efforts.

EVACUATION WINDOW: The time between when an evacuation advisory is released and when areas to be evacuated must be cleared.

EXERCISE: An activity designed to promote emergency preparedness; test or evaluate emergency operations, policies, plans, procedures, or facilities; train personnel in emergency duties; and demonstrate operational capability.

EYE: The hurricane's center is a relatively calm, clear area usually 20-40 miles across. The most violent activity takes place in the area immediately around the eye, called the eyewall. At the top of the eyewall (about 50,000 feet), most of the air is propelled outward, increasing the air's upward motion. Some of the air, however, moves inward and sinks into the eye, creating a cloud-free area.

GALE WARNING: A condition "set" for a geographic area, and message released, that gale force winds (sustained 39-54 mph/34-47 knots) are forecast to occur. Note: separate gale warnings will not normally be released in conjunction with/in advance of a tropical storm or hurricane event. They may be locally prepared for areas on the periphery of such storms. They are normally seen as separate events associated with one of the contours provided in the marine advisory, and their onset is used in the hurricane evacuation study as the closing point for evacuation; the end of the "clearance time" window.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS



HURRICANE: An intense storm with pronounced rotary circulation and constant wind speed of 74 mph/64 knots or more; hurricanes are normally named to facilitate tracking and information on their locations (Pacific hurricanes may be called "typhoons")

HURRICANE ADVISORY: A public and public official-oriented position/forecast advisory. Issued by the National Hurricane Center, Miami through the National Weather Service, Miami Florida. Normally commences upon the "numbering" of a tropical depression ("TD#___") or hurricane. Sequentially numbered as issued. Note: These may precede tropical storm/hurricane watches and warnings by a significant margin. Scheduled timing will be 0900 hrs., 1500 hrs., 2100 hrs. and 0245 hrs. These advisories are public oriented, contain plain-text information (speed in mph/times local), and will normally have appended to them the "probabilities" table within 72 hours of landfall.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM: FEMA's program to foster hurricane preparedness in high-risk, high-population areas by providing financial and technical assistance to state and local officials in conducting hurricane preparedness studies.

HURRICANE WARNING: A condition "set," and public and official oriented message released, once hurricane conditions are forecast to exist within 24 hours for the geographic area addressed in the warning. Might be issued prior to the 24-hour window, if severity and forecast confidence warrant.

HURRICANE WATCH: A condition "set," and public and official oriented message released, once hurricane conditions are forecast to exist within 36 to 24 hours for the geographic area addressed in the watch. May be issued prior to the 36-24 hour window.

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER: The primary field location for the coordination of federal and state media relations, located in or near the DFO.

KNOTS: A knot is one nautical mile per hour. (A nautical mile is 1.15 statute miles).

LATITUDE: Surface measurement of the earth from the equator to the pole (set = 90 degrees); expressed in degrees, minutes, and seconds or degrees, minutes and tenths of minutes (e.g., 37 deg 45 min 30 sec = 37 deg 45.5 min. Handy measure charts - one minute of latitude (not longitude) equals one nautical mile.

LOCAL EMERGENCY COORDINATOR: The individual at the local level of government who has primary responsibility of all matters pertaining to emergency management. Jurisdictions use various titles (such as emergency services coordinator, emergency management coordinator, public safety officer, etc.) to describe this individual's job and responsibilities.

LONGITUDE: Surface measurement of the earth measured from Greenwich Meridian east and west for 180 degrees. Also expressed in degrees, minutes and seconds or degrees, minutes, and tenths of minutes.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS



PRE-DISASTER RESPONSE: Based on the potential or known threat of a natural disaster, preparations taken by federal, state, and local governments to protect life and property and to minimize the effects of the event on response personnel and equipment. These actions facilitate the deployment of resources necessary for immediate response and initial recovery operations, as required.

RECOVERY: Activities traditionally associated with providing federal supplemental disaster recovery assistance under a presidential major disaster declaration. These activities usually begin within days after the event and continue after the response activities cease. Recovery includes individual and public assistance programs, which provide temporary housing assistance, grants and loans to eligible individuals and government entities to recover from the effects of a disaster.

RESPONSE: Activities to address the immediate and short-term effects of an emergency or disaster. Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs. Based on the requirements of the situation, response assistance will be provided to an affected state under the federal response plan using a partial activation of selected ESFs or the full activation of all ESFs to meet situational needs.

SAFFIR/SIMPSON SCALE: A scale developed by Herbert Saffir, a consulting engineer, and Dr. Robert H. Simpson, former National Hurricane Center director, that projects potential hurricane damage assessments from five hurricane intensities: Category Number 1, the least damaging, through Category Number 5, the most severe storm.

S.L.O.S.H.: The National Weather Service's Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) numerical storm surge prediction model used in basins that have irregular coastlines and contain large bays or estuaries.

STATE COORDINATING OFFICER (SCO): The representative of the Governor who coordinates the state's response and recovery activities with those of the federal government.

SUPPORT AGENCY: A department or agency designated to assist a specific primary agency with available resources, capabilities or expertise in support of ESF response operations, under the coordination of the primary agency.

TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARD: Includes a range of hazards emanating from the manufacture, transportation, and use of such substances as radioactive materials, chemicals, explosives, flammables, agricultural pesticides, herbicides and disease agents; oil spills on land, coastal waters or inland water systems; and debris from space.

THE RESPONSE PROCESS



SUMMARY

People expect their government to protect them, assist them, and inform them when a disaster threatens or occurs.

They have these expectations for good reasons. Thousands of hours and many dollars - local, state and federal - have gone into the development of comprehensive plans of action to be followed before, during and after disaster strikes. Emergency management personnel on the local and state levels have undergone extensive training, communications equipment and procedures are in place, duties and responsibilities assigned.

There is a clear-cut chain of events leading from the local level, through the state, and, if necessary, to the federal level. Each step to higher authority is predicated upon the inability of the preceding authority to adequately meet emergency needs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Local government's disaster authority and responsibility is centered in the mayor, city manager or county executive's office.
- Most cities and populous counties direct disaster relief activities from emergency operating centers (EOCs), often located in city hall or in a county building.
- Local government EOC priorities in the early phases of a disaster are to warn and evacuate citizens and protect life and property.
- The EOC staff provides and directs police and fire services, rescue, first aid, evacuation, communications and transportation services.

STATE GOVERNMENT

- If local officials need state help, the governor can provide several valuable services, such as state police to help ensure security, transportation, medical, food and temporary shelter services; state transportation services, including highway equipment and personnel; and state funds for disaster relief and recovery.
- At any time in the disaster or emergency, local government or state officials may turn to a number of available federal agencies for assistance.
- Most federal agencies can act quickly under their own statutory authorities without a presidential declaration. These agencies include the U.S. Coast Guard and armed forces for Engineers for emergency flood protection; the Small Business Administration for homeowner and business loans; the Federal Highway Administration for road and bridge repairs; the U.S. Department of Agriculture for emergency loans or grants to farmers and ranchers; and the Department of Health and Human Services for assistance in public health and welfare measures.

THE RESPONSE PROCESS



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- When a disaster situation is beyond the capabilities of local and state forces, supplemented by private and volunteer organizations and limited assistance of federal agencies on the scene, the governor - and only a governor - may request that the president declare a "major disaster" or an "emergency."
- A "major disaster" is defined in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988 (Public Law 93-288, as amended by Public Law 100-707) as "any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mud slide, snowstorm or drought), regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship or suffering caused by a disaster."
- An "emergency" is defined as "any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement State and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States."
- Clearly, the act requires that the situation be more than state and local government can handle and that federal assistance is needed as backup - both financially and technically - in those areas that are beyond existing resources and capabilities.

FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN



- The Federal Response Plan (FRP) is designed to address the consequences of any disaster or emergency situation in which there is a need for federal response assistance under the Stafford Act.
- The FRP is applicable to natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes and volcanic eruptions; technological emergencies involving radiological or hazardous material releases; and other incidents requiring federal assistance under the Stafford Act.
- The FRP describes the basic mechanisms and structure by which the federal government will mobilize resources and conduct activities to augment state and local response efforts.
- The FRP serves as the foundation for further development of detailed headquarters and regional plans and procedures to implement federal response activities in a timely and efficient manner to support state response activities.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- In a catastrophic disaster or emergency that requires federal assistance, public information activities will be undertaken to ensure the coordinated, timely, and accurate release of wide range of information to the news media and to the public about disaster-related activities.
- These activities will be carried out in a Joint Information Center (JIC) established in the disaster area and staffed with federal, state and local public affairs representatives.
- Information intended for the news media and public will be coordinated prior to release with the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO), other federal departments and agencies, and with state and local officials.
- A JIC will be set up at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) headquarters in Washington, D.C. based on the need to provide support to the field activities for either a single-state disaster or multi-state disaster.

DARE COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN



Dare County operates under the following procedures in the event that the county is threatened by the possibility of hurricane landfall in the area.

HURRICANE CONDITION 5

Ninety-six (96) hours prior to the forecast of arrival of gale-force winds (above 39 mph), or the storm enters an arc of 500 miles from Dare County

- Emergency Management Director will notify the Chairperson of the Dare County Control Group of the threatening situation

HURRICANE CONDITION 4

Seventy-two (72) hours prior to the forecast of arrival of gale-force winds or the storm enters an arc 400 miles from Dare County

- Briefing will be held with all Control Group members
- Representatives of all agencies involved in an evacuation, sheltering, or public assistance will be notified and briefed
- Evacuation routes will be reviewed, any problems discussed, and solutions determined
- Dissemination of public information will be discussed

HURRICANE CONDITION 3

Forty-eight (48) hours prior to the forecast of arrival of hurricane/gale force winds or the storm enters an arc 300 miles from Dare County

- Dissemination of public information will begin
- Personnel will begin preparation of county for hurricane
- Control Group continues to monitor storm progress

HURRICANE CONDITION 2

Twenty-four (24) hours prior to the forecast of arrival of hurricane/gale-force winds or the storm enters an arc 100 miles from Dare County

- Evacuation of appropriate area will begin subject to location and speed of storm
- Public and key agencies kept advised
- Special needs individuals will be identified and relocated
- All Support Group members report for briefing and assignments
- Aircraft and law enforcement notified and requested for duty

HURRICANE CONDITION 1

Twelve (12) hours prior to the forecast arrival of hurricane/gale-force winds or storm enters an arc 100 miles from Dare County

- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) fully activated with all agency representatives present.
- Evacuation complete or nearing completion

RESPONSE ACTIONS DURING HURRICANES



DURING A HURRICANE WATCH

- Listen to the radio or television for hurricane progress reports
- Check emergency supplies
- Make sure medical prescriptions are filled and medicines packed to go
- Gather up important papers, including identification
- Fuel car
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture and garden tools, and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside
- Begin shuttering or boarding up windows
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings, open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly
- Review evacuation plan
- Moor boat securely or move it to a designated safe place, use rope or chain to secure boat to trailer, use tie-downs to anchor trailer to the ground or house

DURING A HURRICANE WARNING

- Listen constantly to the radio or television for official instruction, make sure you have a battery-operated radio, in case power goes out
- Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows, remove outside antennas
- Move garbage cans, awnings, and other large outside objects into your house or garage or anchor them securely
- Garage or store vehicles you leave behind
- If you have a swimming pool, cover the pump filter
- If in a mobile home, check tie-downs and evacuate immediately
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home
- Avoid elevators

IF AT HOME

- Stay inside, away from windows, skylights and glass doors
- Get on the side of the house opposite from the direction the wind is blowing
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles and cooking utensils
- Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy, avoid open flames such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power "surge" damage when electricity is restored

IF OFFICIALS INDICATE EVACUATION IS NECESSARY

- Leave as soon as possible (unless you've determined it's safe to stay), avoid flooded roads and watch for washed out bridges
- Secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve
- Tell someone outside of the storm area (relatives, friends) where you are going
- If time permits, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding
- Bring pre-assembled emergency supplies and warm protective clothing
- Take blankets and sleeping bags to shelter. Lock up home and leave

RESPONSE ACTIONS DURING HURRICANES



IF YOU OWN A BUSINESS

- Remove all window displays
- Board up windows
- Move inventory to as high a level as possible
- Remove money and valuable documents
- Find the safest place for commercial vehicles

RECOVERY AFTER HURRICANES



- Stay tuned to local radio for information
- Return home only after an "all clear" is issued by authorities (don't be fooled into leaving prematurely when the eye passes over, bringing a temporary break in the storm)
- Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company, police or fire department
- Stay away from rivers or streams or other places where flooding is likely
- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges, driving may be especially hazardous due to debris on streets, emergency vehicles in operation and with traffic signals and street lights possibly out of service
- Enter home with caution
- Make sure the structure is in no danger of collapsing
- Beware of snakes, insects or animals driven to higher ground by floodwater
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry home
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage, throw out contaminated foods
- Hose down hard goods such as major appliances and furniture, even if they are destroyed, you need to keep these for the insurance adjuster's inspection, the adjuster will help you make decisions on repairing possessions or getting rid of them
- Pump out the basement if it is flooded, but do it gradually, drain one-third of the flood waters each day to minimize further structure damage, shovel out the mud while it is still moist, and dry rugs and carpets thoroughly
- Use emergency water ration or boil water out of the tap before drinking until you're notified water supply is safe
- Check electrical, water and gas lines (or have a professional do it) as soon as possible, make sure electrical current is turned off)
- Do not strike a match or use a flame when you enter the house, escaping gas could cause a tragic explosion
- Make emergency repairs to prevent further damage
- Report damage to your insurance agent



Protect yourself from hurricanes by preparing for the worst - your Department of Insurance suggests the following tips for maximizing your personal safety and minimizing your property and financial losses.

- Homeowners should review their insurance policies with their agents. Most standard homeowners policies do not cover flood damage, and some policies in coastal areas may not cover windstorm damage. Don't wait until the storm is approaching to upgrade your coverage. Be sure to discuss with your agent whether you need coverage for replacement value or actual cash value of your property.

-Flood insurance can be obtained by qualifying property owners by contacting your local agent or through the National Flood Insurance Program. Call 800-638-6620 for more information.

- The Beach Plan is a protection program designed for Outer Banks property owners. It offers coverage for fire, lightning, wind and hail. Obtain more information by calling 800-662-7048.

- Residents living in rental property should consider purchasing renter's insurance to cover losses of personal property within the rental unit.

- Make a list of your belongings and take pictures or videotape them. Include a close-up shot of the day's newspaper to provide the date. Keep your inventory list along with purchase receipts, pictures and your insurance policy in a safe-deposit box or other safe place away from your home. If you are forced to evacuate, take a copy of your policy with you.

- Additional tips for hurricane and storm preparation are also available on-line at the Department of Insurance's Web site, www.ncdoi.com

- If you have any questions or problems concerning your insurance coverage, contact the Consumer Services Division of the Department of Insurance toll-free (in-state) at 800-546-5664.



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