

TOWN OF ST. JAMES

TOWN COUNCIL

Jean Toner, Mayor
(412) 551-7718
jtoner@stjames.town

David DeLong, Mayor Pro Tem
(910) 777-3867
ddeLONG@stjames.town

Jim Board, Councilor
(717) 659-1743
jboard@stjames.town

Lynn Dutney, Councilor
(248) 842-5555
ldutney@stjames.town

David Morgan, Councilor
(570) 881-7054
dmorgan@stjames.town

TOWN STAFF

Jeff Repp, Town Manager: jrepp@stjames.town

Laura Williams, Clerk / Asst. Zoning Administrator: lwilliams@stjames.town

Pauline Haran, Finance Director: pharan@stjames.town

Steve Brennan, Community Center Manager: sbrennan@stjames.town

TOWN HALL: 4140A Southport-Supply Road, St. James, NC 28461 / Phone: (910) 253-4730

COMMUNITY CENTER: 4136 Southport-Supply Road, St. James, NC 28461 / Phone: (910) 253-3012

Website: www.townofstjamesnc.org **Email:** tosj@stjames.town



Town of St. James, North Carolina Emergency Management Team Members

Jeff Repp - Director

Mary Nash - Deputy Director

Joe Castagnola - Assistant to the Deputy Director

Agnes Orr - Medical and Health & Safety Officer

Walt Lynch - Operations Section Chief & EOC Manager

Noel Nadol - Finance and Administration Section Chief

Diana Kelly - Logistics

Tom Connors - Administration

Karl Goodwin - Planning Section Chief

Mike Yunker - Tactical Plans

Kenneth Kent - Risk Assessment

Walt Walling - IT

Bill Cesereo - Damage Assessment

David Lippincott - Radio Communications



**Town of St. James, North Carolina
2023 Annual Severe Storm Seminar
May 23, 2023
1:00-2:30 PM**

AGENDA

TOSJ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Mayor Jean Toner, TOSJ
- Mary Nash, Deputy Director TOSJ Emergency Management

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

- Sheriff Brian Chism
- David McIntire: Deputy Director Brunswick County Emergency Services

ST. JAMES FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Scott Boyer

ST. JAMES PLANTATION POA

- President Bill Lendh

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE- WILMINGTON, NC

- Steve Pfaff, Warning Coordinator Meteorologist

WECT FIRST ALERT CHIEF METEOROLOGIST

- Gannon Medwick

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TOSJ INFORMATION FAIR 2:30 PM-4:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED BY TROON



Town of St. James Emergency Management

2023 Severe Storm Seminar Exhibitors

- American Red Cross
- Brunswick County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
- Brunswick County Animal Services
- Brunswick County Emergency Services
- Brunswick County Sheriff Impact Program
- Carolina Roof Wrap
- Coastal Shutters
- Coastline Insurance
- Don Bullard Insurance
- NWS Warning Coordinator Meteorologist Steve Pfaff
- St. James Fire Department
- St. James Firewise Committee
- State Farm Insurance
- WECT Chief Meteorologist Gannon Medwick



Evacuation and COVID-19

Covid-19 will bring additional considerations to evacuations during any emergency event. It is extremely important to have a plan in place, especially for those who have access or functional needs (AFN).

It is strongly recommended that any resident who may have AFN's review the document in this folder and take the time to register now.



TOSJ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EVACUATION RECOMMENDATIONS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 Pandemic has created additional challenges that must be considered if evacuation from the Town of St. James becomes necessary. It is extremely important for you to focus, in advance, on the events that might trigger an evacuation, as each event may present its own issues as to how and when you evacuate. For example, in the case of a hurricane, the forecasted track and IMPACTS of a storm to our area would clearly affect your decision to evacuate. **It is each individuals responsibility to prepare for their own personal safety. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the information included in this informational packet. Planning ahead is key.**

If you decide to evacuate:

Where will you go?

What route or routes will you take to evacuate and return? Have paper maps at hand in the event your route becomes impassable.

If you plan to stay in a hotel or motel, you should call ahead to insure they have rooms available. Some may have occupancy restrictions due to the Pandemic. If you have pets, insure they are allowed.

Take face coverings as they are necessary for your safety and may be required at your destination.

If you plan to stay with family or friends, social distancing is strongly recommended upon arrival and during your stay.

Share your plan with a neighbor and your family.

Evacuation to a shelter should not be a primary choice.

BE PREPARED FOR A FLOOD

Failing to evacuate flooded areas, entering flood waters, or remaining after a flood has passed can result in injury or death.



FEMA

FEMA V-1005/September 2017

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. It is the most common natural disaster in the U.S.



Results from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surge, and overflows of dams and other water systems



Develops slowly or quickly. Flash floods can come with no warning



Causes outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings, create landslides

IF YOU ARE UNDER A FLOOD WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.



Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.

Determine your best protection based on the type of flooding.



Evacuate if told to do so.



Move to higher ground or a higher floor.



Stay where you are.

HOW TO STAY SAFE

WHEN A FLOOD THREATENS

Prepare NOW

Know your area's type of flood risk. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at <https://msc.fema.gov/> portal for information.

Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

If flash flooding is a risk in your location, monitor potential signs such as heavy rain.

Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.

Gather supplies in case you have to leave immediately or if services are cut off. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets. Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.

Obtain flood insurance. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.

Protect your property. Move valued items to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

Survive DURING

Depending on where you are, and the impact and the warning time of flooding, go to the safe location that you have identified.

If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.

Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around. Don't Drown.® Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.

If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.

If trapped in a building, go to its highest level. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising floodwater. Go on the roof only if necessary. Signal for help.

Be Safe AFTER

Listen to authorities for information and instructions.

Avoid driving, except in emergencies.

Be aware that snakes and other animals may be in your house. Wear heavy gloves and boots during clean up.

Avoid wading in floodwater, which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery **ONLY** outdoors and away from windows.

Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) and search for **flood**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **flood**. Find Emergency Safety Tips under Prepare.



FEMA

FEMA V-1005
Catalog No. 17233-6

BE PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE

Extended power outages may impact the whole community and the economy.



FEMA

FEMA V-1008/May 2018

A power outage is when the electrical power goes out unexpectedly.



May disrupt communications, water, transportation



May close retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks, and other services



Can cause food spoilage, water contamination



Can prevent use of medical devices

PROTECT YOURSELF DURING A POWER OUTAGE

Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.



Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.

Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.



Use alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or power-dependent medical devices.

Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.



If safe, go to an alternate location for heat or cooling.



Check on neighbors.

HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A POWER OUTAGE THREATENS



Take an inventory now of the items you need that rely on electricity.

Talk to your medical provider about a power outage plan for medical devices powered by electricity and refrigerated medicines. Find out how long medication can be stored at higher temperatures and get specific guidance for any medications that are critical for life.

Plan for batteries and other alternatives to meet your needs when the power goes out.

Sign up for local alerts and warning systems. Monitor weather reports.

Install carbon monoxide detectors with battery backup in central locations on every level of your home.

Determine whether your home phone will work in a power outage and how long battery backup will last.

Review the supplies that are available in case of no power. Have flashlights with extra batteries for every household member. Have enough nonperishable food and water.

Use a thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer so that you can know the temperature when the power is restored.

Keep mobile phones and other electric equipment charged and gas tanks full.



Keep freezers and refrigerators closed. The refrigerator will keep food cold for **about four hours**. A full freezer will keep the temperature for **about 48 hours**. Use coolers with ice if necessary. Monitor temperatures with a thermometer.

Use food supplies that do not require refrigeration.

Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Generators, camp stoves, or charcoal grills should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home.

Check on your neighbors. Older adults and young children are especially vulnerable to extreme temperatures.

Go to a community location with power if heat or cold is extreme.

Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment, or electronics. Power may return with momentary “surges” or “spikes” that can cause damage.



When in doubt, throw it out! Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color, or texture.

If the power is out for more than a day, discard any medication that should be refrigerated, unless the drug’s label says otherwise. If a life depends on the refrigerated drugs, consult a doctor or pharmacist and use medicine only until a new supply is available.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **Ready.gov** and search for **power outage**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **power outage**.



BE PREPARED FOR EXTREME HEAT

Extreme heat often results
in the highest annual
number of deaths among all
weather-related disasters.



FEMA

FEMA V-1004/June 2018

In most of the U.S., extreme heat is a long period (2 to 3 days) of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees.



Greater risk



Can happen anywhere



Humidity increases the feeling of heat as measured by a heat index

IF YOU ARE UNDER AN EXTREME HEAT WARNING

Find air conditioning, if possible.



Check on family members and neighbors.

Avoid strenuous activities.



Drink plenty of fluids.

Watch for heat illness.



Watch for heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Wear light clothing.



Never leave people or pets in a closed car.

HOW TO STAY SAFE

WHEN EXTREME HEAT THREATENS



Find places in your community where you can go to get cool.

Try to keep your home cool:

- Cover windows with drapes or shades.
- Weather-strip doors and windows.
- Use window reflectors such as aluminum foil-covered cardboard to reflect heat back outside.
- Add insulation to keep the heat out.
- Use a powered attic ventilator, or attic fan, to regulate the heat level of a building's attic by clearing hot air.
- Install window air conditioners and insulate around them.

Learn to recognize the signs of heat illness. For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/warning.html.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **Ready.gov** and search for **extreme heat**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for **extreme heat**.



Never leave a child, adult, or animal alone inside a vehicle on a warm day.

Find places with air conditioning.

Libraries, shopping malls, and community centers can provide a cool place to take a break from the heat.

If you're outside, find shade. Wear a hat wide enough to protect your face.

Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.

Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated. If you or someone you care for is on a special diet, ask a doctor what would be best.

Do not use electric fans when the temperature outside is more than 95 degrees. You could increase the risk of heat-related illness. Fans create air flow and a false sense of comfort, but do not reduce body temperature.

Avoid high-energy activities.

Check yourself, family members, and neighbors for signs of heat-related illness.



Know the signs and ways to treat heat-related illness.

Heat Cramps

- **Signs:** Muscle pains or spasms in the stomach, arms, or legs.
- **Actions:** Go to a cooler location. Remove excess clothing. Take sips of cool sports drinks with salt and sugar. Get medical help if cramps last more than an hour.

Heat Exhaustion

- **Signs:** Heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, and fainting.
- **Actions:** Go to an air-conditioned place and lie down. Loosen or remove clothing. Take a cool bath. Take sips of cool sports drinks with salt and sugar. Get medical help if symptoms get worse or last more than an hour.

Heat Stroke

- **Signs:** Extremely high body temperature (above 103 degrees) indicated by an oral thermometer; red, hot, and dry skin with no sweat; rapid, strong pulse; dizziness; confusion; and unconsciousness.
- **Actions:** Call 9-1-1 or get the person to a hospital immediately. Cool down with whatever methods are available until medical help arrives.



**TOWN OF ST. JAMES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT &
THE ST. JAMES FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**SUGGESTED DO'S AND DON'TS
BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER AN EVENT**

BEFORE

DO:

- Use common sense.
- Sign up for Brunswick County Code Red: www.brunswickcountync.gov/emergency/ems for County Wide alerts.
- Sign up on the Special Needs registry with Brunswick County if necessary: www.brunswickcountync.gov, or call 910-253-5383 to register by phone.
- Insure your POA profile is up to date for TOSJ specific alerts.
- Have an emergency plan. Share it with your family and friends either verbally or by email.
- Plan for your pets. Check pet friendly hotel availability. Bring their current immunization papers, food, and any meds they may be on.
- Pack a go bag - details on what to include are listed in the Disaster Preparedness Guide. Add hand sanitizer and masks to your go bag. Put it in your car. Back your car into the garage.
- Pack important papers - insurance documents, passport, etc. Additional guidelines may be found in the Disaster Preparedness Guide.
- Keep your vehicle fuel level topped off. Use caution if storing spare cans of gas.
- Prepare to be self-sufficient for a minimum of 5 -7 days. This includes; food, water, and medicines for you and your pets, oxygen if necessary etc. Additional guidelines may be found in the Disaster Preparedness Guide.
- Follow Emergency Personnel directions.
- Store drinking water in disinfected bathtubs, jugs, bottles and cooking pots.
- Save large plastic bottles, fill them with water and freeze them. Leave room for expansion.
- Turn refrigerator to its coldest setting.
- Keep cell phones fully charged. Consider purchasing an external charger. If you don't have one, purchase a car charger.
- Have cash/coins on hand in the event of power outage- ATMs may not function
- Keep flashlights and extra batteries for all equipment on hand.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand- know where they are and how to use them.
- Turn off your sprinkler system. If you don't know how, contact your irrigation system provider or landscaper.
- Test your generator- if you have one. Educate yourselves on "back-feeding".
- Secure any yard ornaments, deck, and porch furniture that could become damage-inflicting missiles.
- Check storm drains in and around your area. If you see issues, report to POA.

- Educate yourself on how to secure French doors that may blow open.
- In the event you evacuate, turn off propane and water at the main. If you don't know how, contact your propane provider/water company for instruction.
- Remember the adages - Turn around. Don't drown. Hide from wind. Run from water
- Check in with your neighbors.

DON'T

- Wait till the last minute to evacuate. The surrounding evacuation routes flood early.

DURING

DO:

- Use common sense.
- Monitor local media. Remember, Social Media is not necessarily the best source of information.
- Stay inside away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.

DON'T:

- Use your generator inside the house or garage.
- Use flaming candles. They are a fire hazard.
- Move barricades on roads that are blocked.
- "Sightsee" during and immediately after a storm. Stay home.
- Grill in your garage.
- Run your car in the garage in the event you need to charge your cell phone.

AFTER

DO:

- Use Common Sense.
- Continue to monitor local media for updates.
- Stay away from disaster areas.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Report them to power company.
- Avoid walking through standing water. Standing water could contain hazardous debris, snakes, and pollutants that could cause infections.

DON'T:

- Attempt to remove heavy debris from your property after the storm.
- Drink or prepare food with tap water if there has been a water main break.
- Sightsee. Keep roadways clear for emergency personnel.
- Drive with excessive speed through the community that could cause wakes that can push water into residents' yards and garages.
- Attempt to return to St. James after an evacuation until verifiable information on state/local road closures/openings is available.



NOAA Extreme Weather INFORMATION SHEET



STATE INFORMATION

To download the latest updated version of this sheet: www.ngdc.noaa.gov/news/

Official State Website	www.nc.gov
North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (www.ncdps.gov/ncem).....	919-825-2500
ReadyNC.org.....	www.readync.org
North Carolina Department of Transportation (www.ncdot.gov).....	1-877-DOT-4YOU
North Carolina Department of Public Safety (www.ncdps.gov).....	919-733-2126
North Carolina Traveler Information	www.drivenc.gov
North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services (www.ncdhhs.gov).....	1-800-662-7030
North Carolina Department of Labor (www.labor.nc.gov).....	1-800-NCLABOR
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (www.ncagr.gov).....	919-707-3000
North Carolina Department of Commerce (www.nccommerce.com).....	919-814-4600
North Carolina Governor's Office (https://governor.nc.gov).....	919-814-2000
North Carolina Department of Justice (www.ncdoj.gov).....	919-716-6400
North Carolina Department of Insurance (www.ncdoi.gov).....	855-408-1212
North Carolina Department of Environment Quality (https://deq.nc.gov).....	1-877-623-6748
National Weather Service Forecast Office (Wilmington, NC) (www.weather.gov/ilm).....	910-762-4289
National Weather Service (Raleigh, NC) (www.weather.gov/rah).....	919-326-1042
National Weather Service (Newport/Morehead City, NC) (www.weather.gov/mhx).....	252-223-5737
National Weather Southern Region.....	www.weather.gov/srb
U.S. Coast Guard District 5.....	www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-5
Dominion (www.dominionenergy.com).....	1-866-DOM-HELP (366-4357)
Duke Energy-Progress (www.duke-energy.com).....	1-800-419-6356
Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (www.bemc.org).....	Outage 1-800-682-5309
Four County Electric Membership Corporation (www.fourcty.org).....	1-888-368-7289
Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (www.lumbeeriver.com).....	1-800-683-5571 or 910-843-4131
South River Electric Membership Corporation (www.sremc.com).....	1-888-338-5530 or 910-892-8071

FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911

FOR NON-EMERGENCIES CALL 211

COUNTY INFORMATION

BLADEN

Emergency Management..... 910-862-6761
www.bladennc.govoffice3.com
 Sheriff..... 910-862-6960
www.bladenncsheriff.com

BRUNSWICK

Emergency Management..... 910-253-5383
www.brunswickcountync.gov/emergency/management
 Sheriff..... 910-253-2777
www.brunswicksheriff.com

COLUMBUS

Emergency Management..... 910-640-6610
<http://columbusco.org/Departments/Emergency-Services>
 Sheriff..... 910-642-6551
<https://columbussheriff.com>

HOKE

Emergency Management..... 910-875-4126
<http://hokecounty.net/475/Emergency-Management>
 Sheriff..... 910-875-5111
<http://hokecountysheriff.org>

NEW HANOVER

Emergency Management..... 910-798-6900
<https://em911.nhcgov.com>
 Sheriff..... 910-798-4200
www.newhanoversheriff.com

ROBESON

Emergency Management..... 910-671-3150
www.co.robesson.nc.us/robesson-emergency-services
 Sheriff..... 910-671-3100
<http://robessoncoso.org>

NORTH CAROLINA
southeast

NATIONAL INFORMATION

American Red Cross.....	1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)	www.redcross.org
Centers for Disease Control.....		www.cdc.gov
Environmental Protection Agency.....		www.epa.gov
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).....	1-800-621-FEMA (3362)	www.fema.gov
Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias (FEMA).....		www.fema.gov/es
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).....		www.noaa.gov
National Weather Service.....		www.weather.gov
National Data Buoy Center.....		www.ndbc.noaa.gov
National Hurricane Center.....		www.nhc.noaa.gov
National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).....		www.ncei.noaa.gov
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS).....		www.nhc.noaa.gov/satellite.shtml
US Department of Homeland Security.....		www.dhs.gov



DOWNLOAD THE FREE NEWSIS APP

Compatible with iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad! Search 'NEWSIS' in the App Store to download on your Apple device.

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MOBILE DATA

Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook RSS/XML feed

www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo.xml

Website for Tablets and Smartphones..... www.nhc.noaa.gov/mobile

RADIO STATIONS

105.7 FM WRSF (Columbia)	98.7 FM WRMR (Jacksonville)
102.5 FM WERX (Columbia)	95.1 FM WRNS (New Bern)
98.1 FM WQSM (Fayetteville)	93.3 FM WERO (Washington)
95.7 FM WKML (Fayetteville)	97.3 FM WMNX (Wilmington)

NOAA WEATHER RADIO

Not manufactured by NOAA, NWR receivers can be purchased at many retail outlets and on the internet.

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) All Hazards is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from a nearby National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day.

162.400	162.425	162.450	162.475	162.500	162.525	162.550
MHz	MHz	MHz	MHz	MHz	MHz	MHz



North Carolina 511 Information Line

Motorists traveling through North Carolina can call 511 during the day for the latest road conditions and other important information, including:

- Crashes, weather-related closures and road construction
- Transfers to neighboring states' 511 systems

When calling 511 – or (877) 511-4662 from outside North Carolina – callers will hear urgent messages regarding closures for major interstates.

On weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 7:45 p.m., weekends from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and state holidays from 9:15 a.m. until 4:45 p.m., callers speak directly with an operator who can answer traffic and travel-related questions.

Overnight and during emergencies, travelers should go to DriveNC.gov for the latest travel information.

For more information, visit the NCDOT 511 website at www.ncdot.gov/travel-maps/traffic-travel/511-information/

PREPARED BY

The Center for Coasts, Oceans & Geophysics of NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information under NESDIS

1-866-732-2382 or email: NCEI.Info@noaa.gov

To download the latest pdf version of this sheet go to: www.ngdc.noaa.gov/newis/

St. James Plantation: Your "Firewise Community"



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Wildfires are a fact of life in North Carolina, resulting in millions of dollars in property damage and adverse impacts to humans and wildlife every year. Surprisingly, despite being surrounded by water - the Atlantic Ocean, Cape Fear River, Intracoastal Waterway, marshes, ponds, and creeks - our area of coastal NC is prone to an elevated risk of wildfire.

What causes our regional wildfire risk? Natural resins in our pine, palmetto, wax myrtle, yaupon, switchgrass, and other native species that can burn at astonishing rates. Fanned by 20 mph winds, a hardwood forest can burn at 75 acres per hour versus a pine forest that can burn at 340 acres per hour. Coastal vegetation can burn at **3000 acres per hour!** Combine this with the rapid population growth of Brunswick County, and the result is many more people at risk of wildfire impacts.

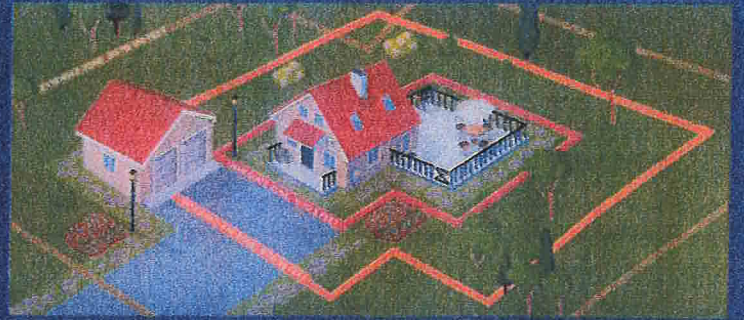
We can't stop wildfires, BUT we can protect our property to reduce wildfire impacts. **Firewise USA™** is a program developed by the National Fire Protection Association with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and National Association of State Foresters with the mission "**Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks**". St. James became a Firewise Community in 2003. Our Town Firewise Committee oversees our community-wide mitigation efforts and educational outreach.

The Firewise program offers practical steps residents can take to reduce their risks. Firewise identifies three zones around your house: the "**Immediate zone**" 0-5 feet; the "**Intermediate zone**" 5-30 feet; and the "**Extended zone**" 30-100 feet. Examples of residential risk mitigation include:

- Managing vegetation, including trees, shrubs, plants, and mulch. Trimming branches near your house, thinning trees so fire can't jump from tree to tree, removing /replacing flammable species, choosing less flammable mulch in the Immediate Zone
- Replacing pine straw in the Immediate Zone with bark mulch or stone. In a recent local fire involving homes on a cul-de-sac, those surrounded by pine straw were a TOTAL LOSS, while those with bark mulch fared much better.
- Keeping your roof, porches, decks and yard free of pine needles and other flammable materials can guard against fire from flying embers. Keep firepits, BBQs, and other ignition sources away from flammable materials.
- Emergency planning such as clearly marking your house number, ensuring your driveway is accessible to emergency vehicles, and having an evacuation plan for people and pets, and scanning your homeowner's insurance and e-mail it to yourself.

Additional resources can be found on the Firewise USA™ web site www.firewise.org and Firewise literature is also available at our booth, at the St. James Town Hall, and on-line at www.townofstjamesnc.org under "Committees", then under "Firewise". We invite you to explore these resources and to take action to make your property "Firewise!"

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES



WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: 0 to 5 feet around the house; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30 feet; and the **Extended Zone**: 30 to 100 feet.

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and ensure mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house) are non-combustible options like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

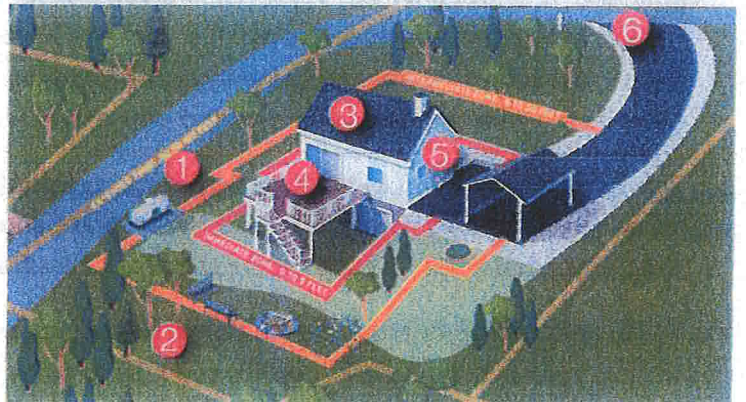
6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet, for emergency vehicle access.

BE PREPARED

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay - don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Store firewood away from the home
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Create small fuel breaks with hardscaping features

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK WHERE YOU LIVE.



FIREWISE USA™
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

Firewise® is a program of the National Fire Protection Association. This publication was produced in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, US Department of the Interior and the National Association of State Foresters. NFPA is an equal opportunity provider. Firewise® and Firewise USA® are registered trademarks of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA 02169.

Order a Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone checklist/poster at Firewise.org

Important Contacts

- BC Sheriff's Office
910-253-2777 (non-emergency)
- BC Social Services (DSS)
910-253-2077
- BC Public Utilities (water/sewer)
910-253-2655
- Brunswick Senior Resources
910-754-2300
- Brunswick Transit System
910-253-7800
- Brunswick Family Assistance
910-754-4766
- Brunswick Electric
910-754-4391
- Duke Energy
800-452-2777

Plan. Prepare. Stay Informed.
ReadyNC.org



**Brunswick County
Emergency Services
PO Box 249
3325 Old Ocean Hwy
Bolivia, NC 28422**

County Government Complex
Building C

**910-253-5383
800-522-2366
Fax 910-253-4451**

Kelley Currie

**Access & Functional Needs
Coordinator**

kelley.currie@brunswickcountync.gov
Ext. 2850

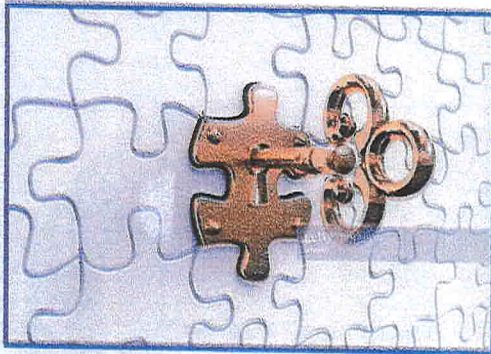
Sign up for the
Access & Functional Needs Call
Registry online at

brunswickcountync.gov/emergency



**Access &
Functional
Needs
Program
and Call
Registry**

**Emergency Services
Tel: 910-253-5383**



Access & Functional Needs Program Goals

- 1) To identify Brunswick County Residents who have access and/or functional needs (AFN) and include them in the AFN Registry.
- 2) Assist residents in the AFN Registry with personal emergency preparedness plans.
- 3) To coordinate evacuation transportation for those in the AFN Registry who are in need of transportation to evacuation shelters.
- 4) To ensure that Brunswick County's evacuation general population shelters are and remain accessible for those with AFN when shelters are activated.

What are Access & Functional Needs (AFN)?

Residents with AFN are those who may have additional needs before, during & after an emergency event in areas of maintaining independence, communication, transportation, safety, support & healthcare.

The AFN Registry

A database of Brunswick County Residents who have access and/or functional needs. Formally the Special Needs Registry, the AFN Registry is the main component of the program. Staff assists residents in creating personal emergency plans. This also helps us plan for how many residents need transportation to shelters and needs within shelters, when activated.

AFN and Emergency Events

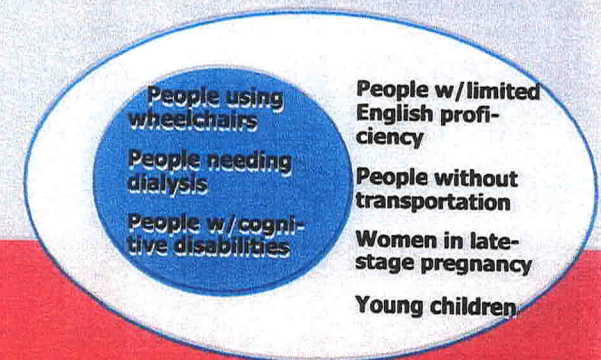
When an emergency event, such as a hurricane, has triggered an evacuation for all or any part of our coastal community, AFN staff sets up a call center. The call center attempts to contact every resident in the AFN Registry. Call center staff make sure every resident understands what the evacu-

ation is for and also discusses with each resident, their plan for that particular event (i.e. stay home, go to shelter, leave county, etc.). Anyone who needs transportation to the shelter is provided a date/time for pick-up.

AFN may include but is not limited to people who have disabilities



A few examples of each include:



Register by phone 910-253-5383
register online at:

[http://](http://forms.brunswickcountync.gov/)
forms.brunswickcountync.gov/

NUTS AND BOLTS . . .

TECHNICAL DETAILS

A fiberglass or high-density polyethylene wastewater holding tank has been installed underground on your property and wastewater grinder pumps are housed in the tank. The tank cover is round and is the only part that shows above the ground. All of the wastewater from your home flows into the buried tank. When the tank fills to a pre-set level, the grinder pump automatically turns on, grinds the waste, and forces it out of the tank and into the wastewater system.

The grinder pump normally will run for one or two minutes and will automatically turn off when the tank has been emptied. The pump is programmed to operate in cycles, rather than continuously. Cycles are determined by the amount of water used, usually after 20 gallons has entered the tank. During a usual day, the grinder pump will turn on and off to empty the tank 10 to 20 times.

The grinder pump is powered by electricity and is connected to the electric service lines usually at a panel box near your electric meter on the outside wall of your home. However, some are located on a panel inside the home. Grinder pump electricity charges are estimated to be less than a dollar per month and will be included on your monthly electric bill. The cost of electricity is paid by you, not the County.

IN CASE OF POWER FAILURE

If there is a power failure which affects your home, your grinder pump will also experience a loss of power and not be able to operate. The grinder pump tank has a certain amount of holding capacity, but interior water use should be severely limited until power has been restored.

WHILE ON VACATION

If you will be away from home for more than several days, the following steps should be taken to minimize the potential for the development of stagnating odors:

First, run water from an inside tap long enough for the grinder pump to begin working. After the pump turns on, turn the water off. The grinder pump will run until the tank is empty and will shut off. This process will cleanse the pump and leave it filled with a minimum of clean water. Always leave the electrical power on. This allows the heating element inside the pump to operate which helps eliminate condensation and freezing.

By following these guidelines, you can ensure that your low-pressure system will provide many years of safe, reliable service.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

P.O. Box 249
Bolivia, NC 28422

250 Grey Water Road NE
Supply, NC 28462

Telephone: (910) 253-2657

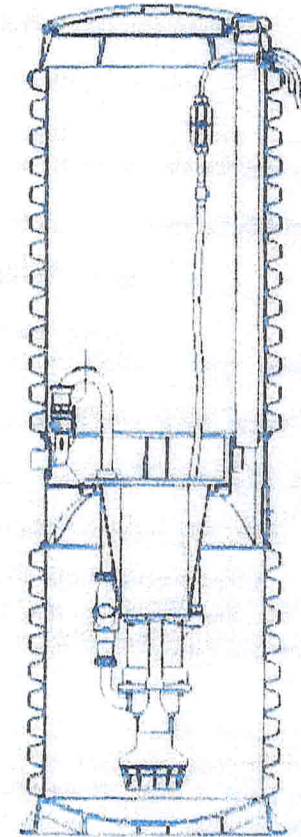
Fax: (910) 253-4305

Web Site: www.brunswickcountync.gov

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Grinder Pump Station Homeowner Information



ABOUT YOUR GRINDER PUMP ...

The low-pressure wastewater system servicing your home is part of the larger Brunswick County wastewater collection system. Every day of the year hundreds of miles of pipe carry wastewater to the reclamation facilities operated by the Department of Public Utilities.

The grinder pump in your yard is an important part of the system. The Department of Public Utilities uses several types of collection systems. Each has been designed to best serve the customer in a particular area. Your home is one served by a low-pressure system, which uses a grinder pump to grind the wastewater from your home (much like the garbage disposal in your kitchen) and push the wastewater through small plastic pipes to the larger line in the street.

Low-pressure wastewater systems are economical solutions for areas of the County that cannot be served by gravity lines. However, a grinder pump system does require that the homeowner take a more active role than required for a property served by gravity sewer.

It is important that you know how your home sewer system operates and that you notify the Department of Public Utilities emergency dispatchers if a problem occurs. Our technicians provide maintenance and service; however, there may be service charges for pump repair and/or replacement.

County-installed grinder pumps are placed in a 15-foot utility easement to provide access for maintenance and service. It is not advisable to plant flowers or shrubs or place such items as fences, decorative pilings, fish ponds, etc. within the easement as damage to the grinder pump, underground electrical or piping systems may occur. The County will not be responsible for any damage to landscaping of items placed within the easement while performing any maintenance function. Also, electrical power and alarm wires are buried under the ground between the control panel and the tank. Before digging in the area, call to have a technician locate the lines.

Many grinder models have a small breather vent located on the side of the tank, just below the cover. It is important to keep this vent open and free of debris, such as mulch or grass, for the unit to remain operational. It is also helpful to have the ground sloped away from the tank so water will not pool and enter the vent rendering the unit inoperable.

With your cooperation, your low-pressure system will provide many years of safe, reliable service. Please take a few moments to read the following information to ensure the proper functioning of your pump.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS

If there is a grinder pump failure, the tank which contains the pump will become too full. An alarm horn and light located in the alarm box on the outside of your home will automatically turn on.

You should...

- Discontinue water use to prevent overflows.
- Turn off the alarm by depressing the alarm light on the front of the alarm box. The alarm horn should silence, but the light will remain on until the grinder pump is repaired.
- Wait 15 minutes before taking further action. A high level of water usage will sometimes cause the alarm to come on. This situation is self-correcting. If the pump is operating correctly, the wet well will automatically be pumped down and the alarm light will turn off.
- If the alarm light is still on after 15 minutes, during normal business hours call the Public Utilities dispatcher at (910) 253-2657. For 24-hour emergency service call (910) 371-3490 or (910) 755-7921. County emergency crews are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will respond promptly.
- Never attempt to open the tank cover of the electrical panel box.

CAUTION: Electrical shock or damage to the system may occur.

PROTECT YOUR PUMP

The grinder pump can handle any wastewater that is normally discharged to the sewer from the kitchen, bathroom, or laundry. Some chemicals and materials may cause operating problems or safety hazards. It is advisable to check labels on chemicals prior to their disposal. Never connect a sump pump to the grinder pump.

CAUTION: Never put any of the following materials into sinks, toilets, or drains—they may clog your system or create an unsafe environment:

- Glass, metal, wood, seafood shells
- Papers, socks, rags, or cloth of any kind
- Plastic objects (toys, eating utensils, etc.)
- Any strong chemical, toxic, caustic, or poisonous substance
- Degreasing solvents
- Any explosive or flammable material
- Gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil, paint thinner, and antifreeze
- Lubricating oil or grease
- Cooking fat (lard, oil, grease)
- Hair clippings