



DORCHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

212 Deming Way, Suite 3 | Summerville, SC 29483 | PHONE 843-832-0341/563-0341 | FAX 832-0343/563-0343

2018 Redesigned Hurricane Evacuation Zones Frequently Asked Questions

Dorchester County has unveiled enhanced and redesigned hurricane evacuation zones for the 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season (June 1st – November 30th). The zones are labeled Evacuation Zone D (light blue), Evacuation Zone E (pastel green), and Evacuation Zone F (light grey). An interactive and searchable evacuation zone map is located at DorchesterCountySC.Gov/EMD

Zone D (Blue) - Tidal River and Creeks/Southern Swamps

All properties along the Ashley River between Ashley River Road and Dorchester Road, from the Charleston County line to Bacons Bridge Rd. Properties that front the Sawmill Branch from Dorchester Road to Luden Road including Arbor Oaks, Sawbranch Apartments, Millbrook Apartments, and Creekside. Properties near Eagle Creek between Ladson Road and Parlor Road from Dorchester Road to the Charleston County line. Southeast portions of the county in the vicinity of Bear Swamp, Horse Savannah Swamp, Fishburne Creek, and Rantowles Creek including the Poplar Grove Community. All residents living in flood-prone areas or mobile/manufactured homes.

Zone E (Green) - Sand Hills/North Charleston/Wescott/Oakbrook/Miles Jamison Areas

Properties east of US Highway 17A to Dorchester Road including Summers Corner and Clubhouse Crossroads. Properties east of Orangeburg Road and South of Miles Jamison Road to the Charleston County line including South Main Mobile Home Park, Newington Plantation, Woodland Estates, Oakbrook, Wood Oak Park, Wescott, and the City of North Charleston in Dorchester County. All residents living in flood-prone areas or mobile/manufactured homes.

Zone F (Grey) - The Cypress Swamp

Areas near the Cypress Swamp, the Edisto River, the Twin Lakes subdivision, and portions of The Ponds subdivision. All residents living in flood-prone areas or mobile/manufactured homes.

Why were the hurricane evacuation zones changed?

The evacuation zones were redesigned to better serve the residents of Dorchester County. After the 2015 Floods, Hurricane Matthew, and Hurricane Irma Dorchester County Emergency Management recognized challenges with the former zones. Previously, portions of Dorchester County in the City of North Charleston and Wescott, shared an evacuation zone with the peninsula of the City of Charleston. Dorchester County has unique risks and hazards during tropical storms and hurricanes. The new zones were designed to strategically group areas with similar storm surge flooding risk.



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How were the evacuation zones created?

The hurricane evacuation zones were created using the latest storm surge flood models and emergency management best practices. The new zones were created with input from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Evacuation zones highlight areas that are at risk for flooding from storm surge (or ocean water). Damaging winds and areas that may be flooded due to extreme rainfall are NOT taken into consideration when designing hurricane evacuation zones.

What is storm surge?

Storm Surge is ocean water that covers land that is normally dry. Along the coast, storm surge is often the greatest threat to life and property from a hurricane or tropical storm. In the past, large death tolls have resulted from the rise of the ocean associated with many of the major hurricanes that have made landfall. Storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tides. This rise in water level can cause extreme flooding in coastal areas particularly when storm surge coincides with normal high tide.

Can extreme flooding occur outside of evacuation zones?

Yes, both flooding and damaging winds can and do occur outside of hurricane evacuation zones. Damaging winds and areas that may be flooded due to extreme rainfall are NOT taken into consideration when designing hurricane evacuation zones. Flood zones created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are not the same as hurricane evacuation zones. Residents who live outside of hurricane evacuation zones are encouraged to evaluate the risks to their home and neighborhood in order to make a decision on whether they will evacuate.

Have any residents been moved into an evacuation zone who were previously not in an evacuation zone?

The evacuation zone redesign committee did not wish to move the outer boundaries of the evacuation zones. However, after analyzing these boundaries and careful consideration the decision was made to add 113 addresses in an evacuation zone which were previously not. These addresses were added based on risk and evacuation zone uniformity between streets and neighborhoods.

Are any residents no longer in an evacuation zone who were previously in an evacuation zone?

The evacuation zone redesign committee did not wish to move the outer boundaries of the evacuation zones. However, after analyzing these boundaries and careful consideration the decision was made to remove 280 addresses from an evacuation zone which were previously in a zone. These addresses were removed based on risk and evacuation zone uniformity between streets and neighborhoods.



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When were the hurricane evacuation zones last updated?

The evacuation zones in Dorchester County were last updated in 2012.

Will the redesigned hurricane evacuation zones affect my insurance rates?

No, hurricane evacuation zones are not used to determine insurance rates. Insurance rates are created using flood zones.

What is the difference between a flood zone and a hurricane evacuation zone?

Flood zones and evacuation zones are different. A structure not in an evacuation zone may still be at risk for flooding. Residents are encouraged to learn if they live in a flood zone, evacuation zone, or both. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps flood zones for the National Flood Insurance Program. Zones are categorized by their risk for flooding and represented by letters on a map. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) will generally show a community's base elevations and flood zones. These maps are continually being updated due to changes over time. To get an accurate determination contact your insurance company or local floodplain manager. By law, all homes carrying a mortgage in a high-risk zone must be covered by flood insurance.