

SPRING 2026

Emergency Preparedness

www.myrtlebeachfire.com/emergency-preparedness



NEWSLETTER

Hurricanes aren't the only hazard that can impact Myrtle beach

Already in 2026, our area has experienced record-breaking snowfall and freezing temperatures, dry conditions and widespread wildfire, severe thunderstorms and damaging winds, and even several tornado watches, along with a few warnings. Myrtle Beach is truly an all-weather climate, requiring us to remain **#StormReady** year-round.

While spring is often associated with milder weather, hazardous conditions and severe weather are common during this season. Strong thunderstorms, damaging winds, and even tornadoes tend to be prevalent at this time of year. Take proactive steps now to ensure the safety and well-being of you and your loved ones when severe weather strikes.

May Is Wildfire Awareness Month

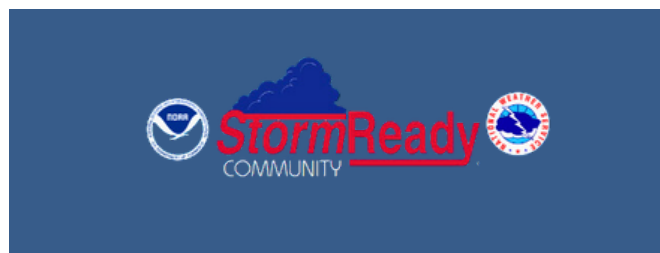
Springtime is wildfire season in the Southeastern U.S., and the Myrtle Beach area is no exception. On March 1, 2025 a backyard debris fire spread quickly, igniting over 2,000 acres in Horry County and prompting emergency evacuations of 8 neighborhoods in the Carolina Forest area, about 5 miles west of Myrtle Beach city limits. South Carolina Forestry and statewide fire resources worked tirelessly preventing loss of life and property.

While city ordinance prohibits open burning in Myrtle Beach city limits, multiple factors can spark a wildfire that spreads quickly. Natural causes, like lightning and downed power lines, and manmade factors, such as grilling in windy conditions, improper disposal of cigarettes, negligent fireworks use, and sparks from chainsaws or lawnmowers, all contribute. Always exercise caution with potential accelerants, especially during wildfire season. If you witness a fire, immediately call 911. Wildfires spread quickly.



Let's Talk Severe Thunderstorm Safety

Severe thunderstorms are officially defined as storms that are capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph. Hail this size can damage property such as plants, roofs and vehicles. Wind this strong is able to break off large branches, knock over trees or cause structural damage to trees. Some severe thunderstorms can produce hail larger than softballs or winds over 100 mph, so please pay attention to the weather so you know when severe storms are possible. Thunderstorms also produce tornadoes and dangerous lightning; heavy rain can cause flash flooding.



Emergency Alerts Save Lives

Ahead of any potential hazard or disaster, we urge the community to ensure they have multiple ways to receive emergency alerts.



Enable Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA).

Check your device settings under “Emergency Alerts” or “Public Alerts” to be sure you will receive notifications for local emergencies, weather warnings, and other critical information based off of your location. (Turn location on.)



Sign up for local alerts programs.

Many municipalities offer subscription-based local alerts to provide community-specific information to residents. In the City of Myrtle Beach, community members can sign up to receive [MB Alerts](#) via text, email, or phone call. Horry County manages [Code Red](#). Both services are free.



Download Emergency Apps

There are several apps that are great resources before, during, and after disasters. Downloading apps like FEMA, South Carolina Emergency Management, Red Cross, and National Weather Service provide alert notifications as well as additional resources and preparedness tips.



Monitor NOAA Weather Radio

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is a reliable source of real-time weather updates, emergency alerts, and warnings. Keep a battery-powered or hand-crank NOAA radio on hand in case modern communications services are interrupted. During emergencies, tune your NOAA radio to the correct frequency for your area. The primary frequency for Myrtle Beach is WNG-573, broadcasting on 162.550 MHz. Secondary frequencies are WNG-586 on 162.475 MHz and WNG-599 on 162.400 MHz.

Are You Evacuation Ready?

Leading up to Hurricane Season, we urge the community to [Know Your Zone](#), know your evacuation route, stock an emergency supply kit, and ready a go bag. However, not all hazards come with several days' notice. As our Carolina Forest neighbors experienced on March 1, 2025, some disasters occur with little to no warning, prompting immediate evacuations and forcing families to leave behind their homes and belongings, prioritizing life safety.

If your home had to be evacuated at a moment's notice, would you be ready? When an evacuation is ordered, act immediately! Keep your go-bag ready at all times and follow the instructions provided.

Here's what to take:

- **Essential Identification:** IDs, medical records, insurance papers, and legal documents.
- **Important Medications:** Any essential prescriptions and over-the-counter medications.
- **Chargers and Electronics:** Phones, tablets, and chargers to stay connected.
- **Clothing:** Weather-appropriate clothes, shoes, and blankets.
- **Food and Water:** At least 3 days' worth of non-perishable food and water for each person.
- **First Aid Kit:** Basic supplies to address minor injuries or medical needs.
- **Cash:** Small bills in case ATMs or credit card machines aren't working.
- **Valuables:** Small, irreplaceable items such as photos, heirlooms, or jewelry.

KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN ALERTS ARE ISSUED

	Advisory and Statement Be aware! A hazard is expected to occur in your area or nearby, but its impact is not expected to be life-threatening.
	Watch Be prepared! A hazard may possibly occur in your area or nearby.
	Warning Take action! A hazard is expected to occur or is already occurring in your area or nearby, and its impact may be serious.

If you receive an alert on your TV, phone, or radio follow the instructions given.

Emergency Shelters

Click to [Download the American Red Cross Emergency Mobile App](#)



When evacuation shelters are opened, they are managed by the American Red Cross. Their interactive app is a great resource, full of preparedness tips and information. When shelters are opened, the app will provide details regarding shelters specific to your area. You will be able to find not only the locations of open shelters, but also reminders of what to bring and what not to bring.

Remember, not all shelters allow pets. The app will specify if a shelter is pet-friendly or not. When evacuating with pets, make sure to bring necessary supplies such as food, water, medications, leashes, and carriers. Additionally, ensure your pets have identification tags and are microchipped if possible, to help reunite you in case you get separated.

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Looking Ahead:

HURRICANE SEASON 2026



LOADING

Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1st.

In preparation, our Emergency Management Team will visit City of Myrtle Beach Neighborhood Watch groups that meets in the month of May to talk community hurricane preparedness.

Mark your calendar and make a plan to attend the NHW in your area this May.

**SCAN TO VIEW OUR CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PAGE**

It is designed to help better educate
and promote resilience within the
Myrtle Beach community.

