

# ***Town of Ocean Isle Beach***

## ***Hurricane***



## ***Safety Rules***

**THE OCEAN ISLE BEACH EMERGENCY PLAN** will help save your life...but you must help! Follow these safety rules during hurricane emergencies:

1. **Enter each hurricane season prepared.** Every June through November, recheck your supply of boards, tools, batteries, nonperishable foods, and other equipment you will need if a hurricane strikes Ocean Isle Beach.
2. **When you hear the first tropical cyclone advisory**, listen for future messages (Radio 162.550 MHz, TV Channel 41); this will prepare you for a hurricane emergency well in advance of the issuance of watches and warnings.
3. **When Ocean Isle Beach is covered by a Hurricane watch**, continue normal activities, but stay tuned to radio or television for all NOAA National Weather Service advisories. Remember: a hurricane watch means possible danger; if the danger materializes, a hurricane warning will be used. Meanwhile, keep alert. Ignore rumors. Fill vehicles with fuel.
4. **When we receive a HURRICANE WARNING** - (landfall expected within 24 hours). Plan your time before the storm arrives.
  - Board up windows or protect them with storm shutters or tape. (If doors sometimes blow open, try dead bolts or slide bolts.)
  - Secure outdoor objects that might be blown away or uprooted. Garbage cans (and racks), garden tools, toys, signs, porch furniture, and a number of other harmless

- items become missiles of destruction in hurricane winds. Anchor them or store them inside before the storm strikes.
- Store valuables and personal papers. Put irreplaceable documents in waterproof containers so you can take them with you when you evacuate.
  - Fill bathtubs, sinks, and jugs with clean water in case regular supplies are cut off (don't forget the water heater is an additional source of water).
  - Stock your car with nonperishable foods, a plastic container of water, blankets, first aid kit, flashlights, dry clothing and any special medication needed by your family.

## **EVACUATION ROUTE**

5. **If you must evacuate...** when the Mayor orders evacuation, do so promptly. Anyone refusing to leave shall be reported to the Chief of Police. At that time, a policeman will be dispatched to the residence.

6. **Before you Evacuate...**turn off water (outside cutoff)...turn off gas (at tank)...turn of electricity...lock windows and doors. Check to see that you have done everything to protect you property from damage and loss. Don't forget those irreplaceable papers.

7. **Evacuation route...**cross bridge, straight through traffic light...right on US 17 North Bypass...exit onto NC 130 West...turn right into West Brunswick High School (this is a designated shelter).

## **IF YOU GO TO SHELTER...**

8. **If you go to a shelter...**take blankets/sleeping bags, flashlights, special dietary foods, infant needs, and lightweight folding chairs.

- Register every person arriving with you at shelter.
- Do not take pets, alcoholic beverages or weapons of any kind in shelter.
- Carry along survival supplies: A First Aid kit; canned/dried food, bottled water, utensils; extra family medication, prescriptions; spare eyeglasses, hearing aid; batteries; and warm protective clothing.
- Keep important papers such as Driver's License (or other identification), insurance policies, property inventory, and special medical information with you at all times.
- Once in a shelter or safer area, stay there until local authorities tell you it's safe to return to the beach.

## **AFTER THE HURRICANE**

9. The Town will use a voice mail message (579-2166) and our website ([www.oibgov.com](http://www.oibgov.com)) to give the evacuation status of the beach and it will be updated whenever reentry information becomes available.

10. **After the hurricane...**Delay return until authorized by the Mayor.

- Property owners with current Ocean Isle Beach auto reentry stickers will get onto the beach long before those who do not.
- To avoid congestion and interference with damage assessment and repair crews, **PLEASE STAY ON YOUR PROPERTY - Do not go sight-seeing!**
- Watch out for loose or dangling power lines, and report them immediately to proper authorities.
- Food may spoil if refrigerator power is off more than a few hours. Freezers will keep food several days if doors are not opened after power failure, but do not refreeze food once it begins to thaw.
- Notify you insurance agent or broker of any losses and leave word where you can be contacted.
- Make temporary repairs to protect property from further damage or looting. Use only reputable contractors (sometimes in the chaotic days following a disaster, unscrupulous operators will prey on the unsuspecting) - check with the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce (754-6644) or the Ocean Isle Beach Town Hall. Keep all receipts for material used.
- Hardship cases will be settled first by insurance representatives. Don't assume your settlement will be the same as your neighbor's. Policy forms differ and storm damage is often erratic.

<b>OCEAN ISLE BEACH PHONE NUMBERS</b>	
<b>EMERGENCY.....</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>TOWN HALL.....</b>	<b>579-2166</b>
<b>PLANNING &amp; INSPECTIONS.....</b>	<b>579-3469</b>
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT.....</b>	<b>579-4221</b>
<i>After hours calls are automatically routed to the Sheriff's Department. Dispatcher will have on-duty police officer to respond.</i>	

**DO YOU HAVE FLOOD INSURANCE?**

Typical homeowner (or commercial business) insurance policies vary greatly among private insurance companies. Most policies at least partially cover fire, wind, theft, and liability on a building and its contents. If damage is caused by rising water due to a coastal storm, erosion, stream flooding, or ponding storm runoff, **YOU ARE NOT COVERED BY YOUR HOMEOWNER POLICY.** If you want flood insurance coverage, you must have a separate flood insurance policy.

Although all homeowner policies are different, all flood insurance policies are the same. They are all underwritten and controlled by the federal government.

Currently here on Ocean Isle Beach, we have three (3) different Flood Hazard Areas: Zone AE which is the 100-year area with the base flood elevation determined; Zone VE - coastal flooding with velocity hazard (wave action) base flood elevations determined; and Zone X, area of 500-year flood and 100-year flood with average depth of less than one (1) foot.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) are available at the Ocean Isle Beach Town Hall so your insurance agent can calculate flood insurance rates for new and old buildings.

Before you do any improvements on any house or property, see the inspection department at the Ocean Isle Beach Town Hall. (Permits may be required.) They can also give you information on retrofitting your house (especially preFIRM) on how to protect the lower floor.

**THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
categorizes hurricanes by intensity on a  
scale of 1 to 5, which include:

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>WIND</b>	<b>STORM SURGE</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>74 - 95 mph</b>	<b>4 - 5 feet</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>96 - 110 mph</b>	<b>6 - 8 feet</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>111 - 130 mph</b>	<b>9 - 12 feet</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>131 - 155 mph</b>	<b>13 - 18 feet</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>156+ mph</b>	<b>19 + feet</b>

**KEEP BASIC SUPPLIES HANDY for all emergencies:**

EMERGENCY LIGHT SUPPLIES like flashlights, (and extra batteries), lanterns, candles and matches.

PORTABLE RADIO and extra batteries.

FIRST AID KIT containing bandaids, aspirin, etc. (plus any medications that must be taken regularly).

BABY SUPPLIES such as food, canned milk or formula, disposable diapers, etc.

FOOD that doesn't need to be refrigerated or cooked, such as canned meats, vegetables, fruits, juices, etc. Store enough for several days. Don't forget the pets.

WATER stored in plastic jugs or other covered containers. Plan on one quart per person per day for drinking.

## HOUSE NUMBERS

House numbers are becoming increasingly important.

With 911 in service, it is imperative that house numbers be **CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM THE STREET**, especially at night. Think of it this way - you have an emergency in your house, but the emergency vehicle can't find your house quickly because of numbers not being visible from the road; sometimes minutes, even seconds, can mean the difference between life and death.

House numbers adjacent to beach accesses are especially encouraged as they provide for quicker response to shoreline emergencies.

The town requires a minimum of 3 1/2 inch numbers, painted in contrast with the house.

## **DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

There exists within the Town a system of drainage channels, which is necessary to help prevent localized flooding problems and to help remove stormwater from streets and roadways. This drainage system is maintained by the Town of Ocean Isle Beach. No person shall deposit any material within the system or otherwise interfere with the functioning of the drainage system.

## **FLOOD HAZARD**

The primary flood hazard at Ocean Isle Beach is overwash from the Atlantic Ocean caused by hurricanes. Hugo (September 1989), Fran (September 1996), and Floyd (September 1999) are the most recent flood events that caused damage to Ocean Isle Beach. The Atlantic Ocean may also flood the special flood hazard area during astronomically caused higher-than-usual high tides.

Interested parties may obtain information about Ocean Isle Beach Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) - whether a property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area, which zone the property is in, and the base flood elevation by contacting Town Hall at 579-3469.

The Town has a list of contractors and consultants knowledgeable or experienced in retrofitting techniques and construction. The Building Inspector will furnish material and advice to help select a qualified contractor and advice on what recourses are available when someone is dissatisfied with a contractor's performance.

The Building Inspector will make site visits upon request to review flooding, drainage and sewer problems and provide one-on-one advice to a property owner. The Inspector will also provide assistance and advice in retrofitting techniques to lessen the possibility of flood damage.

### **SPECIAL PERMITS**

Any development regardless of cost below the Base Flood Elevation will need a local Flood Enforcement Permit. Contact the Building Inspection Department for more details. In addition report illegal Flood Plain development to 579-3469.

### **SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

If the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building market value, then the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Buildings damaged more than 50% of their market value must also be brought up to present standards.