

THE TONE OUT

Emergency Services Quarterly Newsletter (Q2)

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TOP STORY

Making Your Home More Resilient Against Hurricanes

By Georgetown County Emergency Management

Hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th. While you cannot make your home invincible to high winds and flooding, you can make your home more resilient to the effects of hurricanes. Homeowners who spend money on mitigation measures are estimated to save six times that amount when a disaster strikes their home.

Raising your electrical system components, appliances, and utilities

- Some appliances, like laundry machines and components of your heating and air-conditioning systems, may be candidates to move to an upper floor or attic. If not, you can place them on concrete blocks to gain elevation.
- Electrical components, such as fuse boxes, outlets, and switches, should be elevated above the potential flood elevation.
- These modifications must be made by a licensed electrician, and may require a permit from the city or county.

Using temporary barriers

- These include sandbags, portable flood gates, and inflatable flood walls to protect fuel tanks and utilities.

Anchoring fuel tanks so they cannot be swept away or punctured protects lives, property, and the environment.

- Attach your fuel tank to the floor (if inside) or a large concrete slab outside that weighs enough to resist the force of floodwaters.
- You can also install ground anchors that connect to the tank with metal straps.



Installing backflow valves and drain plugs will prevent floodwater and wastewater from backing up into your home through toilets, sinks, and drains.

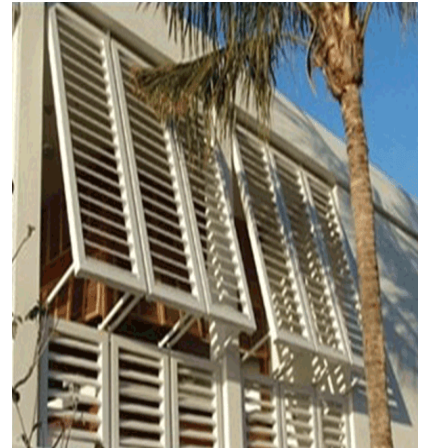
- Backflow valves should be installed by a licensed plumber.

Maintaining your property may be your simplest preventive measure.

- Clear debris from gutters, downspouts, drainage ditches, and storm drains.
- Secure loose items, including shingles that could become windborne missiles.
- Modify landscaping, if necessary, to channel storm water away from your house.
- Keep the distance between your home and your trees greater than the trees' full-grown heights.

The following items can also prevent or reduce damage in a storm:

- Hurricane shutters for windows and doors;
- Flood alert system;
- Sump pump, which draws in groundwater and sends it away through drainage pipes;
- Flood vents which allow water to flow through foundation walls, garages, and crawlspaces instead of destroying them;
- Bracings or hurricane straps that fasten your roof to the walls, particularly if you have a gable-end roof;
- Flood-resistant materials like ceramic tile (instead of carpet), decay-resistant wood, and metal window frames;
- Waterproof veneer for your exterior walls; and
- Waterproofing compounds to seal walls in your basement.



Source: www.hstoday.us

Contact our office to learn more about defending your home against hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Summer Weather Safety Tips

Georgetown County Emergency Management

Tornadoes, thunderstorms, and lightning

- Winds from tornadoes can reach and exceed 200 mph; flying debris is most dangerous.
- All thunderstorms produce lightning so take shelter inside a sturdy structure or hard-topped vehicle.
- Lightning kills an average of 30 people every year.
- **Tornado Warning** means a tornado is occurring or will shortly so seek shelter immediately.
- **Tornado Watch** means a tornado is possible so be prepared.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** means large hail or damaging wind is occurring or will shortly at this location on the map so seek shelter.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** means conditions are favorable of producing large hail or damaging wind at this location on the map so be prepared.

Flooding

- Is often caused by heavy rain in the summer; more than half of all flood fatalities are vehicle-related.
- Never drive through flood waters: **TURN AROUND... DON'T DROWN!**
- **Flood Warning** means flooding which poses a significant threat to life and property is occurring or will shortly; seek higher ground.
- **Flood Watch** means flooding may develop; check the forecast, and be ready to take action.



Heat

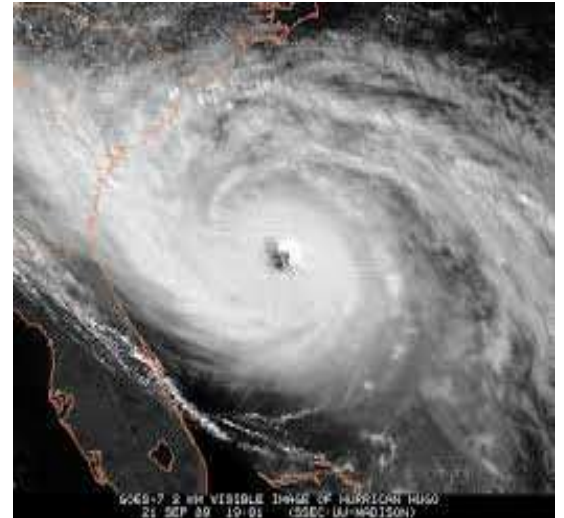
- Heat and humidity take a toll on the body of humans and pets; know the signs of heat illness.
- Reschedule outdoor work and strenuous activities until the coolest time of the day, and stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water. Apply and reapply sunscreen to protect your skin from sunburn.
- **NEVER** leave children or pets in parked, unattended vehicles.
- **Excessive Heat Warning** means extremely hot weather will cause significant stress on people and animals unless precautionary measures are taken (i.e., avoid direct sunlight, drink plenty of fluids, and find a cool indoor place if possible).
- **Excessive Heat Watch** means extremely hot weather may develop across the region. Have a plan in place to avoid strenuous activity during the warmest parts of the day; and make sure children, the elderly, and pets are taken care of if extreme heat develops.

Drought

- The heat of summer can cause short-term droughts which affect vegetation and agriculture.
- Long-term droughts can impact large reservoirs and the people that depend on them for drinking water.
- Implement water conservation effects to minimize drought when asked to do so by local officials.

Hurricanes

- Can produce deadly flooding; heavy rain can cause flooding hundreds of miles inland.
- Protect your home from flying debris and winds by boarding up windows with plywood or approved shutters; bringing in loose items from outside; and securing your boat if you have one.
- **Hurricane Warning** means hurricane force winds (sustained winds or frequent gusts of 74 mph or greater) are expected in your area; seek shelter.
- **Hurricane Watch** means hurricane force winds are possible in your area; prepare your home; and have an emergency supply kit ready for sheltering in place or evacuating.



Rip Currents and Dangerous Waves (Tsunamis)

- Rip currents can be deadly to the swimmer caught in one as well as their rescuer. If you are caught in a rip current, escape by swimming in a direction following the shoreline until you are out of the rip current.
- Know the signs of tsunamis which include a strong or long earthquake, a sudden ocean rise or fall, and an ocean roar. Respond to tsunami warnings by moving to high ground or going inland.
- **Rip Current Statement** means conditions are favorable for rip currents along the beach.
- **Tsunami Warning** means a tsunami that may cause widespread flooding is expected or is occurring. Dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents are possible and may continue for several hours or days after initial arrival. Move to high ground or inland immediately.

Wildfire and Air Quality

- Wildfires are usually started by lightning strikes or humans. To help prevent wildfires, stay with your fire during camping; fully extinguish your fire when finished; and never burn on dry, windy days.
- Smoke from wildfires can travel thousands of miles and cause poor air quality.
- Keep doors and windows closed to reduce infiltration into your home. Also limit strenuous outdoor activity on days with poor air quality.

Source: weather.gov/safety

Contact our office if you have any questions about how to be better prepared.

Community Risk Reduction

Division Chief Mark R. Nugent, Midway Fire Rescue

In the NFPA document, *Community Risk Reduction: Doing More with More*, June 2016, Community Risk Reduction is defined as “programs, actions, and services used by a community, which prevent or mitigate the loss of life, property, and resources associated with life safety, fire, and other disasters within a community.” Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is simply a formalized approach to the actions which emergency service organizations have utilized for decades to eliminate unintentional injuries and deaths across the community they serve.

Where the concept of CRR is a relatively new approach in the greater scheme of things, what I have described has been going on in our profession since it was rumored that Mrs. O’Leary’s cow kicked over an oil lantern in 1871. This short article will discuss the many facets which define a CRR program applicable to the departments across our county. In reality, we all face the same type of situations in one form or the other in respect to unintentional injuries and deaths, fires and medical emergencies, and natural and man-made disasters in our community, just on different scales.

The goal of CRR is to eliminate injuries and deaths to both our members and the collective community we serve. We will always respond to emergencies, but through the increased delivery of CRR programs, we have the ability to eliminate many of these emergencies before they occur. The education we provide helps to eliminate the frequency of emergency incidents, and better protects the community we serve, while reducing injuries and deaths to our members.

A simple example involves several leading fire causes - cooking, smoking, supplemental heating, and candles. These types of fires share a common denominator in which a human interaction attributed to the cause of the fire. Identifying and understanding this dynamic can help lead us to change our thought processes concerning education methods. We must move beyond teaching citizens what to do after the emergency occurs by transitioning to a delivery method which emphasizes steps our citizens can take to prevent the incident from ever occurring.

Start by building a community profile highlighting base demographics about your jurisdiction. A U.S. Census (www.census.gov) search can easily identify categories which include population, age, sex, race, housing, and socio-economic information. A search of your department’s NFIRS data can quickly define the types of incidents you respond to as well as injuries, deaths, and fire damage figures. Utilizing your EMS reporting software, along with hospital discharge records, can help build a case for the type of unintentional injuries and medical emergencies your community faces. Combined, these simple data points begin to paint a clear picture to help you develop preventive strategies directly targeted to the issues in your community. Armed with this information, you are able to better pinpoint where you can make the greatest impact on the community through the delivery of mitigation strategies and relevant prevention programs.

The actual work of delivering CRR programs has to be institutionalized by the organization and become as common place as apparatus checks, training, eating meals, and daily health-fitness programs. We are consistent in “Taking Opportunities” to deliver programs whenever requested, such as when the scout troop drops by for a visit or the elementary school requests a fire prevention program. We should strive to be proactive in our efforts by “Making Opportunities” to deliver our CRR messages and programs as well.

Becoming involved with partnership building will allow you to be aware of events occurring across your community which brings together a broad range of the citizen base. It is part of the foundation we must develop to have a positive impact across our community to deliver our CRR messages. These types of events give you the opportunity to interact with your community on a Good Day, while delivering CRR programs at the same time. By utilizing your community data, combined with NFIRS and EMS responses, you will be able to easily target areas in your community which could be considered high risk in respect to smoke alarm needs, age groups involved in kitchen fires, and where fall injuries are most prevalent. This gives you the opportunity to target these same areas to plan and implement CRR programs and events, inclusive of the target community.

A simple strategy is to develop the methods to meet your customers on a “Good Day” which is actually easy to accomplish when CRR activities become engrained into your daily activities. A visit to the school for a quick tour, a conversation with someone at the grocery store, a site-visit on a construction project, a tour of an assisted living facility, or doing PT with the “Beach-Walkers” are simple ways to connect with the community, share a safety message, and raise the profile of the department without responding to an emergency.

Unfortunately, in today’s busy world, typical citizens do not visit our stations requesting a CRR program. Much of what is described here has to start in the Right Front Seat, as the Company Officer must step up and make CRR programs a priority in their daily planning. At the end of the day, delivering a CRR program is “Hands Down Easier” than an NFIRS report or the paperwork involved in an on-the-job injury. You never know if the 10-minute conversation with a family about cooking safety will prevent the next kitchen fire.

Division Chief Mark R. Nugent is the Fire Marshal for Midway Fire Rescue (SC), managing the department’s Division of Fire and Life Safety. Prior to joining Midway Fire Rescue, Chief Nugent’s 40-year career includes 35 years with Chesterfield, VA, Fire and EMS; four years with Middlesex County, VA, Emergency Services; and one year with Horry County (SC) Fire Rescue. Chief Nugent is a South Carolina Certified Fire Marshal, and holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. Chief Nugent has lectured on the State and National level, and is co-author of the text, “The Community Fire Safety Guide”. Contact info: chiefnugent@gmail.com Twitter @chiefnugent

Bed Bugs

Battalion Chief Jeff Pifer, Midway Fire Rescue

Bed bugs are small, brownish, flattened insects that feed solely on the blood of animals. Although the common bed bug prefers feeding on humans, it will also bite other warm-blooded animals including dogs, cats, birds, and rodents. It has done so since ancient times; bed bugs are mentioned in medieval European texts and classical Greek writings back to the time of Aristotle.

Though we don't commonly come across bed bugs, we have had some calls where bed bugs were encountered. Midway Fire Rescue just recently placed in service a policy on best practices to deal with bed bugs. And with about \$100.00 worth of supplies, we are prepared to protect ourselves, our equipment, our apparatus, our stations, and ultimately our families from bed bugs.

A few key points:

- Minimize exposure: Only the personnel needed should enter a residence with confirmed bed bugs. Better yet, if possible, have the patient come outside to the medic unit.
- Minimize exposure: If you must enter the residence with bed bugs, don protective boot covers. Place a barrier between the floor and your equipment bags with plastic sheeting.
- Minimize exposure: Do not transport any patient clothes or personal linens. Place the patient in a hospital gown, and cover with a clean sheet from the ambulance.
- Minimize exposure: If possible, do your assessments in the ambulance. Notify the hospital early so they can be prepared to minimize their exposure to bed bugs.



Decontamination after the call is very important. Using 91% isopropyl alcohol to clean bed bug contaminated equipment is recommended. Along with general inspections and decontamination with isopropyl alcohol, a shop vacuum can be used to vacuum up bed bugs. Dispose of all cleaning towels and shop vac filters in a sealed garbage bag, and dispose in an outside dumpster.

Personal clothing should be removed in the bay, and placed in the dryer for 10-20 minutes at a temperature of at least 135 degrees which will kill bed bugs on your clothing. Then wash and dry clothes as normal.

This does not cover all the procedures, but covers the high points on minimizing exposures.

How does your future look?

Battalion Chief Jerry Liberatore, Midway Fire Rescue

Are you saving for the future? What does your financial outlook look like today, and what do you think it will look like in 20 or more years? Will you have enough for retirement? What about your children; will you have enough for college?

Soaring education costs could end up rupturing your nest egg—and bring your child to the brink of bankruptcy before he even gets his first job. Even the top one percent may get a panic attack from the latest projected tuition rates. Campus Consultants Founder and President Kal Chany figured out what college will likely cost by 2030 based on inflation rates. He wrote the book “Paying for College Without Going Broke.” The findings? In 18 years, the average sticker price for a private university could be as much as \$130,428 a year (see chart below). The situation isn't much better if you go the public route. Sending your child to a state university could set you back at least \$41,228 a year.

Projected Tuition Costs Fall 2029- Spring 2030*

School type	5% increases	6 % increases	7 % increases
4-year public (out of state)	\$71,373	\$84,651	\$100,239
4-year private (non-profit)	\$92,869	\$110,146	\$130,428
4-year public in-state	\$41,228	\$48,898	\$57,609

Source: Campus Consultants Inc. * Includes room and board.

These projected costs are for a date only 10 years from now. If you just had a kid or plan to have one in the next 5-10 years, that cost could be \$15,000 for a public school with up to a \$70,000.00 per year increase by then.

So it is never too early to start looking at your investments. Do not rely on your state retirement to get you through. Do you have a 1% retirement? That is a start, but you should look at supplemental 401K's and IRA's. Does your child have a college account set up? Do you put enough of your check into them? Some people will put a certain percentage of their check and, if they get a raise, they will incorporate that into future deposits. Do you have life insurance? That can be another whole separate conversation as they say you should have 10 times your salary in Life Insurance.

Now that I got you thinking, I need to say I am no financial planner, so you should meet with one and tell them what you have done and where you want to be in 10 years, 20 years, and beyond. Do it early, and do not put it off. Every day you wait is money lost in interest or financial gains. Do not be that person that says “I'm not sure I'll ever be able to retire.”

Emergency Services Birthdays

Georgetown County Fire/EMS

July		August		September	
Joseph Holmes	7/4	Jim Thomas	8/1	Keith Ziegenhorn	9/2
Tamara Yoder	7/4	Jennifer Brown	8/4	Eric Hemeon	9/3
Bryan Sherman	7/10	Jessica Cortez	8/5	Lee Reed	9/5
Lee Tracy	7/11	Mack Nesmith	8/17	Bill Collins	9/8
Ryan Allen	7/16	Bill Porter	8/18	Diane Wright	9/10
Ashley Baker	7/18	Zalaka Johnson	8/19	George Avant	9/13
Josh Brunet	7/19	Edsel Moore	8/20	Annie Stewart	9/13
Mark Mercer	7/20	Lakeisha Beckman	8/26	Remella Anderson	9/14
Jennifer Dehart	7/22	Jeff Ricks	8/28	John Guiles	9/16
William Brown	7/24	Daquan Brown	8/29	Tony Hucks	9/16
Richard Price	7/26			Leonard Thompson	9/17
Lucretia Holmes	7/29			Melissa White	9/19
				Ron Smith	9/20
				Melvin Holt	9/23
				Steve Richards	9/27

Midway Fire Rescue

July		August		September	
Willian Dougan	7/1	Donald Fishburn	8/1	Joseph Anderson	9/2
Kegan Rakosky	7/5	Mark Nugent	8/5	Justin Wackerly	9/2
Alan Holmes	7/11	Eve Eggiman	8/17	Rev. Will Keith	9/4
Steven Brubaker	7/16	Steven Morales	8/17	Kevin McLaughlin	9/6
David Kozak	7/20	Niki Crippen	8/18	Austin Burns	9/12
Adham Dumont	7/23	Henry Hulit	8/19	Jeffrey Lattig	9/15
Frank Steitz	7/23	John Stewart	8/21	Brianna Knox	9/25
James Gilmore	7/27	James Duley	8/22		

Georgetown County Emergency Services

Emergency Services Administration

Address
2222-C Highmarket Street,
Georgetown, S.C. 29440

Phone
(843) 545-3213

Email
thowle@gtcounty.org

Point of Contact
Tracey Howle

Emergency Management

Address
2222-C Highmarket Street,
Georgetown, S.C. 29440

Phone
(843) 545-3273

Email
emergencymanagement@gtcounty.org

Point of Contact
Sam Hodge, Manager

Midway Fire Rescue

Address
67 St. Paul's Place
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Phone
(843) 545-3620

Email
jwelch@gtcounty.org

Point of Contact
Doug Eggiman, Fire Chief

Georgetown County Fire/EMS

Address
3605 Highmarket Street,
Georgetown S.C. 29440

Phone
(843) 545-3271

Email
ahucks@gtcounty.org

Point of Contact
Mack Reed, Jr., Fire Chief



Emergency Services Employee of the Quarter Battalion Chief David Geney, Georgetown County Fire/EMS

Lt. Lesley Eastham was selected as the Emergency Services Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter 2019.

As a Lieutenant on B shift at Georgetown County Fire/EMS, she oversees four stations. She is also the Infection Control Officer for the department.

Lt. Eastham assists the Training Division with medical training of all personnel for Georgetown County Fire/EMS. She also conducts training for several businesses, churches, daycares, and is a supporter of *David's Blankets for Hope* on her days off.

Lt. Eastham always goes above and beyond her normal job duties with a pleasant attitude. She is an advocate for pediatric care and stroke care in EMS, and consistently attends numerous training opportunities for both of these treatment areas. Lesley holds numerous medical course instructor certifications.

She is a true asset to our department and the community. She is very deserving of recognition for her work ethics and motivation to help train others.

Please join us in congratulating Lt. Eastham for this honor!