

Mayor's Corner

Hurricane season is here again. As a storm approaches, the decision facing all of us is whether to leave the island and when. Everyone acts differently, some heading off early and others waiting until the very last minute, or not leaving at all. A few

facts about what happens during and after an evacuation might help next time you have to consider leaving ahead of a storm.

Who decides that Kiawah should be evacuated?

Only the Governor can issue an evacuation order, which may occur when there is believed to be a substantial risk for damage to people and property. Unless and until an evacuation is issued, leaving the island is your choice.

What happens when an evacuation order is issued?

If an evacuation is declared, you should anticipate that the Town, KICA, commercial businesses, fire, and police will release their employees, so most or all resources and services on the island will cease or wind down quickly. Although the Town cannot initiate an evacuation, we must enforce it. As we did last year, anticipate that access to the island will be restricted but that we will provide latitude, as best we can, for property owners to make their plans, secure their property and time their departure. We are not going door to door forcing residents off the island, but for a lot of good reasons, we need you to take the time you need to secure your property and leave. Remember, a benign-looking storm can grow and change direction quickly and unexpectedly, and this island's major roads flood quickly. Wait too long, and you may be riding out the storm here.

How is the island secured when it is evacuated?

The Town, County Sheriff Deputies, and KICA coordinate their actions during and after a storm to assist people in leaving the island and preventing unauthorized persons from accessing the island. In each of the past storms, we retained a minimum number of law enforcement officers and KICA security personnel on the island until it was no longer safe for them to remain, at which point they evacuated. After a storm

has passed, and the island is accessible, law enforcement will return to restrict or manage access to the island at the direction of the Mayor.

Who determines when property owners can return?

Our goal, shared by both the Town and KICA, is to have the island open for return by property owners when the Governor lifts the general evacuation order or as soon as possible after. A team of Town, KICA, public safety, and utility personnel are staged to assess the island for damage, availability of necessary public services, and accessibility of roads. Anticipate that return to the island, or portions of the island could be delayed until the major roads are cleared, and critical public services especially power and sanitation services, are restored.

How can I get the most timely and accurate information?

Be sure you subscribe to both the Town's and KICA's regular email communications. During a storm, we coordinate our communications and issue emailed bulletins daily or more frequently when required. These contain the latest information from the State, County, Town emergency management groups, fire, police, and utility providers. Following a storm, all information about damage and reopening the island will come from the Town's emergency team and be communicated through these bulletins. You can follow these updates on the Town's website or social media sites as well. The Town has no independent source of email addresses for our residents or Kiawah property owners so you must provide us with your email address. To be added, send your name and email address to sbraswell@kiawahisland.org. Local Charleston media provides little Kiawah specific coverage and social media sites, while well-intentioned, are not especially accurate.

None of us want to evacuate unnecessarily. It can be costly and a lot of hassle. However, due to our geography, Charleston's growing population, limited roads leading away from the coast, and the speed at which a storm can change direction and intensity, an evacuation could be ordered well before expected landfall. If that occurs, we will provide the best information we can, but you are going to have to use your judgment about how to act. Let's all hope for an uneventful hurricane season.

Craig Weaver

Development Edition of Town Notes

Most residents know that the Town has two development agreements in place with Kiawah Partners and the Kiawah Island Golf Resort to protect the interests of the Town, property owners and the environment. But what does that mean? Well, that is what we plan to address in a special edition of Town Notes. It is going to cover the benefits and evolution of the two agreements, the established entitlements, the process of how development can and will take place and what's left for future development. We hope to help property owners understand what Kiawah post build out will look like and how it will get there. Keep a look out for the special edition coming this fall.

Hurricane Season

Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 with the greatest frequency of storms occurring from August 15 to October 15, with September being the most likely time for an occurrence. On May 24, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center released their 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season outlook forecasting a 75-percent chance that the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season will be near-or above-normal.

NOAA's forecasters predict a likelihood of nine to 15 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which four to eight could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including two to four major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which six become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

Evacuations Happen

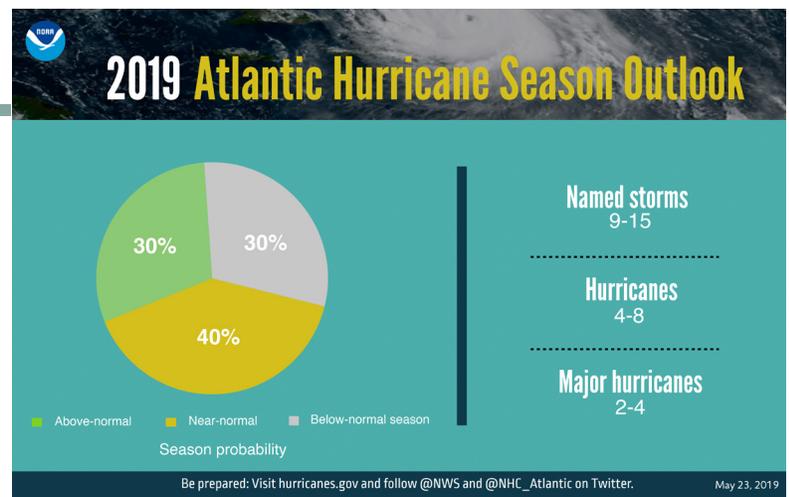
When a hurricane threatens South Carolina's coast, you may plan to leave voluntarily or you may be ordered to evacuate. The Governor is the only one who issues an evacuation. However based on reports from the National Weather Service and Charleston County EMD, the Mayor may issue a recommendation to evacuate the island. By evacuating early, you will be able to pick your own evacuation route. If you wait for an evacuation order, you will be required to take a designated route based on your evacuation zone. You will not be permitted to deviate from this preplanned route. You are strongly encouraged to leave early before an evacuation order is issued.



After an evacuation order is issued and completed, Kiawah Island Utility and Berkeley Electric may power down their services in order to protect their equipment. If you chose to remain on-island, you may not have power or water until a post disaster damage assessment has been performed. There could be no medical, fire, rescue or police assistance available on the island. Even after the event, depending on the damage to the island, you may not get assistance for several days.

Re-entry Procedure

Re-entry procedures will vary depending on the severity of the natural disaster but will generally be performed in stages. Do not attempt to return to the island before the **ALL CLEAR** has been given by Town officials. Re-entry information will be disseminated via CodeRED, email notification, the Town website and social media.



Evacuation Route

- > Road S-20 (Bohicket/Main Rd.) to US 17.
- > US 17 south to SC 64, where you will go to Walterboro, then to North Augusta.



With hurricane season upon us, it is important that residents are signed up for the Town's emergency notification system CodeRED. CodeRED is used to communicate in emergency situations or critical community alerts such as evacuation notices, boil water notices, tornado warnings, and flash flood notices. Notifications are sent via voice, text and email based on your preferences. You must be registered to receive. Register at www.kiawahisland.org/disaster-preparedness



Did you miss Disaster Awareness Day? No problem! The Town has updated emergency guides available for the community including the 2019 hurricane guides, earthquake guides, flood maps and more.

Stop by the Municipal Center and get yours today or download the updated guides at www.kiawahisland.org/disaster-preparedness