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 20-50 miles inland to locate a safe place.
• Have disaster supplies on hand.
• Flashlight and extra batteries
• Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
• Fire extinguisher and manual
• First-aid kit and manual
• Duct tape
• Emergency food and water
• Non-electric can opener
• Drug medications
• Cash and credit cards
• Strong 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 children names and when to call 9-1-1, police, or the fire department.
• Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.

Before Hurricane: • Homeowners polices do not cover damage from the flood insurance.
• Trim back dead or weak branches from trees.
• Protect your windows.
• Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police, or the fire department and which radio station to tune in to for emergency information.
• Protect your windows.
• Permanent shutters are the best protection. A lower cost approach is to put up plywood sheets. Use 1/2 inch, plywood — marine plywood is a cut-out from a plywood. Use metal nails that protrude 1 inch in the window. Remember to mark which board 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 policies do not cover damage from the flooding that accompanies hurricanes.

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, 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 contact people who live in another state.

Check for evacuation orders: • 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, 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 contact people who live in another state.

During a Hurricane Watch: • A Hurricane Watch is issued when hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours.
• Listen to a battery-powered radio or television for hurricane updates.

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-powered radio or television for hurricane information.

• If in a mobile home, check understand evacuation immediately.
• Avoid elevators.
• 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 "surges" 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.
• When potatoes, and you live in an area subject to severe storms, 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.
• Help injured or trapped persons.

• Save travel 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 it is safe to do so.
• Avoid low-lying or dangerous water lines and report them immediately to the power company, police, or fire department.
• Enter your home with caution. Baskets of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by the flood water.
• Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
• Check refrigerated foods for spoilage; if electricity has been flooded.
• Watch for washed-out bridges.
• If you suspect sewage lines are damaged avoid using the toilet 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 boiling six cups.

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 always have a battery-powered radio to follow emergency advice. It is vital that you monitor these weather broadcasts, especially as a storm approaches.

Additionally, the City of Biloxi holds vital emergency information on a regular basis through its online e-mail program. To sign up for the newsletter, visit MyBiloxi.gov, where you’ll also find detailed and regularly updated weather forecasts.

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

2006 Storm Names

Albany
Helene
Oscar
Beryl
Chenoa
Joyce
Chris
Leola
Carol
Denny
Kirk
Stanly
Emmy
Lula
Teddy
Florence
Michael
Valerie
Cindy
Nydia
William

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

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 erosion of beach, and minor damage to saltwater structures. Some roofing material, doors and windows blown off, low fences, and garden tools and anchor objects that cannot be tiedowns to anchor trailer to the ground or house.

3 111-130 mph Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shoreline. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet above sea level may be flooded inland 8 miles or more.

4 131-155 mph More extensive curtain wall failures with some complex roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shoreline. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet above sea level may be flooded inland 10 miles or more.

5 greater than 155 mph Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small urban 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.