

## FAQ

**Q:** Where can I find updated information on the timing of a Hurricane / storm?

**A:** The latest briefings from the National Weather Service will be posted online at: [www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE](http://www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE).

**Q:** What does a “*State of Emergency*” mean? Does it mean an evacuation?

**A:** This is declared to allow access of state or federal funding and assistance when emergency events have the potential to cause significant damage to an area. It *does not* necessarily mean that a curfew or evacuation has been ordered, however one can be ordered as part of a delcaration.

**Q:** When are the bridges closed?

**A:** Bridges onto the Island are closed when sustained wind speeds reach 45 mph, and will remain closed for as long as conditions are deemed to be unsafe, and the island uninhabitable.

**Q:** If I’m off the island when an evacuation is ordered, can someone return to gather belongings before the evacuation starts?

**A:** The Town of Oak Island will make an announcement well ahead of closing the bridges, to allow time for gathering items.

You can find answers to all frequently asked questions on the Town Website at: [www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE](http://www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE).

## GET INFORMED

While this brochure covers the basic points of hurricane preparation and response, there’s even more information available on the dedicated *Hurricane Information* page of the Town Website at:

[www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE](http://www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE).

Important topics presented include:

- Preparation before a Hurricane
- Safety during a Hurricane
- Response efforts after a Hurricane
- Bridge Access & Re-Entry
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- How to submit Flood Insurance claims

In addition, you can view video from the most recent *Hurricane Conference*, hosted annually by the Oak Island Fire Department.

The Conference brings together several departments within the Town, as well as partner agencies from the County and state level, to provide information and answer questions on the Town’s efforts to prepare, respond, and recover from major storms.



# Hurricane Information & Resource Guide

For full information, visit:  
[www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE](http://www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE)



# BEFORE

## **FOR VISITORS:**

- Contact your accommodations provider for details on how to leave your property.
- Take ALL belongings with you. You may not be allowed re-entry if damage is significant.

## **FOR EVERYONE:**

- Please evacuate promptly - **DO NOT WAIT!**
- Leave early, be patient, and expect delays.
- Ensure you have a **Hurricane Supply Kit**, with items suggested at [Ready.gov/Kit](http://Ready.gov/Kit).

## **EVACUATION SHELTERS:**

Provided by Brunswick County Emergency Management, shelters are primarily for those who have no other place to go, but are open to all. Special shelter options may also be available for those with **special medical needs**, as well as for **pets** and animals.

**NOTE:** In the event of an evacuation, please **TAKE YOUR PETS WITH YOU.**

All listing of current shelter locations will be given prior to any evacuation notice, and updated regularly on the Town Website at:

[www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE](http://www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE).

## **EVACUATION ROUTES:**

All routes lead to US-17:

- NC 211
- HWY 87
- NC 133

Routes are marked by white, square signs with a blue circle in the center, and direction arrows and the words **Hurricane Evacuation Route**. A map of all routes is available on the Town Website.



# DURING

ALL visitors and residents are strongly urged to evacuate once a mandatory evacuation has been declared by the Mayor; and should be prepared to remain evacuated for a week or more, depending on the extent of damage.

**\*NOTE: Residents who choose to stay in their home during a hurricane may not have certain resources available in the event of an emergency.\***

Additionally, emergency services such as Police, Fire, and Medical may not be able to respond. Certain utilities may also be unavailable as well, including water, sewer, and electricity due to utility shut off or loss of power.

## **If choosing to stay, please do the following:**

- Inform family and friends that you are staying.
- Have multiple information sources available (i.e. radio, television, phone, etc.).
- Fill several containers with extra water.
- Stay away from windows and glass doors.
- Don't walk, swim, or drive through flooded areas.

## **CURFEWS:**

When a **State of Emergency** is declared and a **Curfew** is implemented, the curfew will be monitored and enforced by law enforcement. **Violators of looting, price gouging, and alcohol sale bans will be prosecuted to the full extent.**

## **KNOW THE DETAILS:**

Having the right information can help you make the right decisions to monitor and prepare for impacts. To learn the differences between **Watches & Warnings, Wind Speeds, and Storm Surge**, visit [www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE](http://www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE).

# AFTER

After a hurricane has passed through the area, the Town's **Damage Assessment Team** will begin surveying the island, to catalogue damages that may have occurred during the storm. Once it has been determined that the island is safe, the Mayor will then re-open the island to residents. **If you evacuated, be sure to have a plan in place for alerting family and friends that you are safe.**

## **RE-ENTRY INFORMATION:**

The primary source for all re-entry information will be the HURRICANE page of the Town Website at: [www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE](http://www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE).

In the event internet is unavailable, additional information outlets can include:

- OKI-TV (Spectrum Cable channel 8 / 122)
- Electronic messaging signs posted along NC 906 (EF Middleton Blvd) and NC 133 (Long Beach Rd)
- The Town Information Hotline at 910-201-8088
- Local radio and TV news outlets

All outlets will be updated as conditions allow.

## **DOCUMENTATION:**

Before re-entry, be sure to bring appropriate documents such as a water, tax, or utility bill, to show residency and allow bridge access.

## **Once returned, be sure to:**

- Be prepared for limited or no water, sewer, or electrical utility service.
- Be patient as the clean-up process begins.
- Be aware of electrical wires or dangerous debris.
- Don't walk, swim, or drive through flooded areas.
- Adhere to any enacted curfew restrictions.
- Be cautious of your surroundings.
- Watch out for workers and / or equipment on the sides of the road - don't sightsee or joy ride.