

Currituck County

HURRICANE SAFETY GUIDE



Hurricane Isabel, 2003

RESPONSIBILITY

Whether a year-round resident or a vacationer visiting Currituck County for only a short time, you should accept a **RESPONSIBILITY** to be aware of and prepare for the possibility of severe weather.

Currituck County is located in a beautiful area with many unique attractions. But like any community on the east coast, Currituck may be subject to hurricanes and tropical storms during summer and fall months.

Take **RESPONSIBILITY** for the safety of your family. Prepare for the possibility of a major hurricane and be ready should a tropical storm of any size approach Currituck.

Prepare **BEFORE** any storm nears Currituck.

Each individual, family and business should have an **Emergency Safety Plan** in place before hurricane season officially begins on June 1.

A safety plan will help you remain organized and handle the threat of an approaching hurricane in a safe and efficient manner. It will help you remember crucial steps and actions necessary to keep your family and property safe during a severe weather event.

A good plan should be discussed with all members of your family or business. If possible, the plan should be rehearsed before hurricane season. This includes a practice evacuation by your family or business.

Rehearsing your plan will help create and refine checklists to use during an actual hurricane. With many things to remember, checklists improve efficiency.

Checklists should include:

- Steps to securing property
- Items to place in an evacuation kit
- Emergency communication information
- Evacuation routes and lodging plans
- Procedures for re-entry to the area
- Assessing damage after the storm.

This safety guide will facilitate your preparation for the hurricane season.

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Preparation saves lives & property!



PRE-STORM PREPARATION

Make an Emergency Safety Kit

A good safety kit will include at least a 3-day supply of the following items:

- cell phone and charger
- map or GPS
- water & food
- flashlights
- radio
- spare batteries
- cash
- clothing
- prescription medicines
- first aid kit

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Pre-storm Readiness Tips

Finalize evacuation plan with family or business.

Exchange emergency contact info with family and friends, as well as intended evacuation destinations.

Store important documents in water-tight containers.

Document personal property with photos or video.

Secure property. Cover doors and windows with plywood, garage automobiles, trailer boats and secure loose outdoor items.

Check generators and have adequate gasoline supply.

Fuel and pack vehicles ahead of possible evacuation.

Listen for storm updates and evacuation orders.

HAVE A PET PLAN

Pet owners must plan to take family pets with them during an evacuation. Make sure to have pet food and supplies in your evacuation kit.

Owners of farm animals should make preparations to move them to a safer location prior to the storm. Currituck County does not open shelters for domestic pets or farm animals.



EVACUATION ASSISTANCE

Through the Department of Social Services, Currituck County maintains a list of county citizens who may have specific medical, functional or personal needs and require assistance during an evacuation.

If you, a family member or friend may need evacuation assistance, please provide that information to Social Services at 232-3083.

All information will remain confidential and will be given only as needed to emergency service providers.

It's important to stay informed

Having up-to-date information is critical to preparation and safety. It's important to monitor storm-related news and track an approaching storm's path. The following media are good sources of emergency weather information for Currituck County:

RADIO: 92.1, 93.7, 94.5, 94.9, 95.7, 96.3, 97.1, 98.1, 98.7, 99.1, 100.5, 101.3, 102.5, 104.1, 104.9, 105.7

TV: WTKR 3, WAVY 10, WVEC 13

ONLINE: www.nhc.noaa.gov www.weather.com
www.stormpulse.com www.readync.org
www.CurrituckGovernment.com

Follow CurrituckGov on social media

During an emergency, Currituck County will post updates on Twitter. Sign up to follow *CurrituckGov* and receive current and correct information.

Watch vs. Warning

A Hurricane Watch indicates that storm conditions are possible within 48 hours.

A Hurricane Warning means storm conditions are expected within 36 hours.

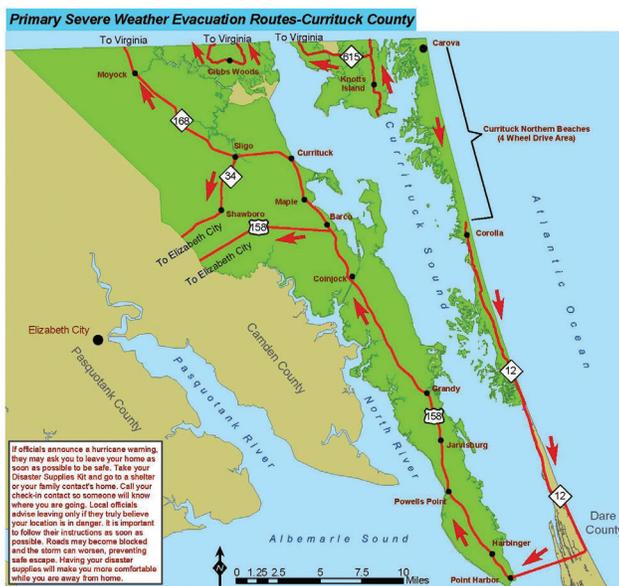
EVACUATION & RE-ENTRY

If an Evacuation is Ordered

If necessary, Currituck County will evacuate visitors and residents in phases ahead of the storm's predicted landfall. The outer banks areas of Carova and Corolla will be the first areas evacuated, followed by the mainland.

Evacuations will be coordinated with Dare County and cities in Virginia. When an evacuation is ordered, visitors and residents should follow Hwy. 158 west towards Elizabeth City and beyond, or Hwy. 168 north to Virginia.

REMEMBER: Currituck County does not open pre-storm shelters.



The Evacuation Map (above) is available for download and printing at www.CurrituckGovernment.com.

CURRITUCK WILL ENLIST VOLUNTEERS

The Emergency Management office maintains a list of residents who volunteer to assist during an emergency. This includes actions such as providing transportation to others in an evacuation or helping county officials at aid distribution sites after a storm, plus more.

If you are interested, contact Emergency Management at 232-2115.

RE-ENTRY PRIORITY GROUPS

After an evacuation, Currituck County conducts re-entry as the impacted areas are deemed safe. Re-entry permits or proof of residency is required.

PRIORITY 1 - Essential EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, utilities and damage assessment personnel.

PRIORITY 2 - Residents and critical businesses such as banks, building supply, drug stores, food service, gas stations, property managers and contractors.

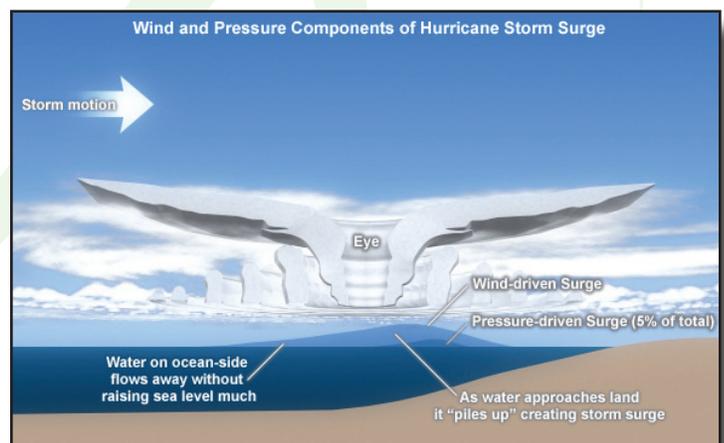
PRIORITY 3 - Non-resident staff of non-critical businesses, non-resident property owners.

PRIORITY 4 - Visitors and general public.

Storm surge: Deadly and destructive

Storm surge is a potentially fatal and destructive factor during any hurricane. Storm surge occurs as wind pushes massive amounts of water over the shoreline and inland.

Storm surge is a rapid rising of water that rushes in and out, sweeping anything not secure back out to sea. Buildings and other items along shorelines can be moved or damaged by storm surge, depending on the severity of the storm and amount of surge.



POST-STORM RECOVERY

Tips for Property Owners

- Return home only when officials declare the area to be safe.
- Carefully check for damage to home and property. Wear thick-soled shoes or boots.
- Document damages with photos or video and call your insurance agent.
- If you smell natural or propane gas or hear a hissing sound, leave immediately and call 911.
- Report power outages to Dominion Power at 1-866-366-4357.
- Check on neighbors and call 911 if you find someone trapped in debris or needing medical aid.
- Beware of downed power lines and do not attempt to move them.
- Beware of floodwaters. Do not attempt to drive through floodwaters and do not let children or pets play in standing water.
- Discard spoiled food or any food that has been above 40 degrees for two or more hours.
- If a boil water advisory has been issued, boil water for one minute prior to consumption.
- If your home was breached with water, remove any standing water as soon as possible and have plenty of ventilation throughout the house.
- Be cautious of wild animals, including snakes, that may have entered your home with floodwater.
- During repairs, be aware of contractor fraud. Use contractors accredited by the Better Business Bureau.

SEEKING RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

Following a hurricane, residents may need to seek assistance in recovery. It is important to monitor **local** media outlets for information on how to receive emergency food, clothing, first aid, housing and financial assistance.

Direct assistance will come to individuals and families from a number of organizations. These include the American Red Cross and Salvation Army, as well as local church or community groups.

Federal assistance may come with a Presidential declaration of "Major Disaster." The Federal Emergency Management Agency will oversee the distribution of federal aid.

Points of distribution

If necessary, Currituck County will set up Points of Distribution (POD) in the community to distribute aid supplies to residents. PODs will be advertised in the local media to alert citizens to locations and hours of operation.

DEBRIS REMOVAL

Removal of debris will typically begin 2-5 days after a hurricane. Debris must be brought to the right-of-way or curb for removal.

For pickup, residents must sort debris into piles of vegetative, construction and demolition materials, and white goods.

Preparation saves lives & property!

Contact Currituck County for all
storm-related questions

Emergency Management
252-232-2115

Emergency Management
Storm Hotline
252-232-6010

Public Information
252-232-0719

Online sources of information,
including preparation checklists

www.ReadyNC.com

www.FEMA.gov

www.nws.noaa.gov

www.CurrituckGovernment.com