BEFORE HURRICANE APPROACHES (NOW)

Plan an evacuation route.
- Contact the local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter, and ask for the community hurricane preparedness plan. This plan should include information on the safest evacuation routes and nearby shelters.

Learn safe routes inland.
- Be ready to drive 20 to 50 miles inland to locate a safe place.
- Have disaster supplies on hand.
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Duct tape
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards
- Sturdy shoes

Make arrangements for pets.
- Pets may not be allowed into emergency shelters for health and space reasons.
- Contact your local humane society for information on local animal shelters.

Make sure that all family members know how to respond after a hurricane.
- Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police, or fire department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
- Protect your windows.
- Permanent shutters are the best protection. A lower-cost approach is to put up plywood panels. Use 1/2 inch plywood – marine plywood is best – cut to fit each window. Remember to mark which board fits which window.
- Pre-drill holes every 18 inches for screws. Do this long before the storm.

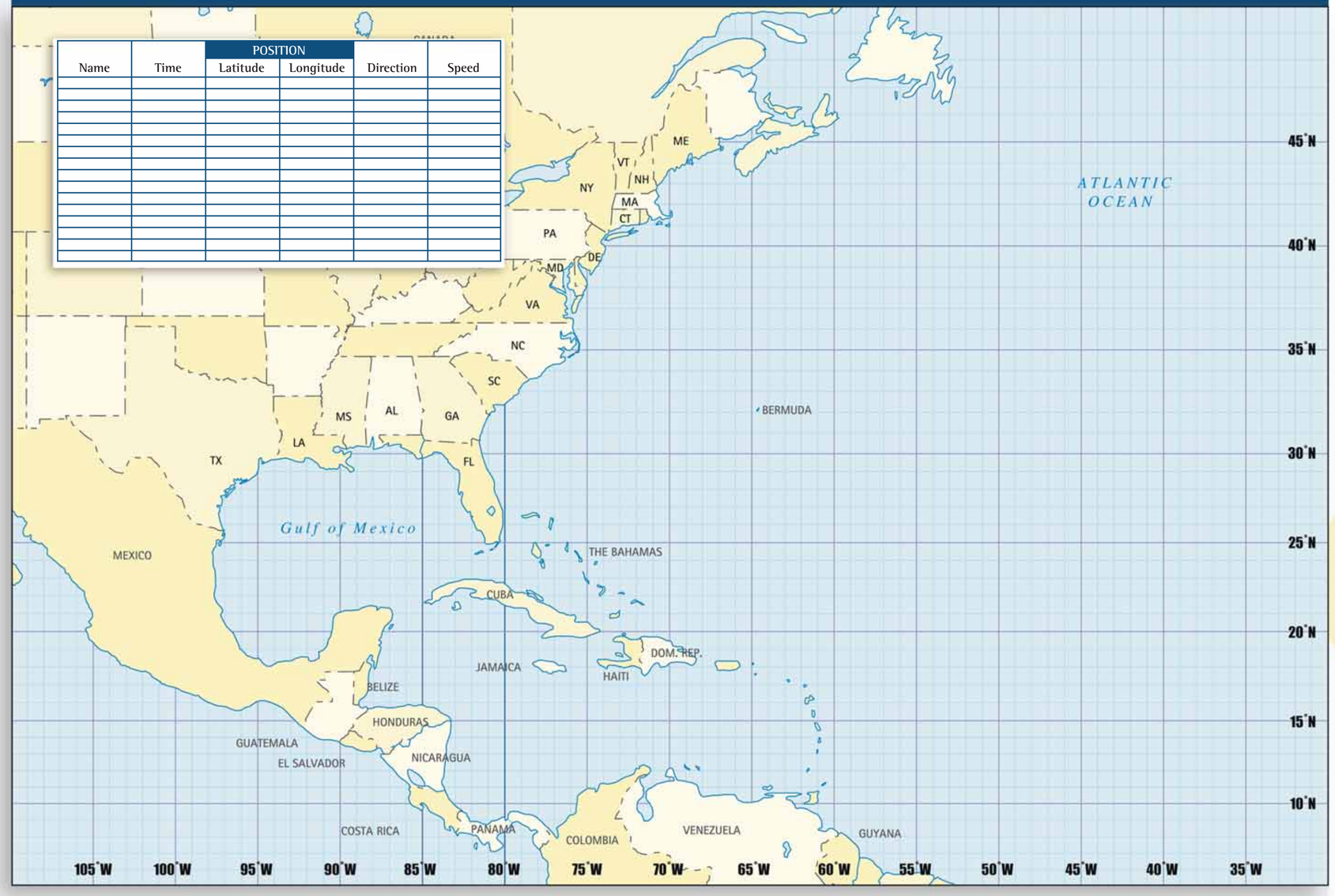
Trim back dead or weak branches from trees.

Check into flood insurance.
- You can find out about the National Flood Insurance Program through your local insurance agent or emergency management office. There is normally a 30-day waiting period before a new policy becomes effective.
- Homeowners polices do not cover damage from the flooding that accompanies a hurricane.

Develop an emergency communication plan.
- In case family members are separated from one another during a disaster (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

Hurricane Tracking Map

Name	Time	POSITION		Direction	Speed
		Latitude	Longitude		



DURING A HURRICANE WATCH

(A Hurricane Watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours.)
- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for hurricane progress reports.
- Check emergency supplies.
- Fuel car.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, and garden tools and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows. Remove outside antennas.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles, and cooking utensils.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.
- Review evacuation plan.
- Moor boat securely or move it to a designated safe place. Use rope or chain to secure boat to trailer. Use tiedowns to anchor trailer to the ground or house.

DURING A HURRICANE WARNING

(A Hurricane Warning is issued when hurricane conditions – winds of 74 mph or greater, or dangerously high water and rough seas – are expected in 24 hours or less.)
- Listen constantly to a battery-operated radio or television for official instructions.
- If in a mobile home, check tiedowns and evacuate immediately.
- Avoid elevators.
- If at home:
  - Stay inside, away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
  - Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy. Avoid open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light.
  - If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power "surge" when electricity is restored.
- If officials indicate evacuation is necessary:
  - Leave as soon as possible. Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges.
  - Secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve.
  - Tell someone outside of the storm area where you are going.
  - If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding or better yet, move it to a higher floor.
  - Take pre-assembled emergency supplies, warm protective clothing, blankets and sleeping bags to shelter.
  - Lock up home and leave.

AFTER THE STORM

- Stay tuned to local radio for information.
- Help injured or trapped persons.
- Give first aid where appropriate.
- Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.
- Return home only after authorities advise that it is safe to do so.
- Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company, police, or fire department.
- Enter your home with caution. Beware of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage; if electricity is off, keep refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible.
- Take pictures of the damage, both to the house and its contents for insurance claims.
- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Refrain from sightseeing.
- Use telephone only for emergency calls.
- Inspecting utilities in a damaged home
  - Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor's home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.
  - Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.
  - Check for sewage and water lines damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid the water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.

Stay tuned for more storm information

The National Weather Service monitors hurricane and storm activity, and issues official bulletins to local and regional TV and radio stations. Since television coverage may be interrupted by power outages, you should also have a battery-operated radio to follow emergency advisories. It is vital that you monitor these weather broadcasts, especially as a storm approaches.

Additionally, the City of Biloxi relays vital information on a regular basis through its online e-mail program. To sign up for the notices, visit http://biloxi.ms.us, where you'll also find detailed and regularly updated weather forecasts.

Here is a list of local outlets where you can obtain information:

Television
WLOX-TV 13
WXXV-TV 25
The Weather Channel

Radio-FM
WQYZ 92.5
WMJY 93.7
WJZD 94.5
WZNF 95.3
WUJM 96.7
WCPR 97.9
WKNN 99.1
WGCM 102.3
WBUV 104.9
WXRG 105.9
WXYK 107.1
WZKX 107.9

Radio-AM
WQFX 1130
WBSL 1190
WGCM 1240
WROA 1390
WXBD 1490
WTNI 1640

Online
biloxi.ms.us
fema.gov
co.harrison.ms.us

By Phone
City of Biloxi
Storm Info Line
435-6300

2007 Storm Names

Andrea	Humberto	Olga
Barry	Ingrid	Pablo
Chantal	Jerry	Rebekah
Dean	Karen	Sebastien
Erin	Lorenzo	Tanya
Felix	Melissa	Van
Gabrielle	Noel	Wendy

Major flood-producing storms that have impacted Biloxi since 1969 include:
- Hurricane Camille
- Hurricane Elena
- Tropical Storm Allison
- Hurricane Frederic
- Hurricane Georges
- Tropical Storm Isidore
- Hurricane Katrina

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

1 **74-95 mph** No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage

2 **96-110 mph** Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2-4 hours before arrival of center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings.

3 **111-130 mph** Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtain-wall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 feet above sea level (ASL) may be flooded inland 8 miles or more.

4 **131-155 mph** More extensive curtain wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet ASL may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas inland as far as 6 miles.

5 **greater than 155 mph** Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet ASL and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 to 10 miles of the shoreline may be required.