



C.O.V.A.R. CORNER

DEBRA LEHMAN

Council of Villa Associations and Regimes Information

Open Letter to all Seabrook Island Property Owners, Guests and Visitors

It's that time of year again. **Hurricane season begins on June 1st to November 30th.** Of course, Mother Nature does not have to necessarily follow this time period. Seabrook Island survived both Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma. There was some damage, flooding and storm surge but nothing major. Hopefully the 2018 season will be gentle but you should be prepared and have a plan. If you rent your property then you also need to discuss plans with your rental agency or renters. The following is just a partial list to consider. Note the various websites or available references that you should review and include in a "Go Bag" for emergency situations.

Preplanning:

- Take an Inventory of your property including pictures.
- Determine if you need assistance from a contractor with preparing your home. A contractor can assist with installation of hurricane shutters or pre-cut plywood prior to the season to assist with your protection. It is difficult to find Contractors to install or assist with the installation when a storm is already on its way.
- Sign up for Smart 911.com.
- Download the CodeRED Mobile Alert App.
- Identify options for hotels.
- Have an evacuation plan, know your zone and evacuation route:
 - Seabrook Island is Zone A
 - Evacuation is Bohicket/Main Road to US 17 South towards Waltherboro
- Create a communication plan with family and friends.
- Have a disaster supply kit:
 - Cash
 - Gallon of water per person for at least 3 days
 - Supply of water left at home for when you return
 - Battery-powered radio
 - Flashlight
 - First Aid Kit
 - Maps
 - Cell phone charger
- Have an evacuation Plan for your pets:
 - Identify pet friendly hotels (www.BringFido.com)
 - Make sure your pet is up to date on shots
 - Have a secure pet carrier and leash
 - Consider getting your pet micro-chipped

- Review your flood insurance policy and confirm you have appropriate coverage.
- Keep your propane tank filled
- Buy tarps and keep on hand in case you have damage that needs covered until repaired.
- Don't let your gas tank in your car go below ½ tank

To prepare your home for a hurricane, you should complete the following:

- Secure all outside furniture and any other objects. They can become damaging projectiles in heavy winds.
- Empty your refrigerator and freezer of all foods. Some folks had to replace their refrigerator because they could not remove the smell of rotten food when they returned.
- Empty and turn off your ice maker. Refrigerators that provide ice and water in the door panel will leak and you will return to a puddle on your kitchen floor. Some floors have buckled if the water remains on the floor too long.
- Turn off main gas/propane supply valve on your propane tank (turn clockwise)
- Turn off water at the source and run the faucets until the water lines are empty
- Turn off your electric at the panel. You should turn off each switch and then the main breaker. When you return if there is no damage, turn on your main breaker and then each switch one at a time. This will assist to prevent any power surges that could occur if you just turn off the main breaker and then turn on the main breaker bringing all zones up at one time.
- Unplug appliances
- Make sure your flood vents in your garage or storage area are not blocked
- If the land fall of the storm appears to be heading directly towards Seabrook Island, you should close your hurricane shutters or consider installing plywood over your windows and doors.
- Check with your elderly and/or infirmed neighbors to see if they need assistance.

If an evacuation is ordered by the Governor or our Mayor, you should pack:

- At least 2 weeks of clothing
- Medicine for 2 weeks
- Snacks and water while traveling

- Pet food and any medicine for your pet. Most kennels in the vicinity will not Board pets when a storm is making landfall close by. If you do find a kennel to board your pet, remember to have the appropriate paperwork from your Vet to prove current vaccinations.
- Important documents and insurance policies
- Confirm your evacuation route and make sure you are informed of any lane closures or lane re-direction to exit the coast. Maps or updated GPS software in case you are detoured onto less traveled routes.
- Check the Charleston County website for a more detailed list www.charlestoncounty.org

If you choose to Shelter in Place:

- Have water for at least two weeks
- Fill your tub with water to use to flush the toilet if the sewage system is still functional
- Prepare to lose electricity, water and sewer services
- Turn your refrigerator to the coldest setting prior to losing power and minimize opening the door
- If you own a generator, confirm it is functional and have sufficient gas
- Remember that the Seabrook Island Security Team will be evacuating
- St Johns Fire District Emergency personnel will be evacuating prior to the bridges closing to traffic

Communication options:

- Town of Seabrook Island website www.townofseabrookisland.org
- Town of Seabrook Island phone number 888-314-3177 (a recording may provide status)
- Town of Seabrook Island Twitter @ SeabrookIsland87
- Town of Seabrook Island Emergency Contacts Refrigerator Magnet (COVAR will be assisting the Town to distribute to rental properties owners)
- SIPOA Emergency Preparedness Pamphlet will be posted to the SIPOA website. This has more detailed information. www.discoverseabrook.com then log into the SIPOA section of the website
- Tidelines provides detailed information from the Town and SIPOA
- Berkeley Electric outages <http://outageviewer.becsc.com:88>
- Charleston County Emergency Management www.charlestoncounty.org or 843-746-3800

Return to Seabrook Island:

- Wait until the Town of Seabrook Island gives the All Clear to return
- Make sure that you have not experienced any damage prior to turning on electricity at your panel box.
- Make sure that you have not experienced any damage prior to turning on propane
- Information will be communicated by Town Representatives until the emergency situation ends.▲