

EVACUATION ROUTES

A cooperative effort between the South Carolina State Government and the coastal counties has resulted in a statewide plan for evacuating all residents from the coastal areas of South Carolina. The order for a mandatory evacuation is issued from the Governor's Office to the affected counties. Not all coastal counties will be issued an order to evacuate. The decision to evacuate will ultimately be decided by each individual. It should be noted that once a mandatory order to evacuate has been issued and winds have reach a sustained speed of 35 mph, all emergency services would be terminated. Once emergency personnel have evacuated, they are not allowed to return until after the event has passed. This means that if you choose to remain and need emergency help, that help will not be allowed to return. Please remember this and include it in your decision to evacuate or remain. Locally evacuation orders are issued by the Beaufort County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Any route may be used to evacuate the area prior to the Mandatory Evacuation Order. Once the Mandatory Evacuation Order has been issued, specific routs must be followed. During a Mandatory Evacuation all 4/6 lanes of US-278 may be used to channel traffic out of Beaufort County and inland. During this time no traffic is allowed to return to Harbor Island. Once you have entered the evacuation traffic you will not be allowed to turn around.

Residents of Harbor Island have only one Mandatory Evacuation Route to follow. After leaving the island, vehicles will make a right turn onto HWY. 21. Travel through Beaufort to HWY. 17 to reach I-95. The final destination of all traffic is I-95. Once at I-95 vehicle operators may go North or South.

The EOC will attempt to give a minimum of 12 hours notice before any Mandatory Evacuation Notice is given. The Mandatory Evacuation Notice is directed by the Governor's Office to the local EOC. Because the Mandatory Evacuation Notice must work through channels, the actual notification may be less than 12 hours. To help traffic get into the interior of South Carolina the State has designated Parallel Routes inland from the coastal counties. The Parallel Routes from Beaufort County are US-21 and US-278. Both routes can be accessed from I-95. US-278 can be reached by using US-321 in Hardeeville, SC-462 in Coosawhatchie, (exit 28) or SC-68 in Yemassee (exit 38). US-21 is exit 42.

Before selecting an evacuation route, monitor the direction of the hurricane. Once the impact area has been determined your best option may be to travel south and west rather than north and east.

The Beaufort County Emergency Operations Center has in operation radio messages that will provide emergency information to the traveling public. There are signs on the shoulder of the highways through out Beaufort County that display

flashing yellow lights and provide a radio frequency that can be monitored for the latest information. Please be prepared!