



**Kathy Doyle, Service Area Executive
Mid-Atlantic Service Area
100 N. Peartree Lane
Raleigh, NC 27604**

American Red Cross

The level of destruction leveled on the Gulf Coast by the 2005 hurricane season was horrific. We all watched with a range of emotions - gratitude that it wasn't the South Carolina shore, fear for friends and family in the affected area and desire to help through donations and volunteerism. The American Red Cross would like to thank you for your leadership of the Senate Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee and for working to educate South Carolinians in lifesaving steps to prepare their families for the 2006 Hurricane season.

A new hurricane season begins June 1, and hurricane forecasters are predicting another above-normal hurricane season, with the possibility of 17 named storms. Advanced warning systems offer our communities time to evacuate when a storm is imminent. **The time to prepare is now.** The guidelines below will help ensure that South Carolinians are prepared for the coming hurricane season.

Prepare a Personal Disaster and Evacuation Plan

- Identify ahead of time where you would go if you are told to evacuate. Choose several different places – a friend's home outside of the affected area, a motel or a shelter.
- Get a good map and be familiar with your community's evacuation routes.
- Listen to local media broadcasts or NOAA Weather Radio for the latest storm conditions.
- **If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately.**
- In case you have to evacuate, be sure to bring your disaster supplies kit.
- Make advanced preparations for your pets. Pets are not allowed in Red Cross shelters.
- Ask an out-of-town friend or family member to act as "family contact" for everyone to call in case of separation.

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit

Gather enough emergency supplies to meet your needs for **at least three days- and be prepared to take items with you during an evacuation (including an evacuation to a shelter).**

- A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and ready-to-eat canned goods, such as tuna fish, peanut butter, crackers, canned fruit, juice boxes, etc. and a manual can opener.
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, insurance policies, and social security cards.)
- Comfortable clothing and footwear. Blankets, sleeping bags and pillows.
- A first aid kit, including prescription medicines and an extra pair of glasses.
- Cash/Credit cards and a set of car keys.
- Items for infants (including formula and diapers), elderly or disabled family members.

Prepare for High Winds

- Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs and secure any outdoor items (lawn furniture, decorations, trash cans, plants).
- Install hurricane or high-wind shutters on your windows or pre-cut plywood to cover windows, and sliding glass doors.

For more information regarding how individuals and families can prepare for disasters visit the [Red Cross website](#) or contact your local Red Cross chapter.