

## **Tropical Storm and Hurricane Information**

### **David Kellam, Association Administrator**

We are about to enter the official peak of the hurricane season, so the time seems right to offer you another opportunity to review these procedures. If a tropical storm or hurricane “watch” or “warning” is issued and you have completed these early activities, you will be able to concentrate on protective measures and evacuation plans.

#### **Prior to the Hurricane Season you should take these actions:**

- If you do not live nearby or will not personally be able to protect your property, develop an agreement with a qualified local caretaker, builder or other responsible person to assist you.
- Don't forget to include your boat in your protection plans. In the face of a storm, you are not likely to find a company to remove your boat from its dock unless you have a contract for this service. If your boat trailer is stored at the trailer lot, attach identification for your caretaker's reference to assist with removal.
- Designate a contact person in the Wilmington area for updates before and after the storm. Keep in mind that island neighbors and offices may not be able to provide this service due to weather conditions, overloaded telephone systems, evacuation activities, or storm damages.
- Set up a communications system within your family or among the co-owners of your beach property. Designate one person to gather information and pass it along.
- Obtain and store protective materials such as storm shutters, plywood and plastic sheeting.
- Trim trees and shrubs, removing weak limbs near your house.
- Check your roofing and make minor repairs. Correct leaks around windows.
- Decide where to store your car. Designate a storage space for your deck furniture, grill, flags, flower pots, etc.
- Make a list of valuables that you plan to evacuate from your beach house, if time permits.
- Inventory household items that you plan to leave at your beach house.
- Surf the web and locate sites for weather and storm information resources. Add these sites to your “favorites” so you can access them easily. Good websites for local updates, conditions, and predictions include Wilmington's television stations, the New Hanover County home page, and the local newspaper. The Weather Channel and National Weather Service websites are also good resources for updates and progress reports. All efforts will be made to keep the Association's website operational before, during, and after a storm at [www.figure8homeowners.com](http://www.figure8homeowners.com).

#### **During the hurricane season you should:**

- **Know basic terms:**
  - A *Tropical Storm* has winds from 39 to 73 m.p.h., and can produce heavy rain and coastal flooding.
  - A *Tropical Storm Watch* is issued when the storm threatens an area within 36 hours.
  - A *Tropical Storm Warning* is issued when the storm is expected to affect an area within 24 hours.
  - A *Hurricane* has winds of 74 m.p.h. or greater. Heavy rain, coastal flooding, tornados and storm surge accompany hurricanes.
  - A *Hurricane Watch* is issued when hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours.
  - A *Hurricane Warning* is issued when winds of 74 m.p.h. or higher are expected within 24 hours. The Warning may remain in effect after winds fall below the minimum hurricane speed if dangerous high water and waves persist.
- **Review your plan of action.** Reconfirm your agreement with a local caretaker. Fine tune your communications plans - with family members, beach house co-owner, and your local informational contact.

- **Update** your telephone and e-mail address books with the names and numbers of your local service providers, contractors, and agencies you may need to contact after a storm.
- **Update** your beach house inventory and organize policies and contracts you may need after a storm.

**When a Hurricane Watch or Warning is issued for our area:**

- Take the advisories seriously.
- Take care of last minute protective measures and prepare to leave the area if necessary.
- Stay tuned to local TV and radio for conditions updates and evacuation information. Wilmington's TV stations simulcast on local radio stations if you can not view your TV during a storm.

**Please note that Figure Eight Island follows New Hanover County Emergency Orders.** Your cooperation is required for all County Orders.

**If the County Orders a Voluntary Evacuation:**

- You should finish up protective activities at your beach house promptly.
- We **strongly recommend** that you leave the island.

**If New Hanover County Orders a Mandatory Evacuation:**

- Please understand that you are required to leave the island.
- There is absolutely **NO good reason** to remain on the island during hurricane conditions.
- There will be **NO one available** to assist you during the storm if you become injured or sick.
- There will be **NO one able** to assist you if lightning, tornadic activity, or an extreme tidal surge strikes your house during the storm's landfall.
- Island roads and the bridge will likely become unpassable, making later escape impossible.

**After an evacuation Order is lifted, Members WILL be allowed to re-enter the island as soon as it is safe to do so.**

- If we experience a major storm, we may have to inspect the bridge to ensure that it has not been compromised before we allow vehicles to cross. Please be patient if this occurs.
- Initially, entry by non-Members may be restricted. Again, please be patient. Mitigation activities will be allowed as soon as it is possible and deemed safe.
- Even if vehicles can not cross the bridge, **once it is safe to do so** pedestrians will probably be permitted to cross, as we did after Hurricane Fran. However, do not assume you will be granted immediate access to the island until it is deemed safe and prudent.

**On a positive note:**

In the event that Figure Eight is impacted by a serious storm, remember that our community has a track record of great resilience and strength. Remain confident and be assured that the island is in good, experienced hands. State and County Emergency Management and I will work closely with the Board of Directors to oversee and assist with island rebuilding efforts. I believe all property owners should be prepared to address the most extreme weather events. Then, when faced with a moderate or small event, we will feel relief and appreciate our fortune when the storm passes.

If we can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me or the Association staff at (910) 686-0635.

David C. Kellam, Administrator