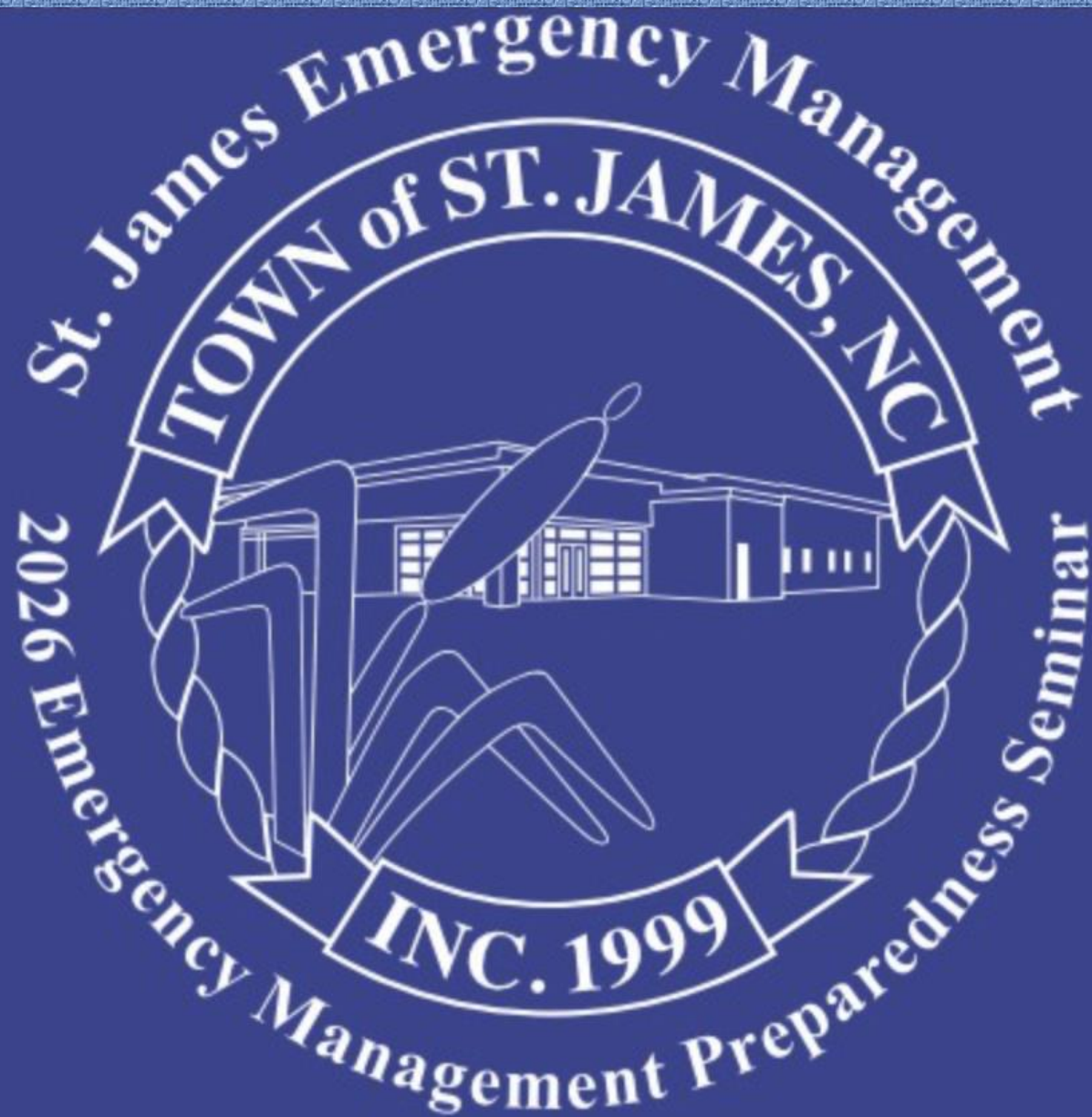
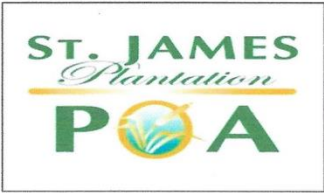




*When the time to perform is present,
the time to prepare is passed.*



Hurricane Emergency Contingency Plan

Based on standards promulgated by the Disaster Management Bureau and the Federal
Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



FEMA

Before During After The Storm

June 9, 2026
Town of St. James
Emergency Preparedness Seminar

WAY WAY BEFORE

St. James Plantation



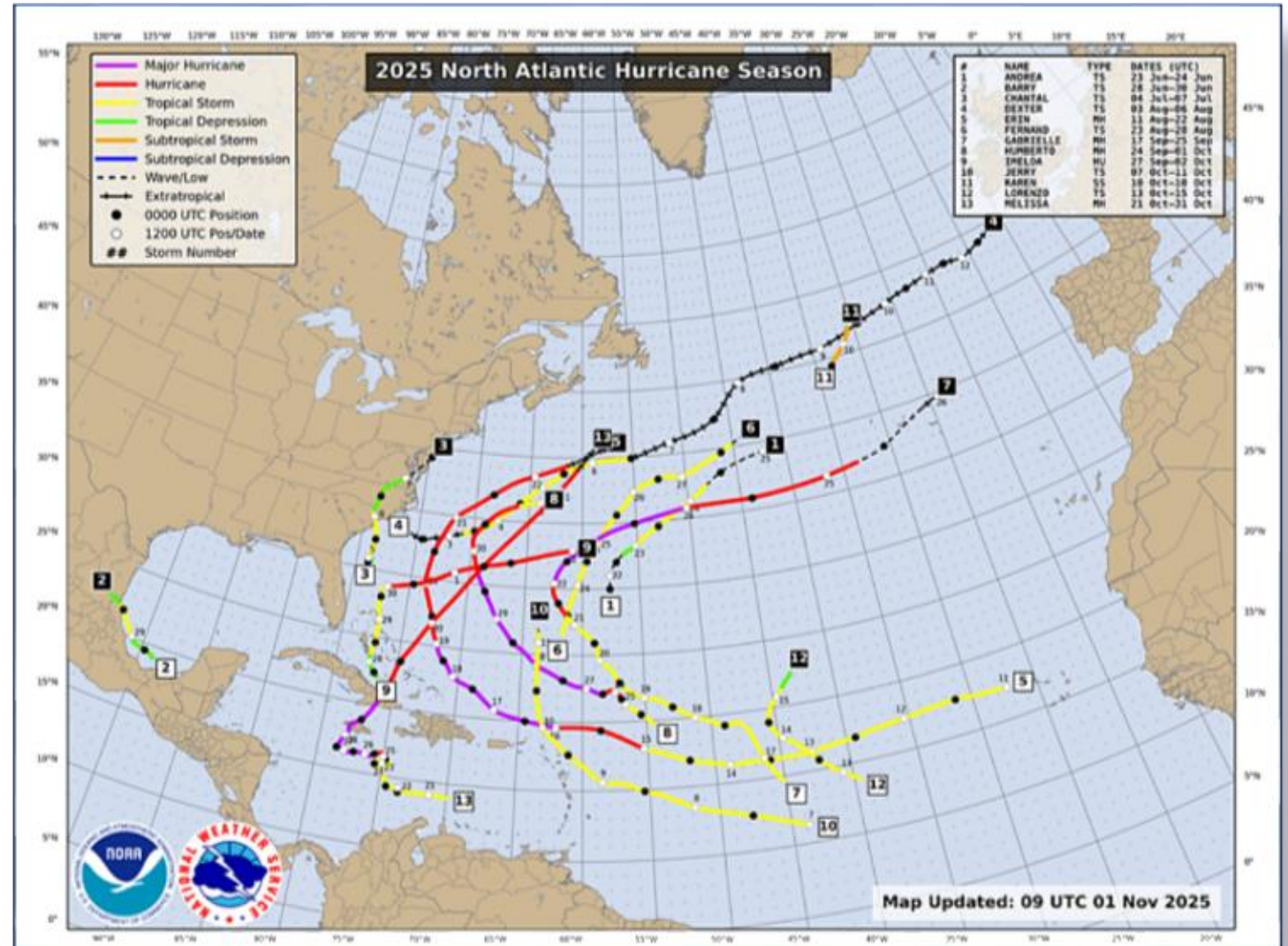
Maintenance

✓ Acres	6,000
✓ Bridges	61
✓ Swales	1,033
✓ Pipes	1,143
✓ Road miles	71
✓ Ponds (256)	156
✓ Parks	2
✓ Beach Club	1
✓ Security Gates	4

WAY BEFORE EACH MAJOR STORM

SJP Precautionary Procedures

- POA
- TOSJ
- SJFD
- Troon



BEFORE The Storm

- **Security Activities**

- ✓ Scheduling – Personnel
- ✓ Patrols – Monitor roads and bridges for flooding, possible closure, aid traffic control, and evacuation
- ✓ Under Mayors Direction – Restrict incoming traffic
- ✓ Gates – Open - if mandatory evacuation

- **Storm Water Infrastructure**

- ✓ Inspect – System is free from debris
- ✓ Pumps – Turn off pond well pumps
- ✓ Ponds – Lower ponds as necessary

- **Direct construction site clean-up**

- **Secure Beach Club, Parks, and POA office**



DURING The Storm

Communicate to EOC vehicle, gate status
Update POA communications

Tropical Storms

- ✓ Provide gate security
- ✓ Monitor road, pond, Creek flooding and blockage

Hurricanes

- ✓ Security and POA staff leave
- ✓ Ponds lowered
- ✓ Gates are locked open
- ✓ Continue status reporting
- ✓ Maintain POA staff contact

- **Determine re-entry criteria for staff and contractor personnel in coordination with EOC**
- **Organize Security routines**
 - ✓ Personnel Scheduling, gate security, patrols
- **Manage the Storm Water System**
 - ✓ Ensure the System is free from debris and is functional
 - ✓ Close the pond gates and re-establish pond well pumps
- **Assess damage to roads, common property, parks, Beach Club and start common property clean-up**
- **Provide common property damage information to EOC**





Welcome TO THE
BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF BRIAN M. CHISM BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA

Resources and how we respond during disasters

Sgt. Willie McRae
I.M.P.A.C.T. / Recruitment Unit



Welcome TO THE
BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF BRIAN M. CHISM
BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA

BCSO App





Welcome TO THE
BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF BRIAN M. CHISM
BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA

What to expect through our app

- Live updates from the National Weather Service
- Road closures and emergency county alerts
- Pictures of pertinent information from our deputies
- Up to date information on shelters emergency evacuation warnings





Welcome TO THE
BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF BRIAN M. CHISM
BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA

Calm before the storm

- Planning starts days or weeks before the natural disaster comes but there is always a plan already in place
- Command staff from the entire county has around the clock communication
- EOC (Emergency Operations Center) is the central location for actions needed
- Every Sheriff's Office personnel is placed on standby or activated during a natural disaster
- If activated, personnel will go to their duty station and/or area they will working and prepare to stay for an extended period of time until released





Welcome TO THE
BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF BRIAN M. CHISM
BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA

How do you know when to call 911?

- If you believe you are having an emergency, do not hesitate and call 911.
- During disasters, our call volume triples.
- Expected natural disasters we call in extra units and attempt to double each shift in each division
- When do we call the Admin line?





Welcome TO THE
BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF BRIAN M. CHISM
BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA

What resources does BCSO provide?

- Helicopter
- Drones
- High water rescue vehicles
- Airboat
- Dive team
- Man tracking team





Welcome TO THE
BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF BRIAN M. CHISM
BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA

How to prepare?

- Board up all windows and doors
- Stay off the roads
- If there is an evacuation advisory, please take it seriously
- We will come for you if we can—but every rescue puts our first responders in harm's way. Help us protect you, by making the safe choice early.





Welcome TO THE
BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF BRIAN M. CHISM
BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA

Project Lifesaver

- Program for individuals with “wandering syndrome”
- Waterproof transmitter to be worn at **ALL** times
- 30 or 60 day battery life
- Costs nothing to caregiver
- Range of two to three miles from the air, and a mile on the ground.

Sheriff's office credits Project Lifesaver with helping find lost man



The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office is crediting a device known as Project Lifesaver with helping to safely locate a missing man on Friday. (Source: BCSO)



By [Clint Bullock](#) | December 7, 2018 at 2:52 PM EST - Updated December 7 at 2:52 PM

BRUNSWICK COUNTY, NC (WECT) - The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office is crediting a device

Tropical Storms, Hurricanes, Tornadoes

What to Do and What Not To Do!

Agenda

- Introduction
- What to do and not to do for:
 - Tropical Storms and Hurricanes
 - Tornados
 - Preparedness
- Questions
- Summary

Purpose

- Brief overview of what to do and what not to do during these events
- Not inclusive
 - Identifies some, but not all, potential actions
- Intent is to get you thinking!
 - Provoke thought
 - Turn thought into actions

Introduction

- Tropical storms and hurricanes have potential to affect our citizens
- Tornados can spurn from these two events
- Understanding and preparedness is critical
- Planning for the worse case allows better outcomes
- Family event versus individual
- Prepare now!

What to Do

- Monitor the weather forecast
 - Television newscasts
 - Battery-powered radio
 - Listen to the guidance (when to evacuate, when to take cover etc)
- Notify relatives
 - Where you will go if evacuated
 - How to contact you
 - Link up points
- Critical documents and belongings

What to Do

- A plan is merely a concept.....until it's rehearsed and validated!
 - Do a dry run
 - Hone and refine your plan from what you learn
 - Brief your trusted agents on your plan

What to Do

- Develop a plan NOW!
 - Brief your family members
 - Include link up if separated
 - Pre-load critical phone numbers
 - Money and meds
- Have a plan B and Plan C
- Pets – what are you going to do with Rover or Kitty?
- Who else should know about your plan

What to Do

- Medical emergencies
 - Be patient
 - Will take time for 1st responders to get to you
 - Have a first aid kit
 - Communicate with dispatch
 - In many cases, they can guide you through the emergency
 - Maintain a positive attitude!

What Not to Do

- What to avoid
 - Downed wires
 - Charge the ground concentrically
 - Ground gradient
 - Call the fire department
 - Gas leaks
 - Wide berth
 - Ignition sources
 - Call the fire department
 - Standing water
 - Do not drive, walk or swim through
 - If stranded – call the fire department
 - High winds
 - Missiles
 - Take cover
 - Power outages – be patient.....real patient!

Summary

- These events are dangerous situations
- Be prepared
- Craft a plan and rehearse it
- Call the emergency dispatch for help (911)
- Call for help when you think you need it, not when you're absolutely positive you know you need it!
- Don't confuse enthusiasm with capability!

Questions?

DAVID MCINTIRE

*Director,
Brunswick County
Emergency
Management*





Public Health Emergency Preparedness: Disaster Response

Ensuring Community Resilience and Safety

DIANA HILLS, MAS

PHEP Coordinator

Diana.hills@brunswickcountync.gov

910.253.2385



Public Health's Role in Disasters

Surveillance: Monitoring for disease outbreaks.

Environmental Health: Ensuring safe food practices at shelters, inspect food establishments prior to opening again. Ensure that water is safe for drinking.

Monitor Vector Hazards: Standing water left by receding floods creates breeding grounds for Mosquitoes.

Logistics and Medical Countermeasures (MCM): Activating the Strategic National Stockpile which includes medications and equipment.

- Dispense Potassium Iodide (KI) to residents living within the 10-mile EPZ.

Crisis and Emergency Risk Communications (CERC): Deliver clear and actionable health alerts to the public.

Address Post-Disaster Threats: Focus on vector-borne risks, tetanus, contaminated water, debris injuries, carbon monoxide poisonings and address trauma or stress.



Pre-Landfall Preparedness

Personal and Family Preparedness

The 5 Ps: Plan, Participate, Prepare, Practice, and Protect.

Plan: Have a communication plan? Have an evacuation plan?

Participate: Sign up for “Ready Brunswick” to stay informed during emergencies.

Prepare: Build a comprehensive supply kit.

Practice: Practice your evacuation route, shelter in place and communication protocols at least twice a year.

Protect: Protecting yourself, your family and property requires active disaster preparedness through three core principles: building a comprehensive supply kit, creating plans and staying informed.

Medication Preparedness

Timing your Refills:

- Contact your doctor or pharmacy as soon as a storm warning is issued.
- Do not wait for the exact refill date; landfall may cause pharmacy closures or supply chain interruptions.

The “Emergency Refill” Law:

- In many states, like NC, pharmacist are legally authorized to dispense a 30-day supply of essential medication without immediate provider authorization during a declared state of emergency.

Insurance Overrides:

- Most insurance plans, including Medicare Part D and private insurers like BCBS, provide “Refill too soon” overrides during disasters.

Record Keeping:

Keep a list of current medications, dosages, and pharmacy contact info in a waterproof container or bag.



Post-Storm Safety: Recovery Phase



“When in doubt,
throw it out”



Power Outages



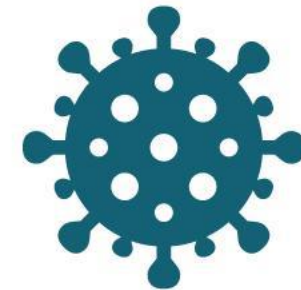
Water Safety-
Boil water
notices



Floodwaters



Mosquito
Prevention



Disease
Monitoring

Thank You!

Any Questions?



Diana Hills, MAS
PHEP Coordinator



Diana.Hills@brunswickcountync.gov



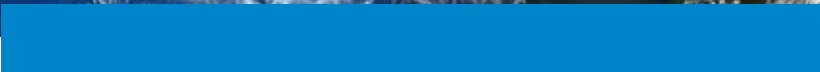
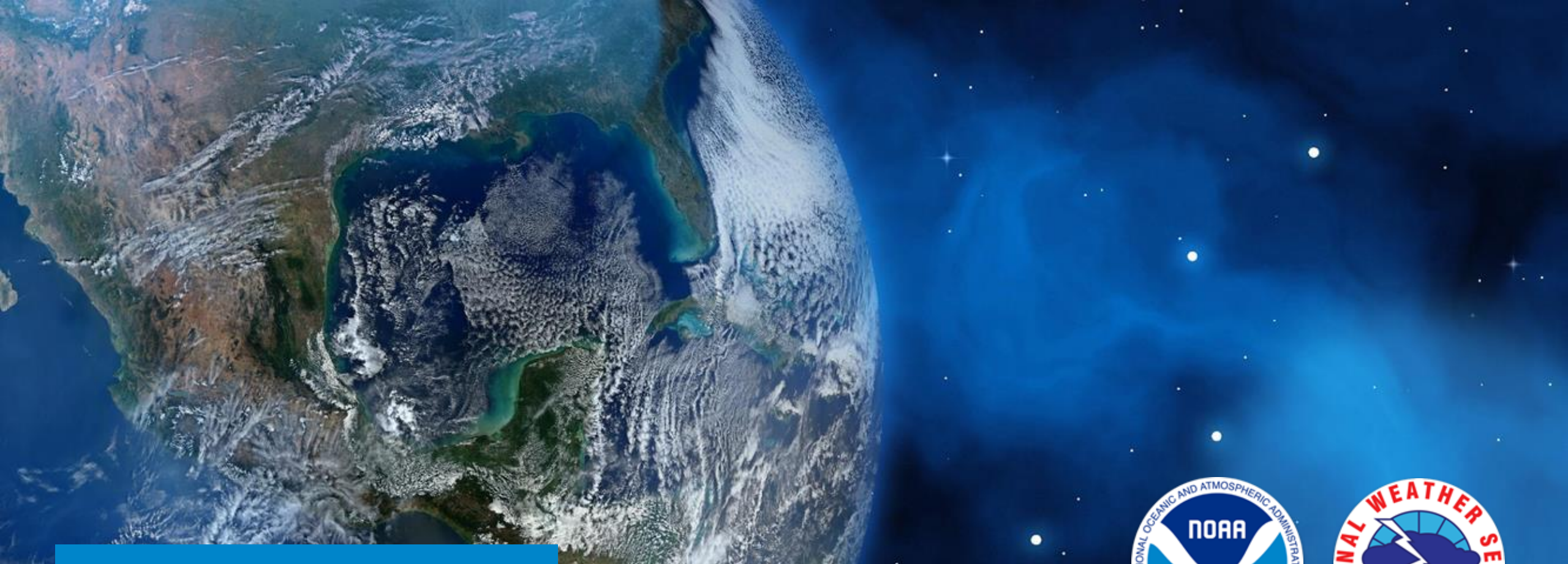
910.253.2385



Brunswick County Health Services
25 Government Center Drive NE, Bolivia, NC 28422



brunswickcountync.gov



Weather Hazards & Safety

What You Need to Know

Brandon Locklear/Warning Coordination

Meteorologist



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

About the National Weather Service

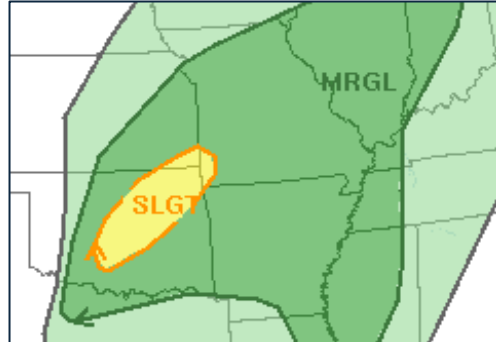
NWS Mission:

Provide weather, water, and climate data, **forecasts, warnings, and impact-based decision support services** for the **protection of life and property** and the enhancement of the national economy.

NWS Vision:

A **Weather-Ready Nation**: Society is **prepared for and responds to** weather, water, and climate-dependent events.

NWS Watch vs Warning: Cupcake Analogy



NWS Products in Cupcake Terms

Outlook



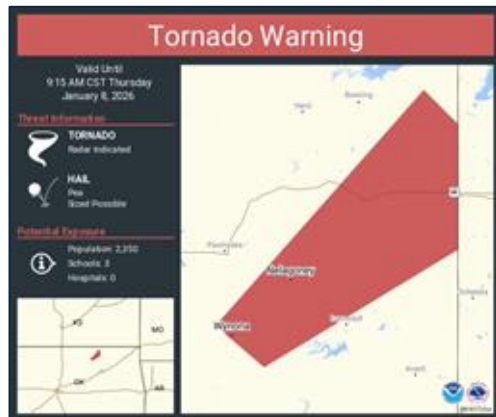
thinking about making
cupcakes...
it may happen



Watch



all the ingredients are
there for cupcakes...
it is likely



Warning



the cupcake is there...
it is here
TAKE ACTION

Understand NWS Warnings

Severe Thunderstorm Warning

T-Storm Wind Gusts ≥ 58 mph &/or
Hail ≥ 1 " Diameter (Quarter Size)



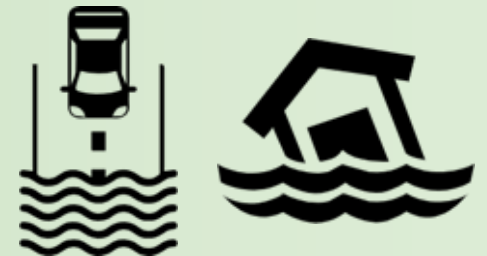
Tornado Warning

Doppler Radar Indicated Rotation
Confirmed Reports of a Tornado



Flood or Flash Flood Warning

6" or more of water over roadways (esp. flowing)
A rapid, life/property threatening rise in water



Weather Safety



Weather Safety – Things to Consider

weather.gov/safety

- ❑ Do you have a plan?
- ❑ Where is your safe place at work?
- ❑ How will you stay informed?



STORM PLANNING TIMELINE

A few days out	The day before	The day of
<i>If the forecast calls for severe weather in a few days, start preparing now.</i>	<i>The day before, forecast accuracy continues to improve.</i>	<i>Remain vigilant and aware of any active Watches. A Warning may be issued at a moment's notice!</i>
Make sure that you have emergency supplies	Adjust plans	Remind your family of the communication plan
Know your safe places	Make sure your phone can receive WEAs	Know how to evacuate and/or get to safety from wherever you are
Have a family communication plan	Ensure your shelter is clean and accessible	When a Warning is issued, you may only have seconds to take action!

weather.gov

TORNADO SAFETY FOR EMPLOYERS

- Label Shelter Locations:** Use small interior rooms or hallways on the lowest level (away from windows, doors).
- Ensure Accountability:** Develop an emergency response plan and checklists to assign roles and account for everyone onsite.
- Have Disaster Supplies:** Keep first aid kits, food, water, and more in all shelters.
- Train Staff:** Ensure everyone knows what to do during emergencies. Regularly practice sheltering exercises.

A white rectangular sign with a black border. It features a black silhouette of a tornado. Below the silhouette, the text "TORNADO SHELTER" is written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, there is a black arrow pointing downwards and to the left.

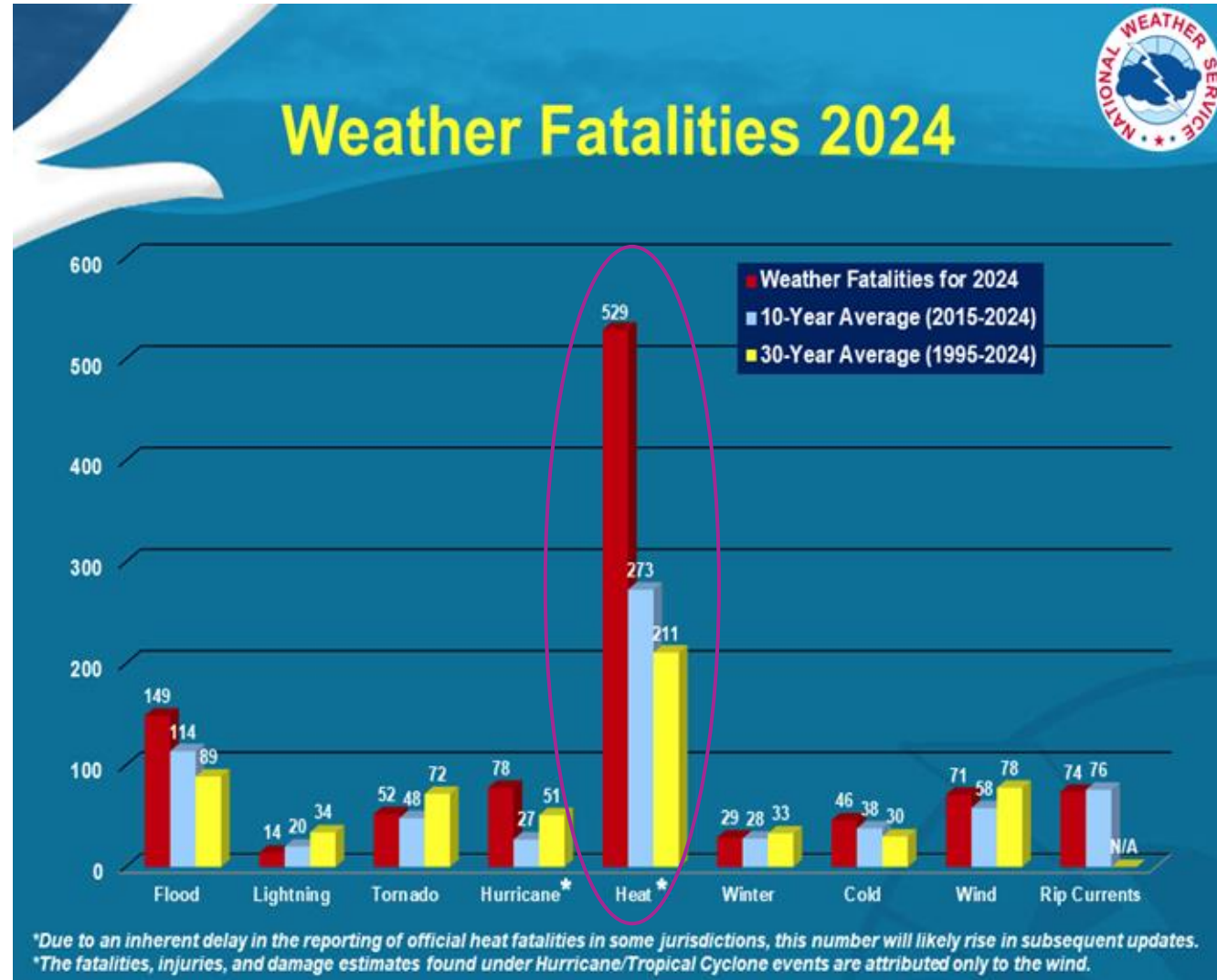
weather.gov osha.gov/tornado

Weather Safety – Staying Informed



Weather Safety - Fatalities

- ❑ **Heat** is the #1 weather-related killer in the U.S.
- ❑ weather.gov/hazstat



Weather Safety - Heat

weather.gov/safety/heat

Practice HEAT SAFETY Wherever You Are

Heat related deaths are preventable.
Protect yourself and others from the
impacts of heat waves.



Job Sites

Stay hydrated and
take breaks in the shade
as often as possible



Indoors

Check up on the
elderly, sick and those
without AC



Vehicles

Never leave kids or
pets unattended -
LOOK before you LOCK



Outdoors

Limit strenuous outdoor
activities, find shade,
and stay hydrated

Heat Exhaustion

ACT FAST

- Move to a cooler area
- Loosen clothing
- Sip cool water
- Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve

Dizziness

Thirst

Heavy Sweating

Nausea

Weakness



Heat Stroke

ACT FAST

CALL 911

- Move person to a cooler area
- Loosen clothing and remove extra layers
- Cool with water or ice

Confusion

Dizziness

Becomes Unconscious

Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.

Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.



Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!

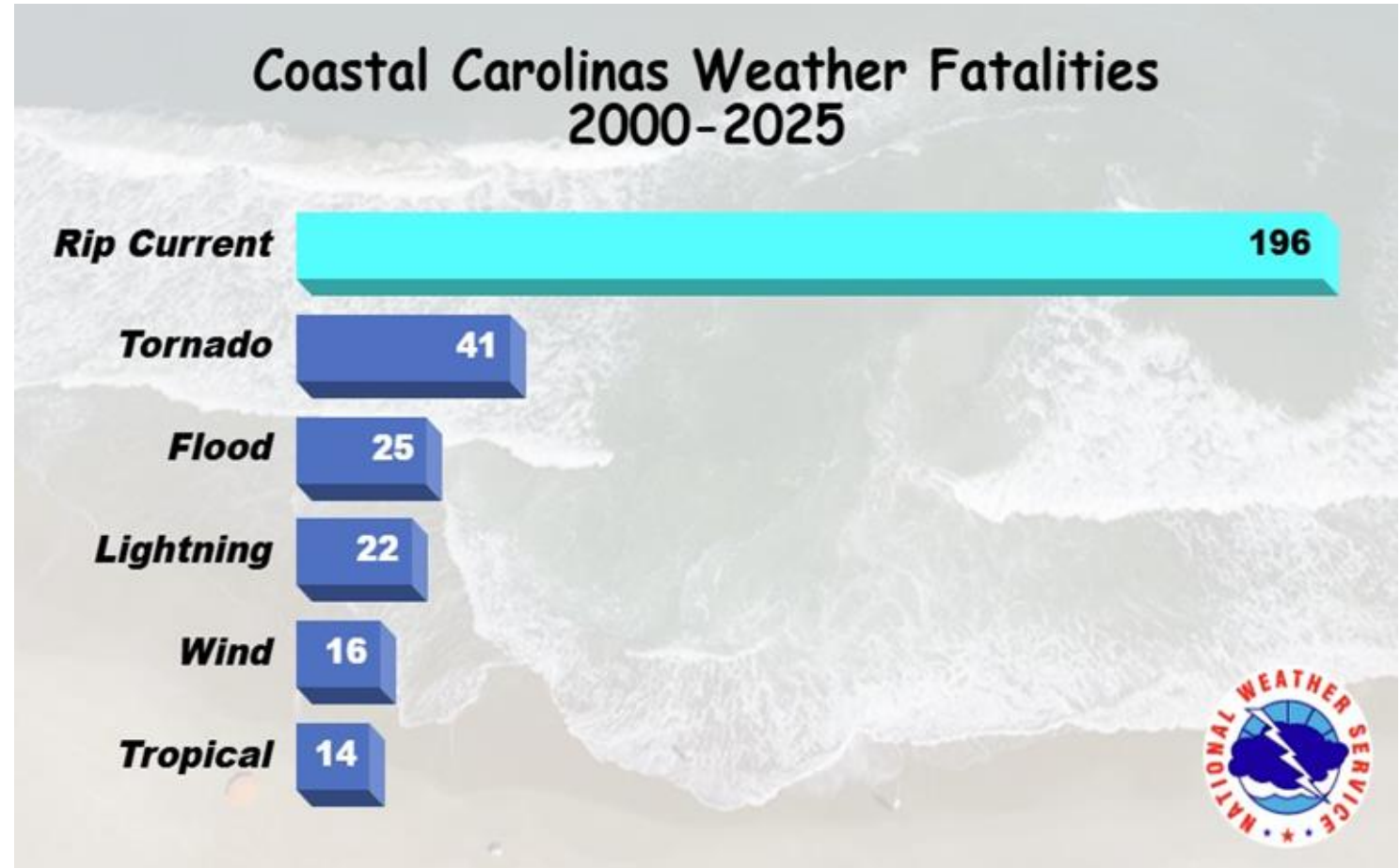


weather.gov/heat

Weather Safety – Rip Currents

weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent
weather.gov/ilm/ripcurrents

- ❑ **Rip Currents** are the #1 weather-related killer in the coastal Carolinas!!
- ❑ Most deaths were not locals!



Weather Safety – Rip Currents

weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent
weather.gov/ilm/ripcurrents



- ❑ Swim near lifeguard
- ❑ If caught in a rip, stay calm and let current take you out
- ❑ Swim parallel to shore to get out of rip and then back to shore

Flash Flood Safety

- **Turn Around, Don't Drown**
 - 12" of water can float a car
 - 18" of water can float a truck or SUV
- Flooding is difficult to see at night
 - Many flood fatalities happen at night
 - Can conceal compromised roads underneath
- Do not let pets or children play in flood water, which could be contaminated.
- If camping, move away from streams, creeks, or rivers and seek higher ground!



Lightning Safety

If you can hear thunder or see lightning,
you are at risk for being struck by lightning!

Take action immediately!



When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

STOP all activities.

Seek shelter in a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle.

Wait 30 minutes after the storm to resume activities.

 www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov 

Lightning

Do's and Don'ts

Do

Go Inside When You Hear Thunder or See Lightning!

Find a Sturdy House, Building, Car With A Hard-Top Roof

Stay Indoors For at Least 30 Minutes After You Last Hear Thunder



Don't

Retreat to Dugouts, Sheds, Pavilions, Picnic Shelters or Other Small Structures

Use or Touch Electronics, Outlets, or Corded Phones

Go Under or Near Tall Trees, Swim or Be Near Water, Be Near Metal Objects or Windows



weather.gov/lightning

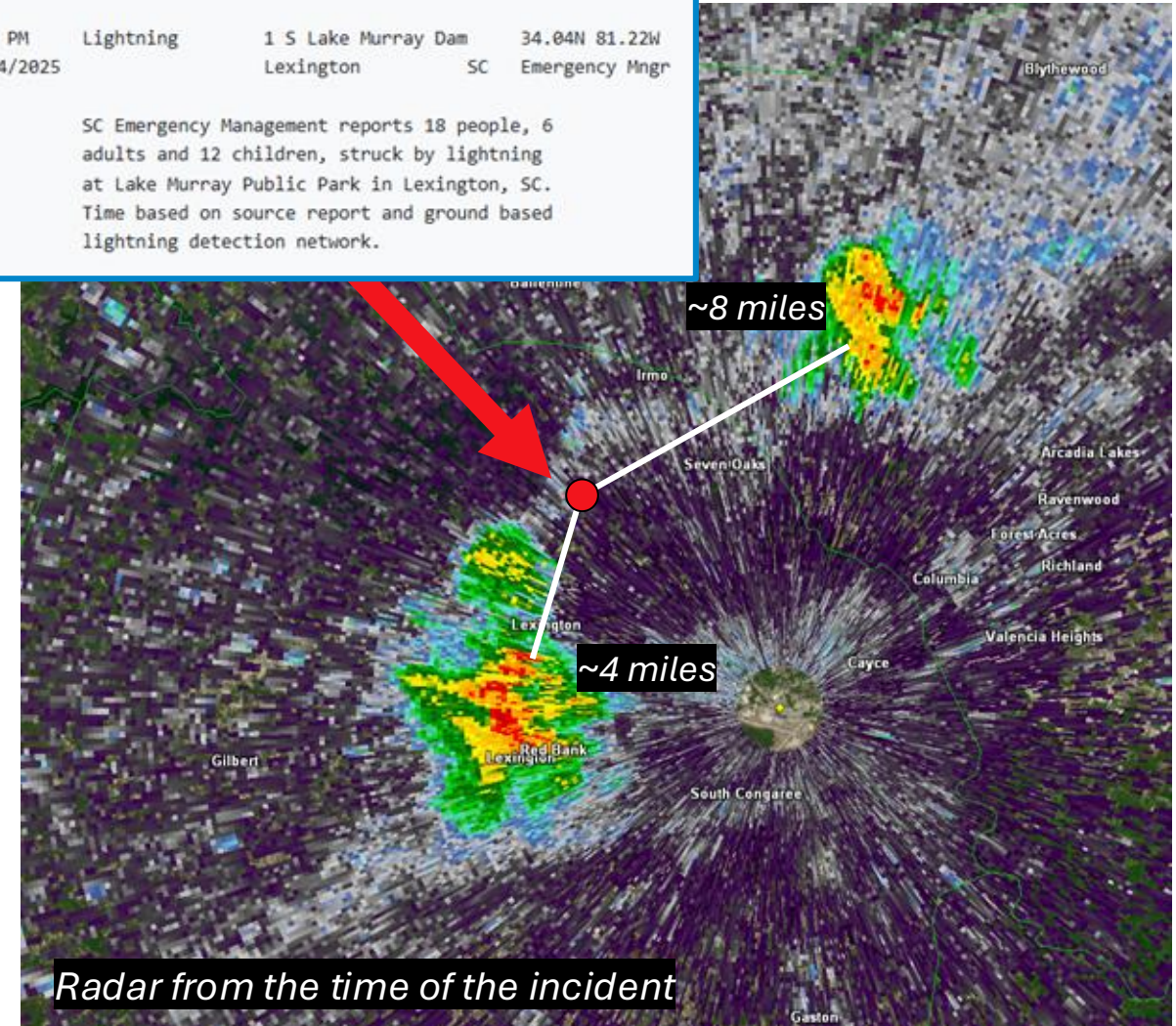
Lightning Safety

- If the sky looks threatening, find shelter!
- Lightning can strike 20+ miles away from a thunderstorm
- Wait 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder

Preliminary Local Storm Report			
National Weather Service Columbia SC			
608 PM EDT Tue Jun 24 2025			
..TIME...	...EVENT...	...CITY LOCATION...	...LAT.LON...
..DATE...	...MAG....	...COUNTY LOCATION..ST..	...SOURCE....
..REMARKS..			
0443 PM	Lightning	1 S Lake Murray Dam	34.04N 81.22W
06/24/2025		Lexington	SC Emergency Mngr
SC Emergency Management reports 18 people, 6 adults and 12 children, struck by lightning at Lake Murray Public Park in Lexington, SC. Time based on source report and ground based lightning detection network.			

No place outdoors is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!

 Bad Shelters Tents Porches Picnic Shelters Soft-topped Campers Open Garages	 OK Shelter Vehicle-metal top, windows up <i>Don't touch metal or lean on doors</i>	 Best Shelter Sturdy building – has plumbing and electricity <i>Don't touch anything plugged into outlets or plumbing</i>
---	--	--



Severe Wind Safety

GET INSIDE AND AVOID WINDOWS!

- Assess your risk! Do you live near tall trees that are more vulnerable to strong winds?
- Are you in a structure that is more vulnerable to the wind?



Hail Safety

GET INSIDE AND AVOID WINDOWS!

- Hail can fall at speeds of over 100 mph!
- Stay away from windows.
- Wind-driven hail is especially dangerous and destructive.



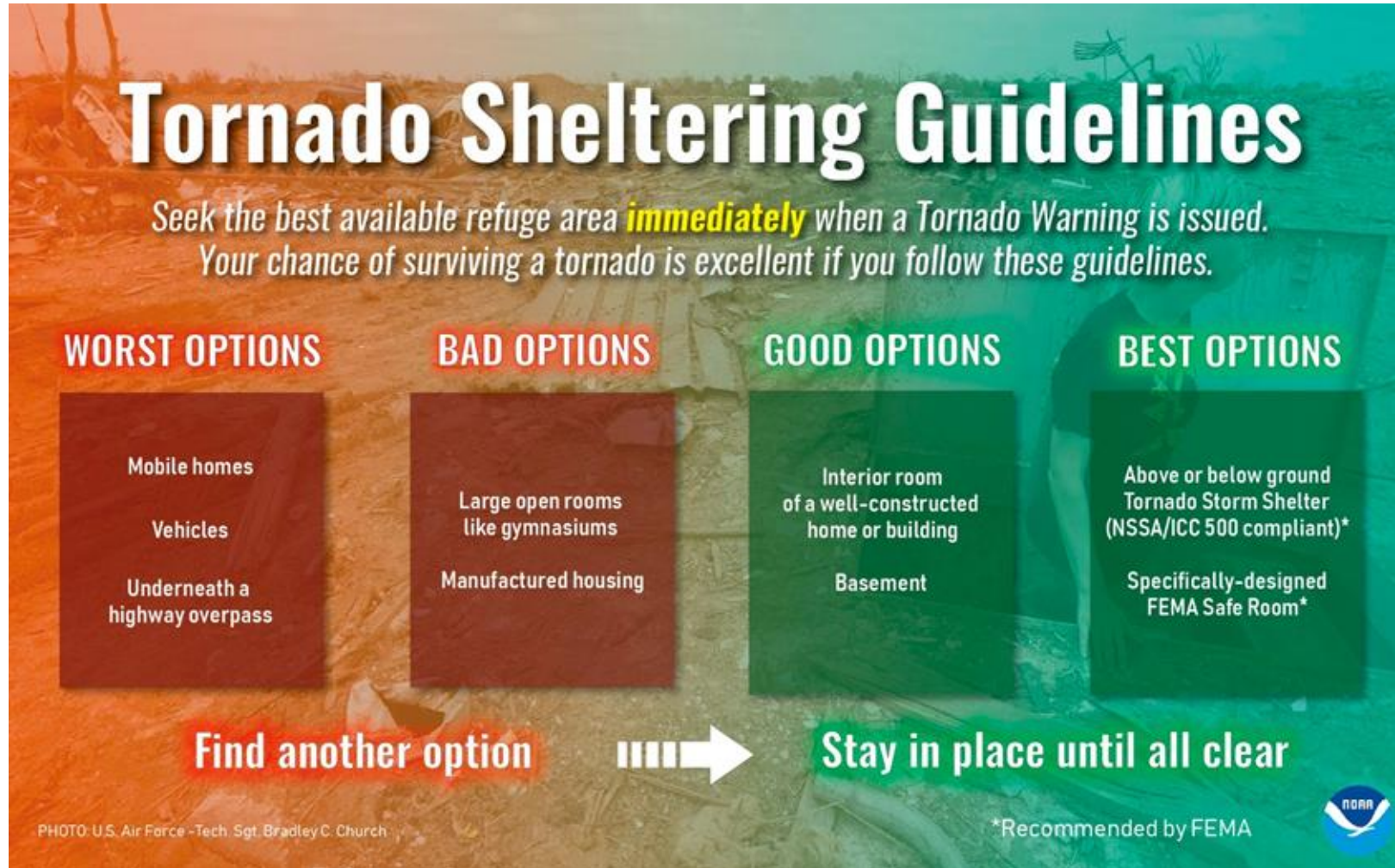
Tornado Safety At Home

Know where to go!

- Basement or lowest level.
- Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible - avoid windows!
- Get under a sturdy object.
- Cover yourself with blankets, pillows and/or items that will provide a cushioned barrier between you and flying objects.



Tornado Safety - Good and Bad Options



Tornado Sheltering Guidelines

Seek the best available refuge area **immediately** when a Tornado Warning is issued.
Your chance of surviving a tornado is excellent if you follow these guidelines.

WORST OPTIONS	BAD OPTIONS	GOOD OPTIONS	BEST OPTIONS
Mobile homes Vehicles Underneath a highway overpass	Large open rooms like gymnasiums Manufactured housing	Interior room of a well-constructed home or building Basement	Above or below ground Tornado Storm Shelter (NSSA/ICC 500 compliant)* Specifically-designed FEMA Safe Room*

Find another option → Stay in place until all clear

PHOTO: U.S. Air Force -Tech. Sgt. Bradley C. Church

*Recommended by FEMA

NASA

**Places that are NOT safe
(FIND ANOTHER OPTION):**

- ❌ Under a tree
- ❌ RVs/Campers
- ❌ Vehicles
- ❌ Camping tents
- ❌ Underneath a highway overpass
- ❌ Large open rooms
- ❌ Mobile homes, manufactured housing

Weather Safety – Tropical Storms/Hurricanes

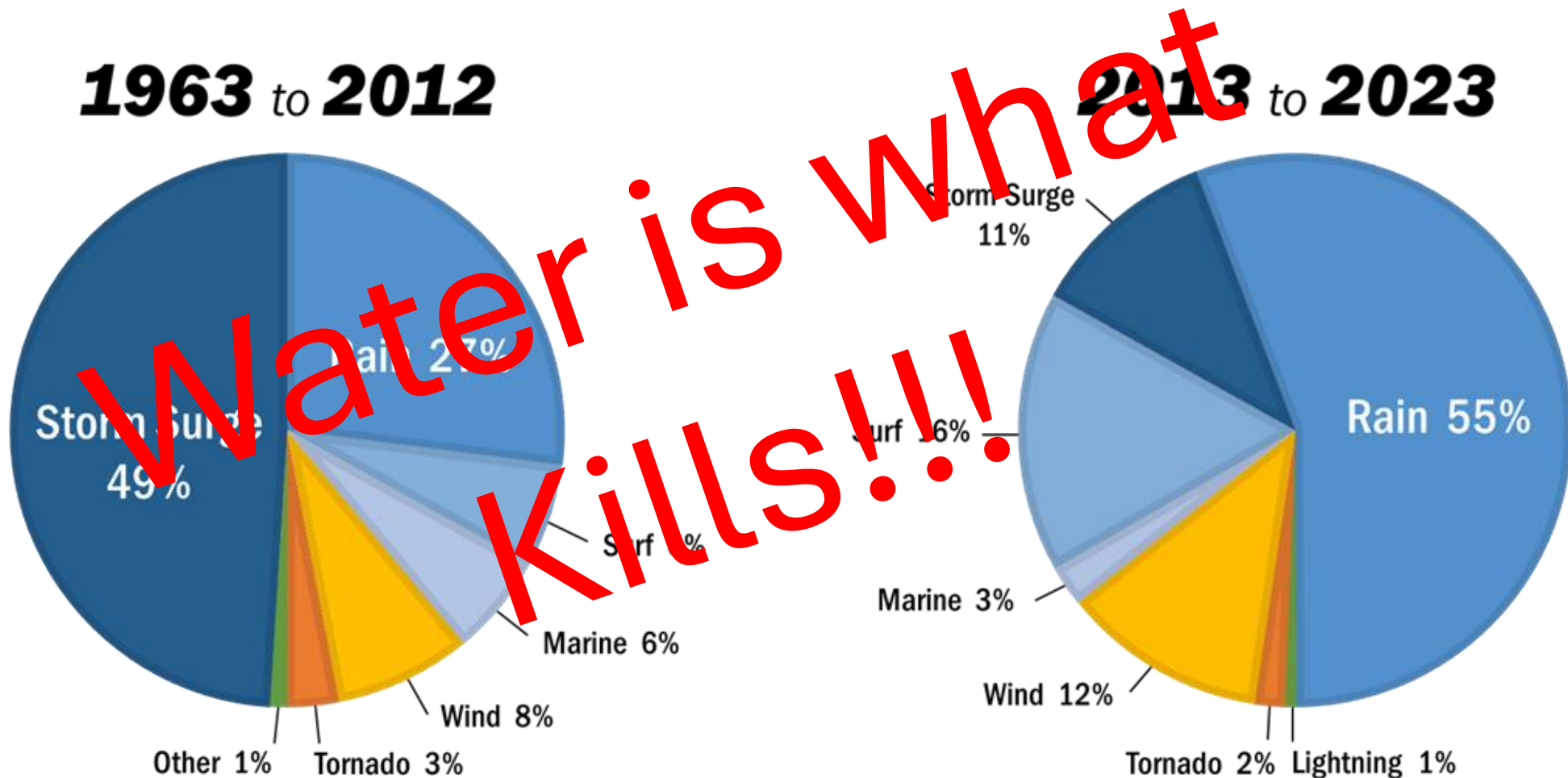
weather.gov/ilm/hurricaneprep



- ❑ Multiple hazards possible:
 - ❑ Flooding rain
 - ❑ Storm surge inundation
 - ❑ Strong winds
 - ❑ Tornadoes
 - ❑ Rip Currents

- ❑ Tropical forecasts/
safety/preparedness:
 - ❑ weather.gov/ilm/tropical

U.S. Direct Fatalities from Tropical Cyclones



Important Links



weather.gov/ilm



weather.gov/safety

Find me at:

Clyde.Locklear@noaa.gov- NWS Wilmington(ILM)

Thank You!

Comments, Questions, Insights?



HURRICANE SEASON 2026



Chief Meteorologist Gannon Medwick, WECT News

FB: Meteorologist Gannon Medwick - WECT IG: @gannonmedwick X: @medwick

FIRST ALERT
WEATHER

RULES FOR HURRICANE SEASON

AS SEEN AT WECT.COM/HURRICANE

Stay alert.

Look to forecasts, not models.

Have a kit and plan.

Impacts: more important than labels.

Update your kit and plan often.

Avoid sensational social media.

Be patient with developing storms.

Trust accredited sources.

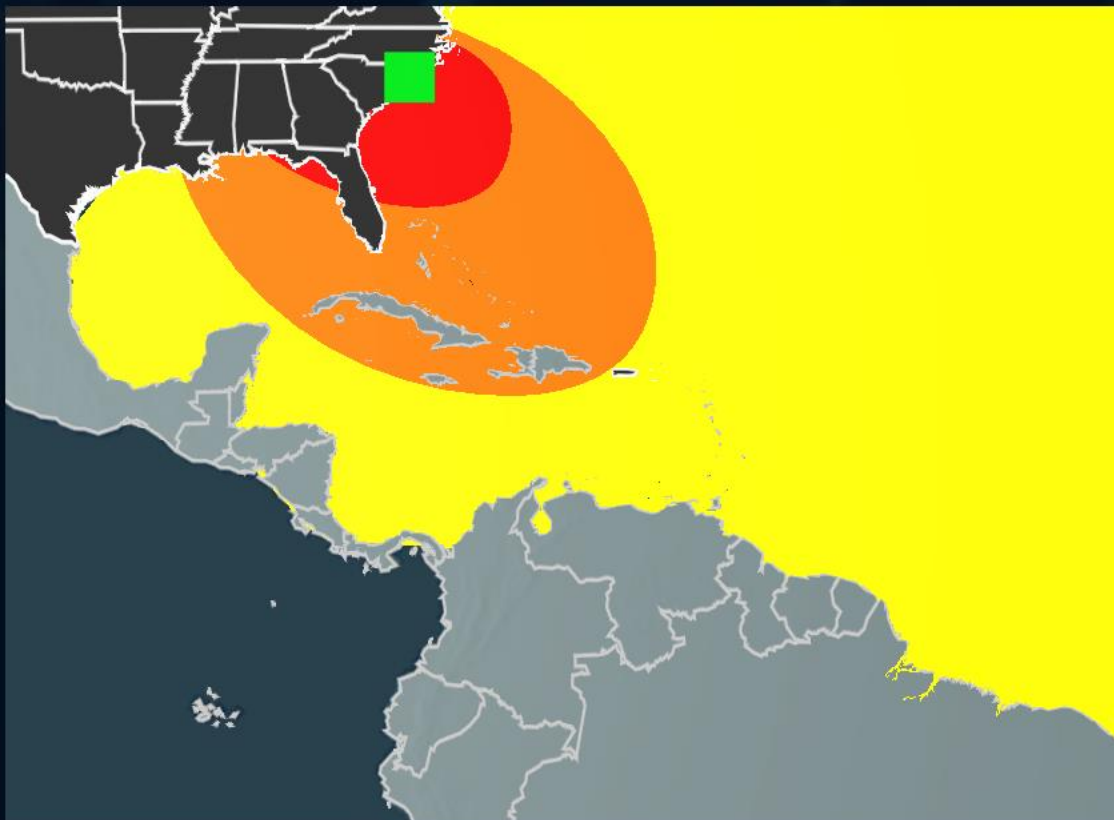
Understand the cone of uncertainty.

Never panic.

**FIRST ALERT
WEATHER**

HURRICANE ZONES

ATTITUDINAL ZONES WITH RESPECT TO THE CAPE FEAR (■)



AWARE ZONE - Have a baseline kit. Watch for updates. Take specific outlooks, especially doom scenarios, with a grain of salt.



ALERT ZONE - NOAA watches may be issued, though impacts may yet be hard to pinpoint. Complete your kit and stay keenly aware.



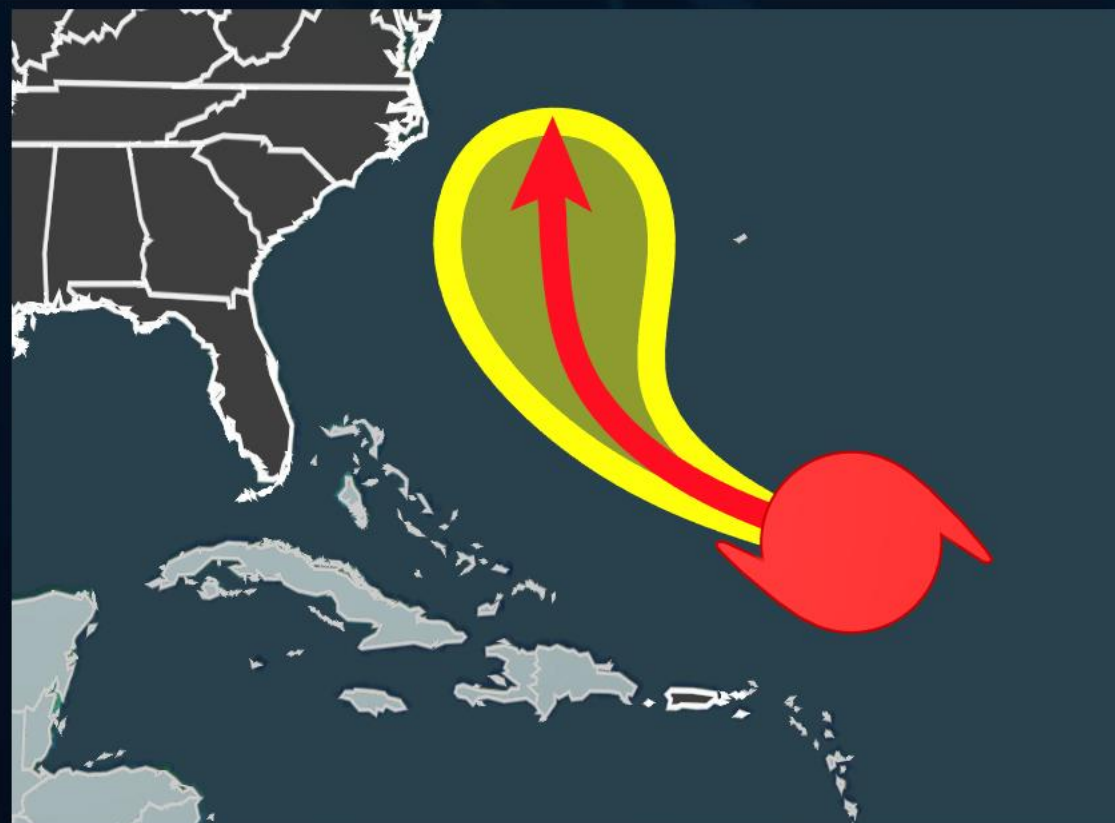
ACTION ZONE - NOAA warnings may be issued. Heed them appropriately. Be ready to use your kit and execute your plan.

**FIRST ALERT
WEATHER**

CONE-LOGY

PILLAR NUMBER ONE

DO NOT simply focus on the cone's center line and dismiss its edges as unreasonable tracks.



PILLAR NUMBER ONE

DO NOT simply focus on the cone's center line and dismiss its edges as unreasonable tracks.

DO think of the cone as a collection of the most likely tracks for the center of a tropical system.

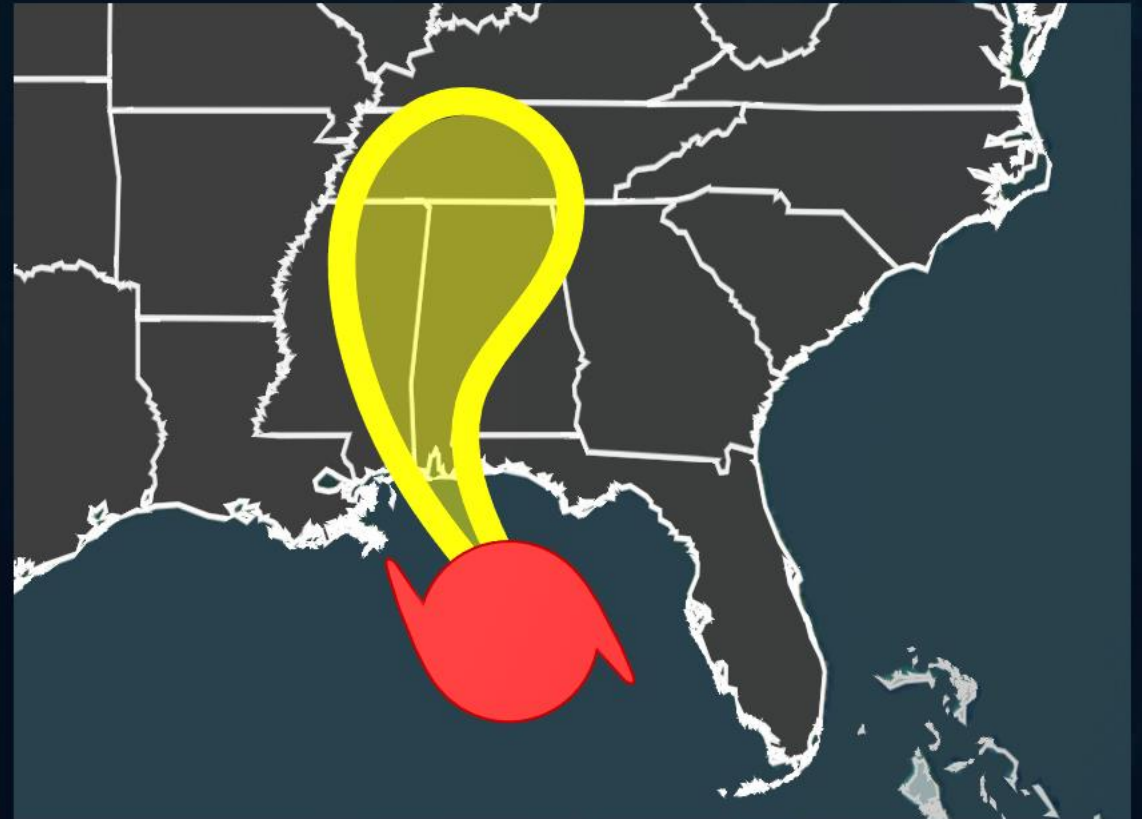


FIRST ALERT
WEATHER

CONE-LOGY

PILLAR NUMBER TWO

DO NOT think "outside the cone" is equivalent to "all clear".

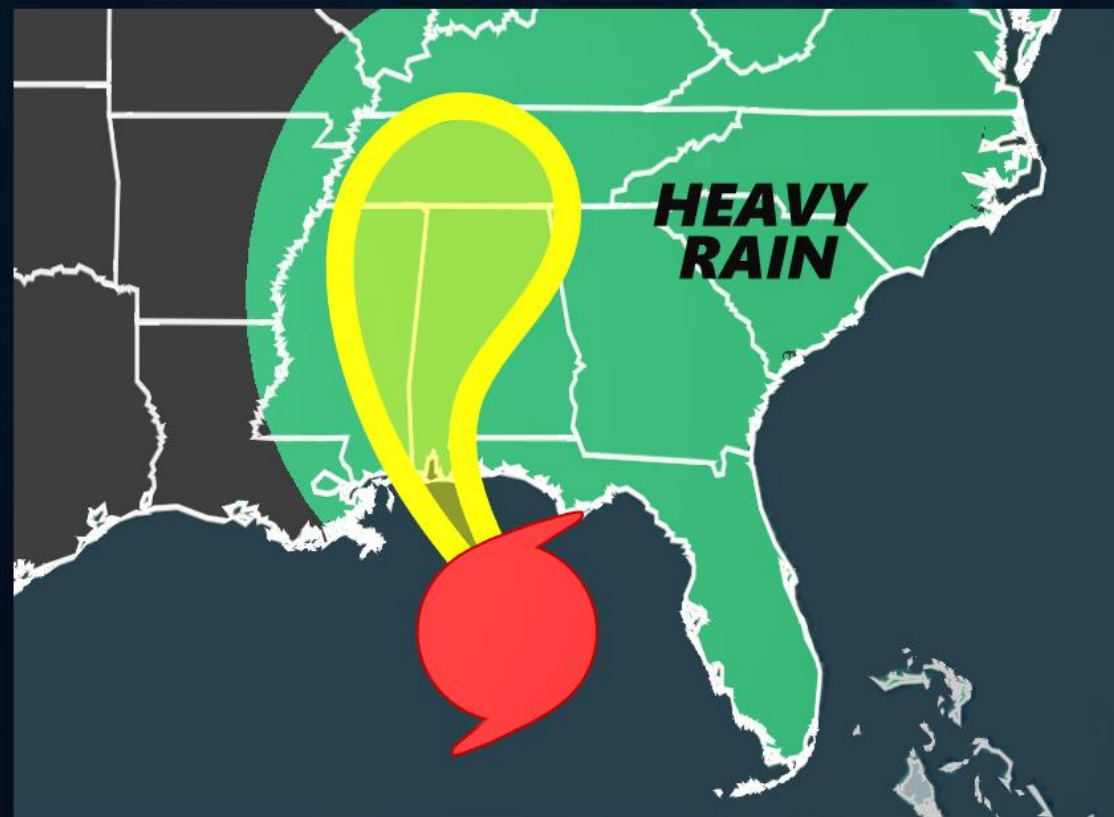


FIRST ALERT
WEATHER **CONE-LOGY**

PILLAR NUMBER TWO

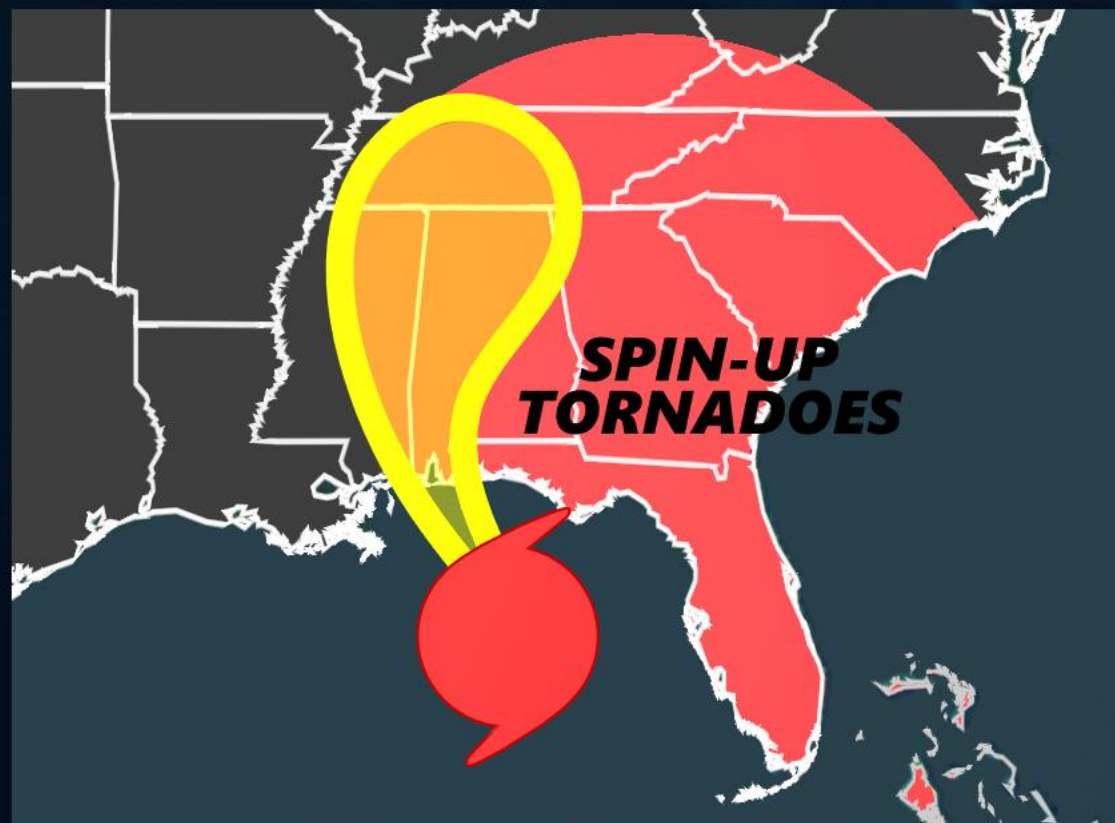
DO NOT think "outside the cone" is equivalent to "all clear".

DO consider that a hurricane's effects are often felt well outside the bounds of its cone.



DO NOT think "outside the cone" is equivalent to "all clear".

DO consider that a hurricane's effects are often felt well outside the bounds of its cone.



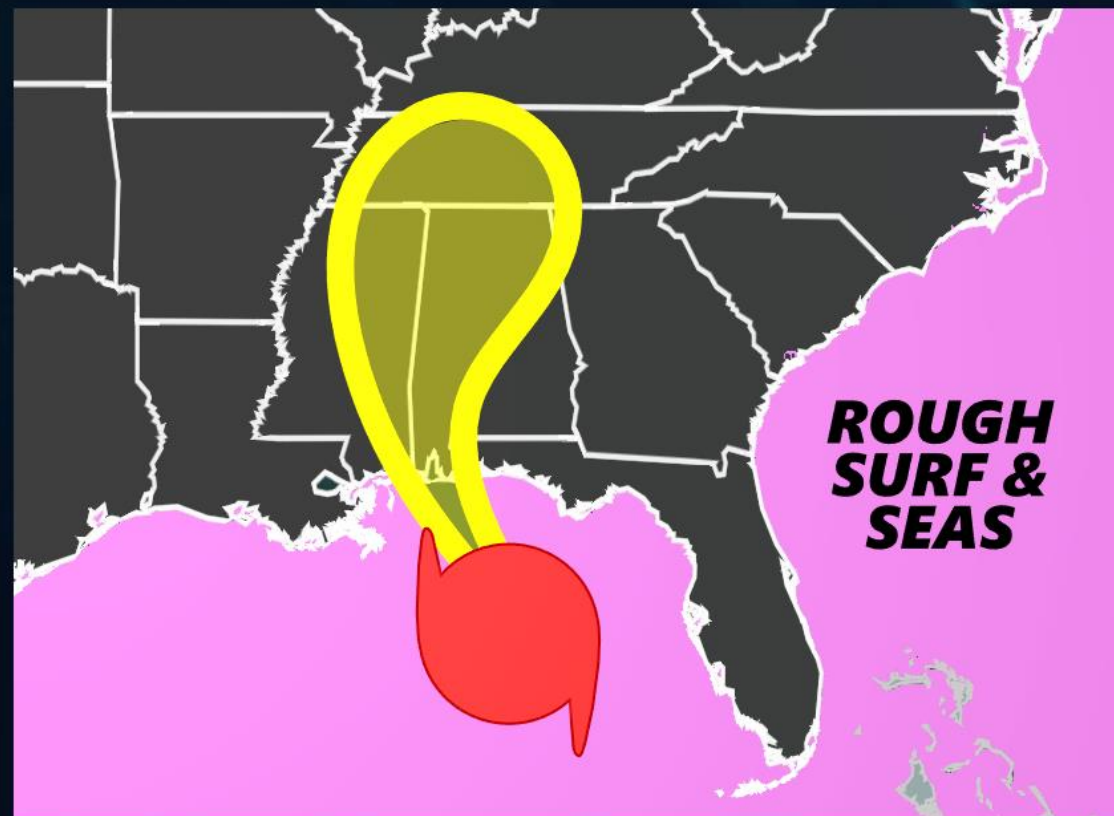
FIRST ALERT
WEATHER

CONE-LOGY

PILLAR NUMBER TWO

DO NOT think "outside the cone" is equivalent to "all clear".

DO consider that a hurricane's effects are often felt well outside the bounds of its cone.

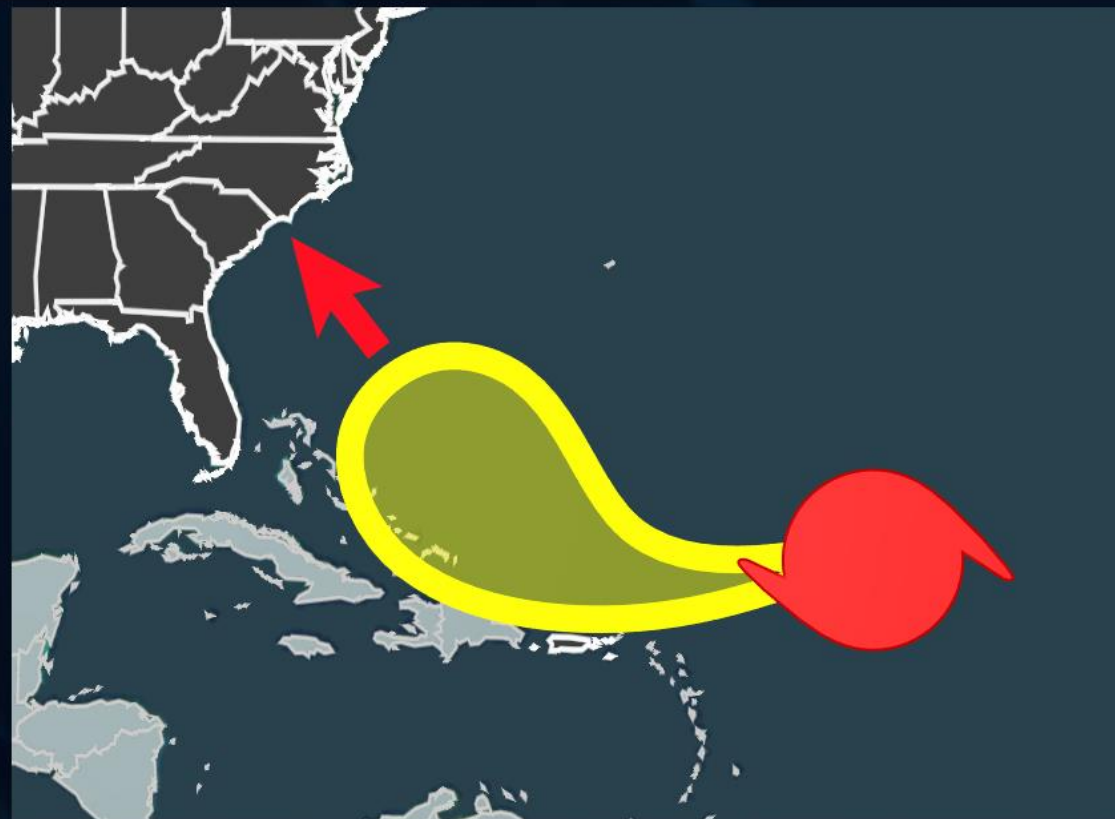


FIRST ALERT
WEATHER

CONE-LOGY

PILLAR NUMBER THREE

**DO NOT "eyeball" a storm's path
beyond the official five-day cone.**



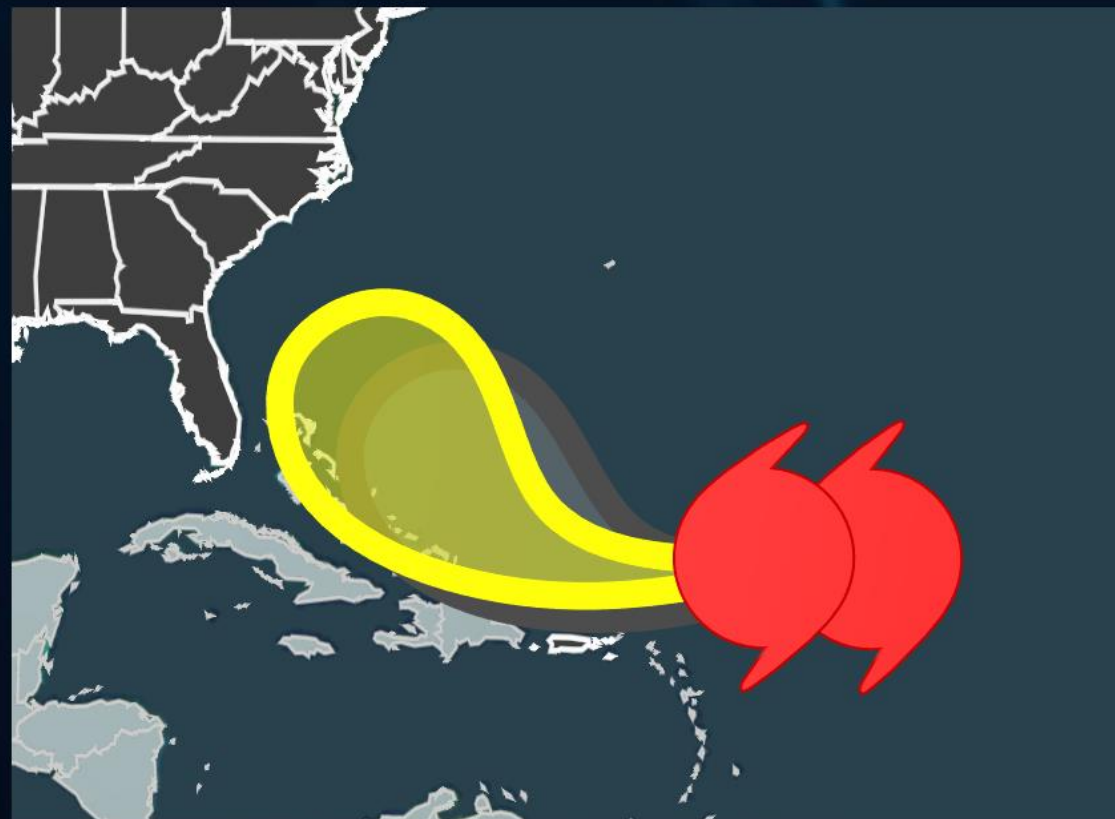
**FIRST ALERT
WEATHER**

CONE-LOGY

PILLAR NUMBER THREE

DO NOT "eyeball" a storm's path
beyond the official five-day cone.

DO stay alert for and receptive to
updates. The NHC releases new
cones four times a day.



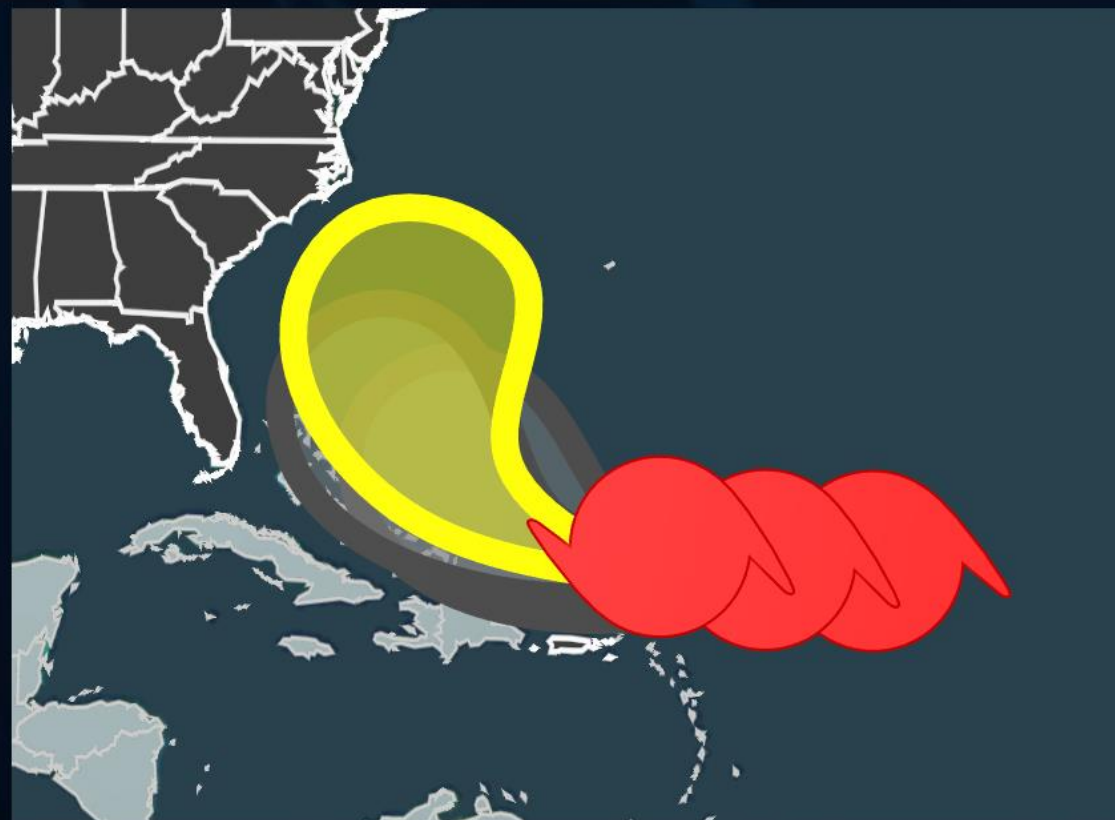
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WEATHER

CONE-LOGY

PILLAR NUMBER THREE

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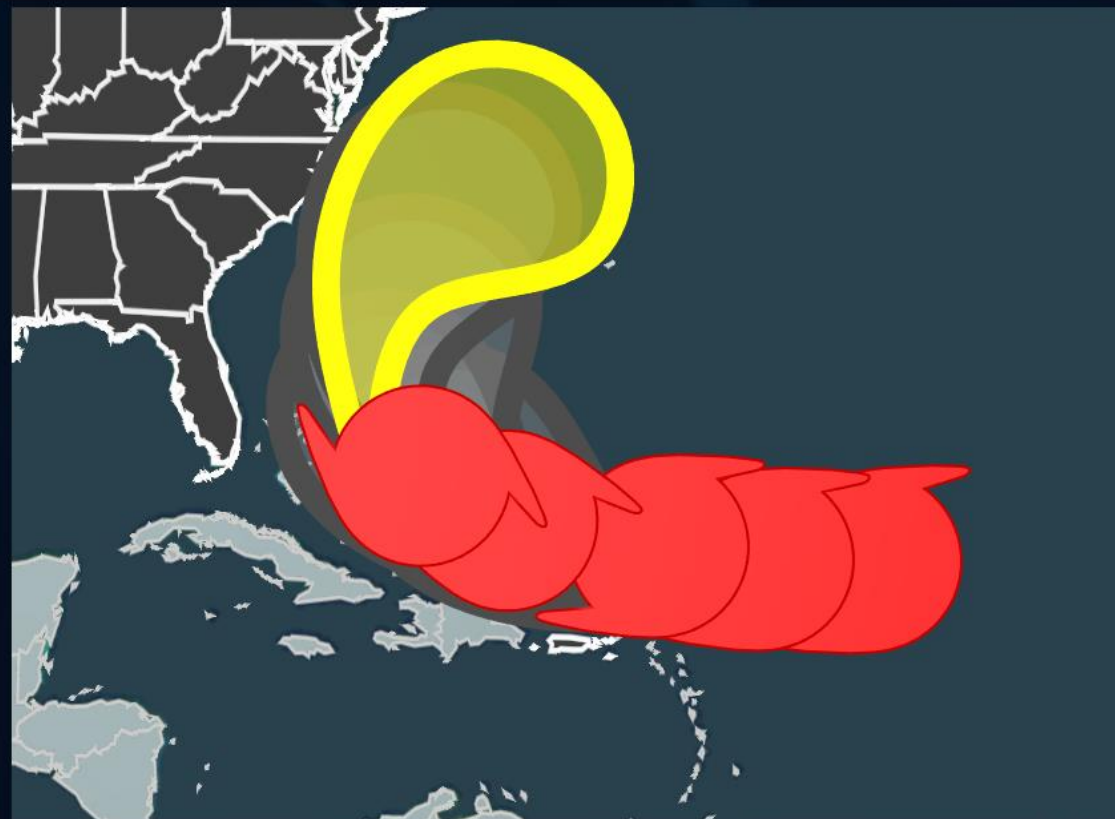
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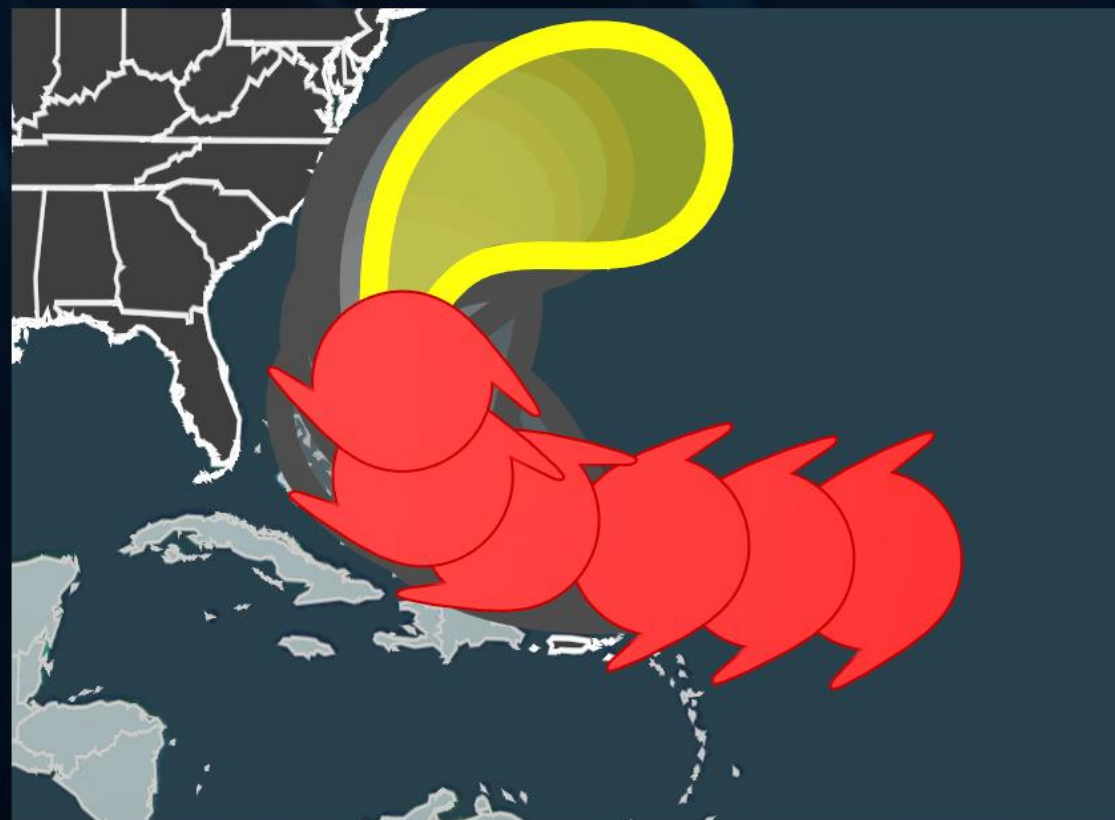
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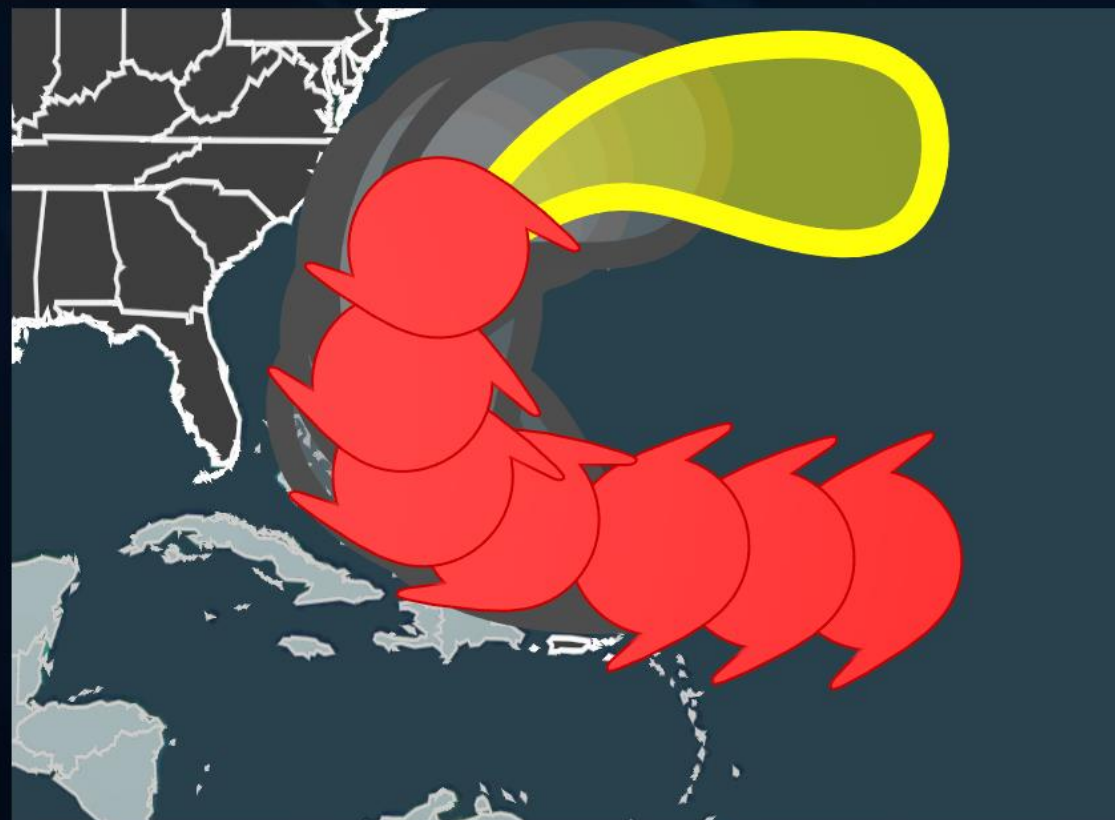
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FIRST ALERT WEATHER TAP YOUR APP!

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD THE FREE WECT WEATHER APP!

First Alert Hurricane Center:
Comprehensive prepping info...

Realtime NWS and NHC bulletins:
Set your location to FOLLOW ME.

First Alert Weather video updates:
We live here and are invested here.



HURRICANE SEASON 2026



Chief Meteorologist Gannon Medwick, WECT News

FB: Meteorologist Gannon Medwick - WECT IG: @gannonmedwick X: @medwick

Be Red Cross Ready

Prepare so you can protect.

Hurricane



**American
Red Cross**

What is a Tropical Cyclone?

- Rotating, organized system of clouds and thunderstorms that forms over warm waters.
- Once it reaches a maximum sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or higher, it is classified as a hurricane, typhoon, or tropical cyclone, depending on where the storm originated in the world.



Hurricane Season

- Atlantic: June through November
- Pacific: Mid-May through November



Potential Hazards: Storm Surge

Did you know, that the greatest threat to life safety from tropical cyclones comes from the water – in the form of **storm surge and inland flooding?**

- Storm surge- the rise in the seawater level caused by a storm.
- Inland flooding- flooding caused by heavy rainfall.

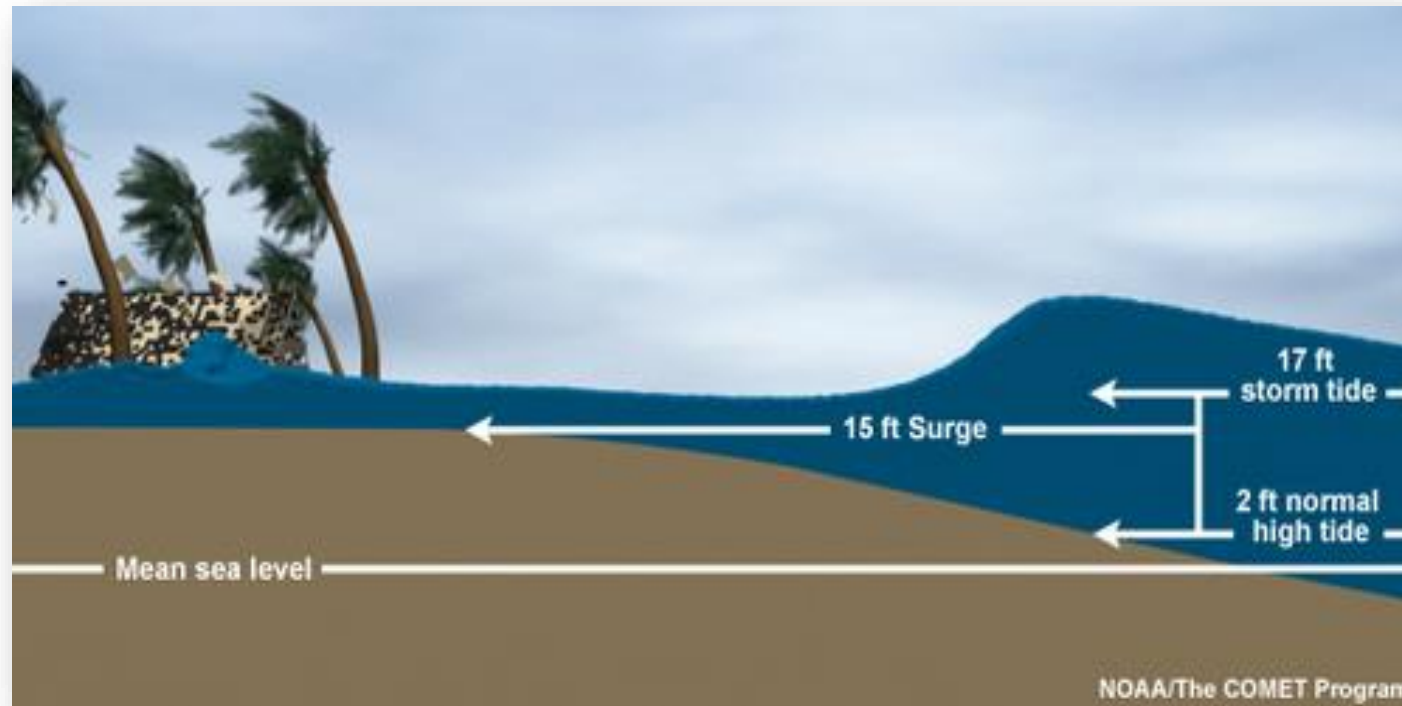


Image courtesy of [NHC](#)

Other Potential Hazards

- Strong winds



- Tornadoes



- Dangerous waves and rip currents

Potential Impacts

Effects can be devastating!

- Deaths and injuries from heavy rains, flooding, and heavy winds.
- Homes and buildings damaged or destroyed.
- Power, water, gas, and communication outages.
- Drinking water contamination.
- Raw sewage overflows.
- Blocked or destroyed roads.
- Shortages of food, bottled water, medicine, and household supplies.
- Medical facility closures.



Before: Understand which hazards you are likely to face

Determine your exposure to each hazard for where you live.

- Contact your state or local government emergency agency for help understanding the hazards in your community.
- Learn about your community's response plan.
- **Find out if you live in a designated hurricane storm surge evacuation zone.**
- **Find out if you live in a flood zone.**

Before: Prepare to Meet Basic Needs

- Learn how to turn off utilities
- Learn how to operate equipment such as a generator, back-up battery supply for medical equipment
- Learn First Aid and CPR
- Gather critical supplies
 - Stay-at-home kit (2 weeks of emergency supplies)
 - Evacuation kit (3 days of supplies in a “go bag”)
 - 1-month supply of prescription medication



Before: Evacuation Planning

- Ask friends/relatives outside of your area if you would be able to stay with them.
- Check with hotels, motels, and campgrounds.
- Find out what sheltering resources are available from local emergency management or from the Free Red Cross Emergency App.
- Have a transportation plan.
- Mobile, manufactured homes, and RV's cannot provide safe shelter. Residents must evacuate.

If authorities advise you to evacuate, be prepared to leave immediately with your “Go Bag” of emergency supplies.

Before: Shelter-in-Place Planning

If you decide to stay home, make a plan to shelter in place safely.

- Identify a safe shelter from high winds.
- Identify a backup power source for power-supported medical equipment.
- Have a battery-powered radio, flashlights and/or battery powered lanterns, and extra batteries.
- If you are in an area that is likely to flood, designate a location on higher ground.
- Make sure you have enough food and water for 2 weeks, and a 1-month supply of medication.

If authorities advise you to evacuate, be prepared to leave immediately with your “Go Bag” of emergency supplies.

Before: Monitor Weather

Make sure you have access to weather alerts and notifications so that you can monitor conditions and receive instructions from local officials during a power outage.

- National Hurricane Center (NHC)
- Local Weather Service
- Know the types of notifications to expect and what to do when you receive them.
- Download the free Red Cross Emergency App
- Understand your communities plan to notify individuals with disabilities.
- Purchase a battery-powered radio.
- Continue to monitor weather for the duration of the disaster event

Before: Protect Your Home & Belongings

- Reinforce doors, windows, walls, and roofs.
- Consider constructing a safe room.
- Bring loose, lightweight objects inside.
- Anchor unsafe objects outside
(*example: gas grills and propane tanks*).
- Trim or remove trees.
- Keep gutters and drains free of debris.
- Stockpile emergency protective materials.
- Elevate the heating system (*furnace*), water heater, and electric panel if prone to flooding.
- Waterproof basement.
- **Consider renters and flood insurance.**



Image courtesy of FEMA

During: Evacuation Notice in Effect for Your Location



If you are in an area where authorities advise or order you to evacuate

Evacuate Immediately!

- Follow evacuation routes.
- Check for Emergency Shelter Locations.
- ***Download Free Red Cross Emergency App.***
- Don't return home until local officials say its safe to do so.

During: Sheltering in Place

If you are not in an area that is recommended for evacuation, you may still decide to leave the area based on your health conditions.

Final actions to take before sheltering in place at home:

- Close windows, doors, and hurricane shutters. If you do not have hurricane shutters, close and board up all windows and doors with plywood.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest setting. Only open if necessary.
- Follow instructions from emergency managers and be prepared to turn off utilities if ordered to do so.
- Board up remaining doors, brace garage door, and remain inside. Stay away from boarded up windows.
- Stay away from glass windows and doors
- Notify family members of your plans.
- During wind impact, take refuge in your predetermined windowless safe room of a sturdy building.

During & After: Avoid Floodwaters

- Do not walk, swim, or drive through floodwaters
- Floodwaters can contain dangerous debris
- Water is the greatest threat to safety

Turn around, don't drown!



After: Stay Safe

- Wait for public officials to say it's safe before returning.
- **NEVER** touch a fallen power line.
- Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning!



After: Stay Healthy

- Throw out any food including canned items that were not maintained at a proper temperature or have been exposed to floodwaters.

'When in doubt, throw it out'

- Avoid drinking tap water until you know it is safe.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet.
- Wear appropriate protective equipment.
- Avoid heat-related illness.
- In clearing heavy debris, always work with a partner, make sure you have training for any equipment such as chain saws, wear protective equipment.
- **Heart attacks are a leading cause of post-hurricane deaths. Be mindful of overexertion and stress.**



After: Cleanup Safety

Take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones during cleanup.

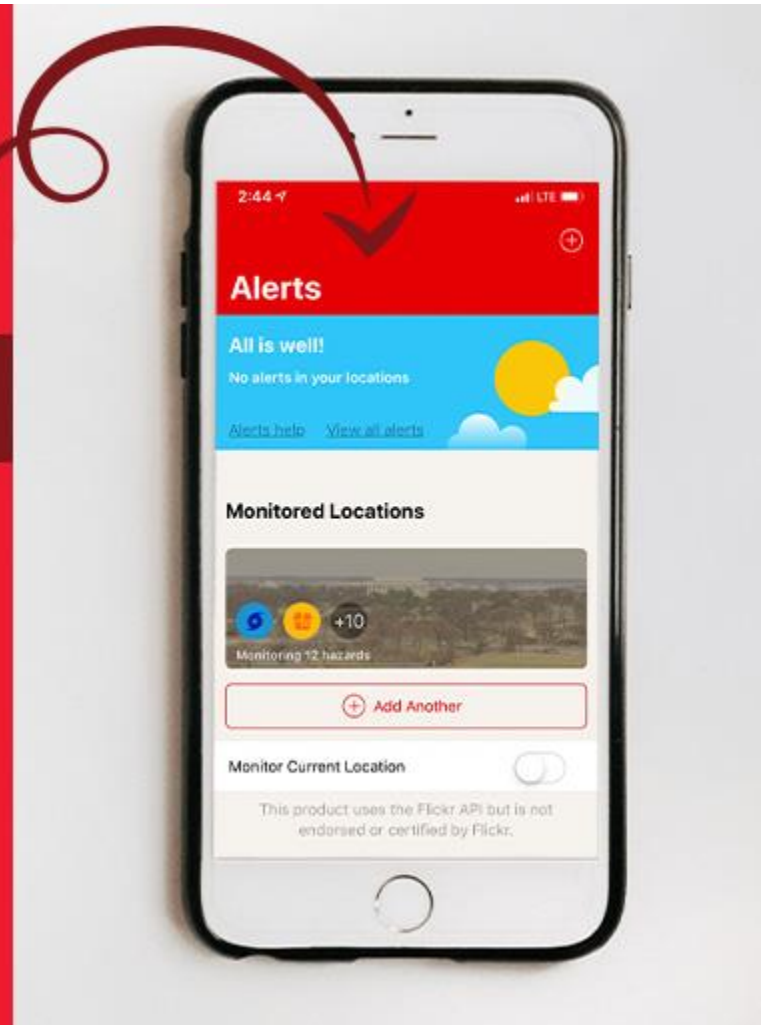
- Get the right safety gear
- Be careful
- Work with a partner
- Pace yourself

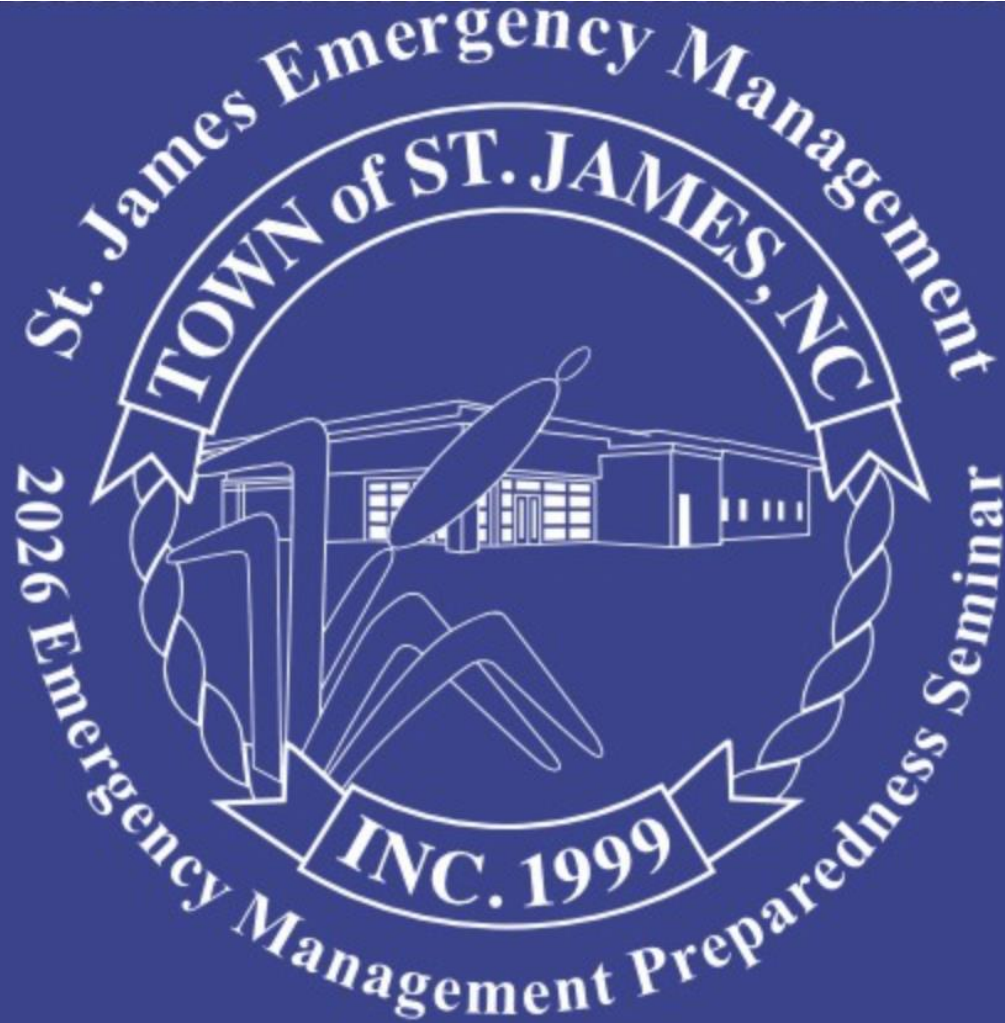


Image courtesy of FEMA

Download the Red Cross Emergency App!

Monitor over 35 different
severe weather and
emergency alerts to keep
you and your loved ones safe.





*When the time to perform is present,
the time to prepare is passed.*