

Storm & Flood Preparedness 2013

INFORMATION TO HELP YOU MINIMIZE RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY

Mid-August to mid-September is primetime for hurricanes

By Mike Reader
WLOX Chief Meteorologist

We are heading into the most dangerous time of the hurricane season. History shows that major hurricanes have hit the coast most often between Aug. 15 and Sept. 15.

Hurricane Betsy ravaged Hancock County on Sept. 9, 1965. On Aug. 17, 1969, hurricane Camille decimated the coast of Mississippi. Hurricane Elena struck on Sept. 2, 1985. The last major hurricane to hit the coast was the worst of all. Hurricane Katrina struck on Aug. 29. The

damage from that storm caused massive devastation that we are still struggling with to this day.

Of course there have been other hurricanes and tropical storms that caused damage to the coast. But, the most destructive storms have occurred between Aug. 15 and Sept. 15.

Wind damage from major hurricanes has contributed to destruction along the coast. However, the worst damage by far has been the

result of storm surge along the immediate coast. Camille and Katrina obliterated the coast. By now, we should have learned that very little can survive the 25-foot storm surge and wave action of a major hurricane.

Storms like Isaac, Georges and Gustav point out that rain associated with a hurricane can also be destructive. Hurricanes have been responsible for major flooding throughout south Mississippi.

What we all need to be aware of as we head into the meat of the hurricane season is no hurricane can be treated like any other hurricane. Each storm is a different beast. We all need to get as prepared as we possibly can.

We should go by the idea that you run from the water, and hide from the wind. Meaning, if you are in an area that might flood from storm surge or rain, get out. If you have a strong house with storm shutters, outside a flood zone, you may be able to ride out the storm.

If you have a smart phone, I encourage you to download the WLOX News and Weather apps. They have critical weather information on them. And they keep you connected to WLOX News through our live streaming option. That way, if you evacuate, you can still watch our news, and see what the next storm is doing to your hometown.

Finally, I like to quote longtime Civil Defense Director Wade Guice. He always said, "You have to plan your work, and work your plan." In other words, get ready for hurricane season. And when a storm threatens, execute the plan you've put in place.

Meteorologist Mike Reader, a U.S. Navy veteran, is marking 30 years with WLOX this year.

Mayor A.J. Holloway and the Biloxi City Council:

George W. Lawrence
Felix O. Gines
Dixie Newman
Robert L. Deming, III
Dr. Paul Tisdale
Kenny Glavan
David Fayard



B SMART
Scan to visit the Storm & Flood Preparedness area of the city web site

Heed the call

Network of sirens sounds the alarm when danger threatens

Biloxi has a system of 10 siren towers to help alert residents to impending danger, such as a tornado.

Typically, the tones will be triggered by the National Weather Service issuing tornado or hurricane warnings for the area, according to Police Sgt. Milton Houseman, the city's emergency manager.

Once residents hear the tones, they should seek safe shelter, and tune to local media for more information, or call the city's storm line at (228) 435-6300, or the Biloxi Police Department at 392-0641. The city also will relay information through its Bmail service or web site (biloxi.ms.us), or on Facebook or Twitter.

The locations of the siren towers are the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center on Porter Avenue; at fire stations on Howard Avenue, Elder Street, Pass Road, Veterans Avenue, West Oaklawn Road, Woolmarket Road, at the city's two fire stations on Popp's Ferry Road; and at a Coast Electric substation on Old Highway 67.

All 10 towers can be used simultaneously or individually, depending on the magnitude of the event.

"This is just another tool we have to help alert the public," Mayor A.J. Holloway said. "The biggest thing, however, is for the public to make preparations in advance to be ready to take the appropriate action."



B SMART
Scan to hear the city's tornado alert tone

WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT

Residents of Biloxi can plan on seeing a constant flow of information regarding weather bulletins and advice this hurricane season, as well as early warnings about storms. Here are key timelines to remember:

72 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to see a recommended evacuation announcement.

48 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to see a mandatory evacuation order for Category 1 to 3 Evacuation Zone, which includes all areas south of the CSX railway, the Biloxi peninsula east of I-110, and all flood prone areas along Back Bay of Biloxi, low-lying areas, and area rivers and tributaries. (See map on Page 2.) At this point, casino resorts are expected to close.

36 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to see a mandatory evacuation order for Category 4 to 5 Evacuation Zone, to include all areas south of I-10 and all flood-prone areas along Back Bay of Biloxi, low-lying areas, and area rivers and tributaries. (See map on Page 2.)

What you can do now

Don't wait until a tropical depression or hurricane is in the Gulf to begin preparing. There are steps you can take now. See the list on Page 6.

More info

- To see evacuation zones and evacuation routes, see map on Page 2.
- Information also will be available via city e-news, and through a recorded message on the City of Biloxi Storm Info Line: 435-6300.



Hurricane Katrina bearing down on the Gulf Coast

The story of a lifetime

Cable One will air the city's award-winning documentary "Katrina & Biloxi" on Aug. 29, the seventh anniversary of Hurricane Katrina striking the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The cable company is showing the 50-minute documentary to all of its Biloxi customers as a public service, to help remind residents about the dangers of storms and flooding. Read more about the annual cablecast and find out how you can get your own commemorative DVD and photo album on Page 4.

Do you have flood insurance?

Are you aware that your homeowner's insurance does NOT cover floods? Only federal flood insurance reimburses you for flood damage to your property. You should consider buying flood insurance now.

Some homeowners may have been required to buy flood insurance when they obtained a mortgage or home-improvement loan.

However, in many cases, these policies cover only the structure and not your possessions. You can protect your home and contents through the National Flood Insurance Program, in which the City of Biloxi participates.

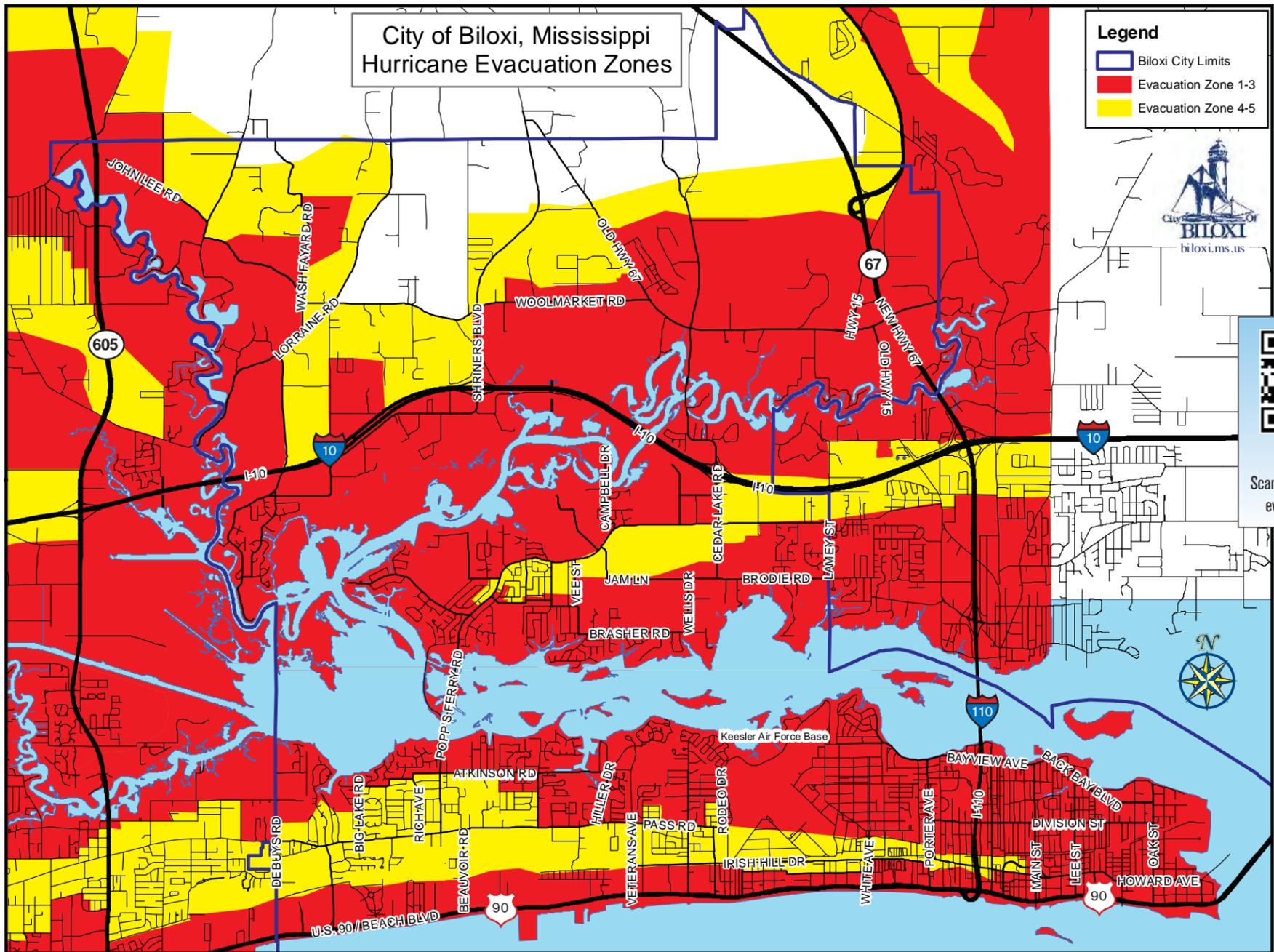
Local insurance agents can sell a flood-insurance policy

separate from your homeowner or windstorm policy. Anyone can get – and everyone should have – flood insurance.

These policies are regulated by the federal government. Any agent can sell a policy and all agents must charge the same rates, which are set nationally. Your rates will not change even if you file a claim.

There is a 30-day waiting period before the policy becomes effective.

Contact your insurance agent to determine what type of coverage you have.



Will you need a ride if an evacuation is ordered? Register now with Coast Transit at 896-8080.

Think ahead on evacuations, storm shelters

One of the toughest decisions that residents may have to make when a storm approaches is whether they should evacuate their property and possessions for either a local shelter or out-of-town accommodations.

Depending on the severity of the storm, that decision can be made for those in low-lying areas: local authorities may order a mandatory evacuation.

In Biloxi, as many as six hurricane shelters can be activated in times of peril, but residents need to be aware of several factors if they are considering seeking refuge in a shelter.

The decision to open a shelter is usually based on the intensity of a storm and where it is expected to make landfall. Local Emergency Management leaders make the decision to open shelters in coordination with the American Red Cross, and the public is notified through

the media. In many cases, elementary schools are used for shelters, which are manned by Red Cross workers and public safety officers.

And the shelter sites can vary from year to year and storm to storm.

“The category of storms and the direction they are coming from are just a couple of the considerations when determining which shelters will be used,” Biloxi Emergency Management coordinator Sgt. Milton Houseman of the Biloxi Police Department says. “Things like tides are also a consideration, so the locations of shelters and when they are activated are made on a case-by-case basis.”

If you think you may seek refuge in a shelter, some points to consider:

- Bring enough food and water for at least the first

day. Bring your own blankets and other personal needs. Cots cannot be guaranteed. No pets, firearms, alcohol or tobacco products are allowed.

- Public transit systems – buses and taxis – will stop operating when sustained winds reach 35 mph.
- If you have an infant, bring an adequate supply of diapers and formula.
- If you or a member of your family is on a special diet, bring the necessary food.
- If you are on prescription medication, try to have a two-week supply of medication.

If you’re thinking about evacuating, be familiar with evacuation routes. Traffic may be delayed by bridges opening to marine traffic. Bridges, by the way, will not open for marine traffic when sustained winds reach 35 mph.

It's illegal to sweep clippings into the street

Chances are, you’ve seen it done or even done it yourself: You cut your lawn, rake up the trimmings and pile them near the curb in front of your home. Or, you’ll sweep the trimmings into the street, where you hope they’ll be carried away by the wind.

These two scenarios result in one of the biggest causes of flooding in the city – **blocked storm drains**. These careless or unthinking actions negate the millions of dollars in improvements that the city is making citywide to drainage systems.

Piling leaves at the curb or sweeping trimmings into the street means that they will eventually find their way into the city’s storm drains. Either bag the leaves for pickup or

compost them. A stopped-up storm drain or ditch cannot carry run-off water as it is intended to do. When it rains, that water can flood streets, your property or your neighbor’s property.

It’s actually a violation of city ordinance to dump any material into storm drains, ditches, culverts, streams or waterways. (Sec. 9-1-15, Code of Ordinances, 1992).

If you see anyone dumping debris into storm drains, ditches, culverts or streams, please contact the Public Works Department at 435-6271, or online at rsullivan@biloxi.ms.us, or the Code Enforcement staff in the Community Development Department, 435-6270 or online at dking@biloxi.ms.us.

City initiatives designed to reduce flood hazards and insurance costs

The City of Biloxi is an active participant in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System, a voluntary incentive program designed to encourage local floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum federal requirements.

Flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect reduced flood risks that result from City actions to meet the three goals of the CRS:

1. Reduce flood losses,
2. Facilitate accurate insurance rating, and
3. Promote the awareness of flood insurance.

For CRS participating communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted in increments of 5 percent. A Class 1 community would receive a 45 percent premium discount, while a Class 9 community would receive a 5 percent discount. The CRS rates are based four broad categories:

1. Public information,

2. Mapping and regulations,
3. Flood damage reduction, and
4. Flood preparedness.

In 2013, the City of Biloxi earned a Class 5 CRS rating and continues to work actively to further lower it.

"The city takes a comprehensive approach in its efforts to reduce the risk of flooding," said Kristin Greger, Biloxi CRS coordinator. "Of course, we want to help property owners through lower insurance premiums, but our primary goals are to reduce risks to our residents and to minimize property damage from weather-related events."

For more information about Biloxi's CRS Program, contact Kristin Greger at 435-6271 or kgreger@biloxi.ms.us.

Builders, heed the directives in city's stormwater ordinance

All Biloxi-licensed contractors are now required to participate in annual stormwater management training prior to being issued a building permit, in compliance with the Biloxi Stormwater Management Ordinance. This training is offered

at no cost to the contractors, to be sure they have information about how to protect local water quality and, at the same time, minimize the risk of flood and stormwater runoff damage by properly maintaining their construction sites.

City building and code inspectors, Public Works, and Parks and Recreations crews also are being trained to improve the management of stormwater in the city by:

- enforcing construction site erosion and sediment control regulations;
- identifying and correcting illicit discharges, such as illegal dumping;
- implementing "good housekeeping" practices at city-owned facilities; and
- holding violators accountable for their actions

The Biloxi stormwater management ordinance and related information are available on the city's website. Click on the Stormwater Management button on the Public Works page.

If you have questions regarding the new training requirements or the City's comprehensive stormwater management system, please contact Christy LeBatard, a city engineer and the city's Stormwater Management coordinator, at clebatard@biloxi.ms.us or 435-6269.

Be sure to get a building permit before construction

When you or a licensed contractor make repairs or alterations to your property, those repairs should be in compliance with established building codes. This ensures that work is up to code and will be able to withstand most weather conditions.

To make sure that your plans are within code, a building permit must be obtained from the City of Biloxi Building Division before you build, alter, regrade or fill on your property.

New buildings in the floodplain must be protected from flood damage. Biloxi's building code requires that new buildings must be elevated to the new DFIRM base flood elevation, plus 1 foot. (See the enclosed map for a view of the 100-year floodplain.)

The code also requires all additions and "substantial" improvements or repairs from damage to a building be treated as new construction. A substantial improvement or repair is one in which the value of an addition, alteration, repair or reconstruction project exceeds 50 percent of the total value of the existing building.

Before you begin a project, contact the Building Division at 435-6270 or online at building@biloxi.ms.us. Qualified staff can help make sure that your project complies with building codes. Biloxi is currently under the 2006 International Building Code, and the 2011 National Electrical Code.

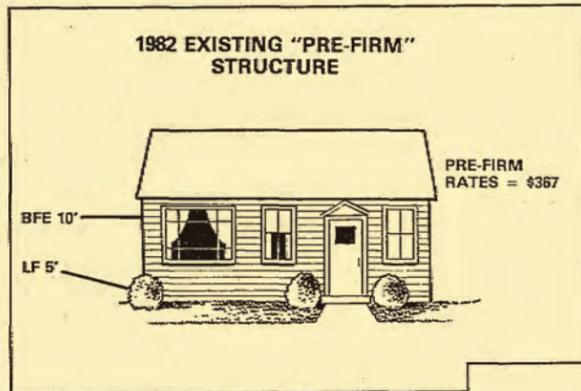
Contractors must have city license

Property owners are warned to beware of transient contractors who typically set up shop in the wake of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

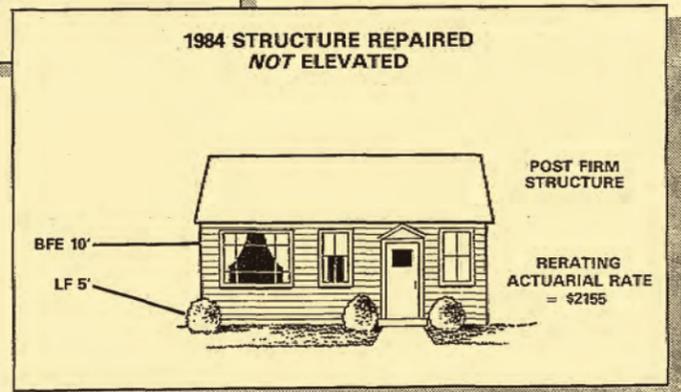
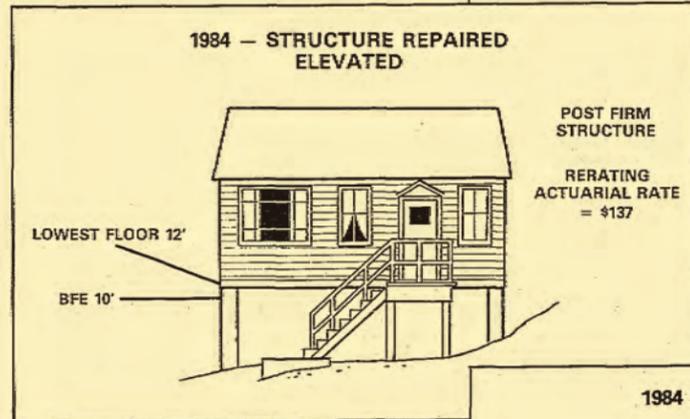
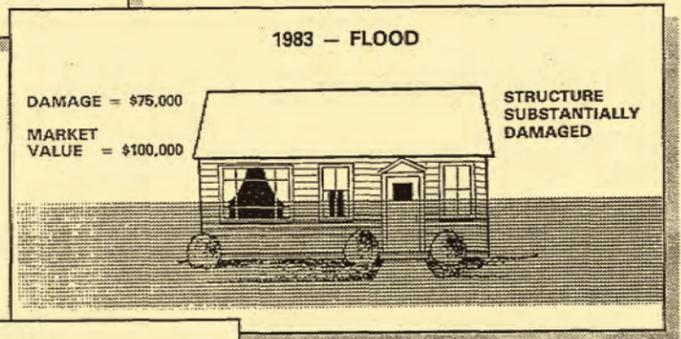
Ask to see the person's City of Biloxi license card, which is required to do business in this city. Do not pay any money in advance. Do not sign any contracts. And do not pay any money until the work has been inspected and approved by a city inspector.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Community Development Department at 435-6280.

How elevations impact your insurance rates



This 1980s FEMA graphic, which was originally distributed to Biloxi residents in December, 2005 illustrates the implications that homeowners face when making repairs to homes that pre-date the Flood Insurance Rate Map. In short, if your substantially damaged home is in a flood-prone area of the city and if your repairs did not include bringing the structure into compliance with current flood elevations, you face significant increases in the cost of your flood insurance. You can see the flood-prone areas of the city in the map on Pages 8 and 9 of this mailout. A larger version can be viewed online at biloxi.ms.us or at any city facility.



You can take steps now to protect your property against flooding

There are some steps that you can take now to prepare your property against flooding.

One option may be "retrofitting," which is altering your home to eliminate or reduce flood damage.

A few things to consider:

- Elevate your building so that flood waters do not enter or reach any susceptible portions.
- Construct barriers out of fill or concrete between your building and flood waters.
- "Dry flood proof" your non-residential building, which entails making walls and flooring watertight so water cannot enter.
- "Wet flood proof" your non-residential building, which entails modifying the structure and relocating

contents to lessen the damage caused by any flood waters that enter your structure.

- Sandbagging is a short-term measure that can also be helpful.

The City of Biloxi is home to many reputable, licensed building contractors who are qualified to make repairs for you. However, after each storm, a number of transient contractors sets up temporary shop in our community. **Before signing any contract or paying any money for repair work, you should ask to see the person's City of Biloxi license.**

If you have any doubts or questions, contact the Building Division at 435-6270 or online at building@biloxi.ms.us to ensure that this individual is licensed to operate in the City of Biloxi.

Need More Info?

- To read FEMA's answers to frequently asked questions about repairing significantly damaged properties in flood zones, visit biloxi.ms.us.
- To read FEMA's "Homebuilder's Guide to Coastal Construction," which provides technical guidance and recommendations concerning the construction of coastal residential, visit biloxi.ms.us.
- Those with other questions can call the Community Development Department at 435-6280 or e-mail building@biloxi.ms.us.

Take a free ride

Coast Transit urges needy to register now for emergency evacuation transportation

Coast Transit Authority is reminding residents in need of emergency storm evacuation transportation to sign up now.

"We strongly advise that if at all possible you make your own emergency evacuation plans and evacuate the area when instructed to do so by the county EMA," said CTA Director Kevin Coggin. "It is always best to have your own plans in place, but we are available to provide assistance to the citizens of Harrison County if they need it."

CTA is managing the evacuation transportation program for Harrison County and will be providing transportation assistance for out-of-town evacuations, to local shelters of last resort, and shelters for pets and their owners.

Residents are advised to sign up now if there is a chance

they will need evacuation transportation. You should register with Coast Transit Authority immediately to make sure you are on the list to receive assistance.

The number to call is 896-8080.

Spanish speaking operators are available. CTA also needs to know as soon as possible of any special medical or other needs to those being transported.

Transportation to a pet shelter will be provided for dogs, cats, and birds only. The pets must be in carriers that can be lifted and loaded by the pet owner. There will be no assistance for loading and unloading pets.

The Harrison County Emergency Management Agency and the Humane Society of South Mississippi are providing

a pet shelter, but the pet owners must accompany the pet during transportation and stay at the same shelter with their pets.

Only two carry-on items per person will be allowed on the buses, either two bags or one bag and one pet carrier. There will be no exceptions.

"It is critical that you go ahead now and make preparations to leave if an evacuation is called," Coggin said. "You should prepare the items you must have to leave in an orderly fashion so that you can leave quickly and you should have pet carriers in hand ready to use if you intend to take a pet. And, you should register immediately if you think you could require our assistance."

You can get free how-to info on preparation and construction

Need more information about flood preparation and construction? The city has assembled a wealth of free how-to booklets about steps that you can take to minimize damage from storms and flooding.

The books are available at these locations:

- Community Development Department, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Municipal Building, 435-6280.
 - City Hall lobby, Lameuse Street.
 - Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center, Pass Road
 - Biloxi public libraries (Howard Avenue, Popp's Ferry Road and Pass Road).
 - Woolmarket Fire Station, 8479 Woolmarket Road
- You can also contact the City's Building or Code Enforcement divisions online at biloxi.ms.us/communitydevelopment.

For detailed info on building permits and construction requirements, contact the Building and Code Enforcement divisions at the Community Development Department, 435-6270 or online at building@biloxi.ms.us. Those planning work in a flood-prone area should contact floodplain manager Rick Stickler at rstickler@biloxi.ms.us or at 435-6270.

You can obtain a number of helpful emergency preparedness brochures online at FEMA's website (www.fema.gov) or from the National Hurricane Center (www.noaa.nhc.gov).

Storm, disaster info can be kid stuff, thanks to website



It's never too soon to begin the education process about storms and the damage they can cause, and a host of educational activities especially for children are now available online.

The Flood and Storm section of Biloxi's web site (<http://biloxi.ms.us>) includes a direct link to

FEMA for Kids, which

features Herman, "the spokescrab" and kid-style information on how to be prepared for disasters and how you can prevent disaster damage.

Parents and teachers will find a number of family or classroom activities for groups.

To see the FEMA for Kids site, visit <http://biloxi.ms.us/floodstorm> and click on For Kids at the top right.



President Bush consoles east Biloxi residents in this image from the city-commissioned documentary 'Katrina and Biloxi.'

City, Cable One to air 'Katrina & Biloxi'

The City of Biloxi and Cable One will air "Katrina & Biloxi: A Story of Resolve and Resilience" on Thursday, Aug. 29, the seventh anniversary of the storm, to help educate residents about the dangers of storms and flooding.

Cable One will air the program at 10:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on Cable 13 in Biloxi.

The 50-minute documentary includes video of the city before, during and after the storm and uses interviews with Biloxi leaders, residents and volunteers to tell the story of Biloxi's encounter with Katrina, the worst natural disaster to ever strike the United States.

"This is a great story," Mayor A.J. Holloway said of the documentary, "and I hope Biloxi residents and all residents of the Gulf Coast tune in so they'll be reminded of just how great our community is, and how far we've come. The biggest thing, though, is to heed the advice you'll hear in this presentation: take storms seriously and prepare accordingly."

The documentary is part of a DVD produced by the city and Tom Nebel Productions, a firm that accompanied the Atlanta Fire Department to Biloxi in the aftermath of the storm. The DVD also comes with a 52-page full-color photo album that was produced by the city and The Ad Group, a Biloxi advertising agency.

The \$85,000 investment has grossed nearly \$350,000 for the city, with sales in 46 of the 50 states and around the globe. Online discounts are available at biloxi.ms.us.

The "Katrina & Biloxi" effort has won awards from the American Advertising Federation and the Public Relations Association of Mississippi.



B SMART
Scan to be put
in the storm in
"Katrina & Biloxi"

Federal agencies encouraging residents to use direct deposit

In those critical days after Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Treasury Department worked with the Social Security Administration to get displaced Social Security and other federal benefit checks to recipients, as quickly as possible. But those who already were using direct deposit had immediate access to their funds from virtually anywhere, thanks to ATMs and financial institution networks.

That's why the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks – through **Go Direct** – are urging Social Security check

recipients who live along the Gulf Coast to switch to direct deposit. The recommendation, offered in light of devastating hurricanes, is aimed at ensuring citizens receive their federal benefits without disruption.

Go Direct makes it easy to sign up for direct deposit. People can sign up by calling the toll-free **Go Direct** helpline at (800) 333-1795 or by visiting www.GoDirect.org to sign up online. To learn more about **Go Direct**, visit www.GoDirect.org.

We deliver.

Thousands of people turn to the Biloxi web site each day to find out details about upcoming city meetings, special events, issues of local interest, or to see the hundreds of online photos or hours of video.

But you don't have to visit the web site each day for information. We can deliver it directly to your Inbox with Bmail, the city's free e-news service. Thousands of Biloxi residents and interested followers from across the country already use Bmail to keep up with Biloxi's progress. You should, too.

Just to go biloxi.ms.us and click on Bmail to sign up. It's free. It's all Biloxi. All the time.

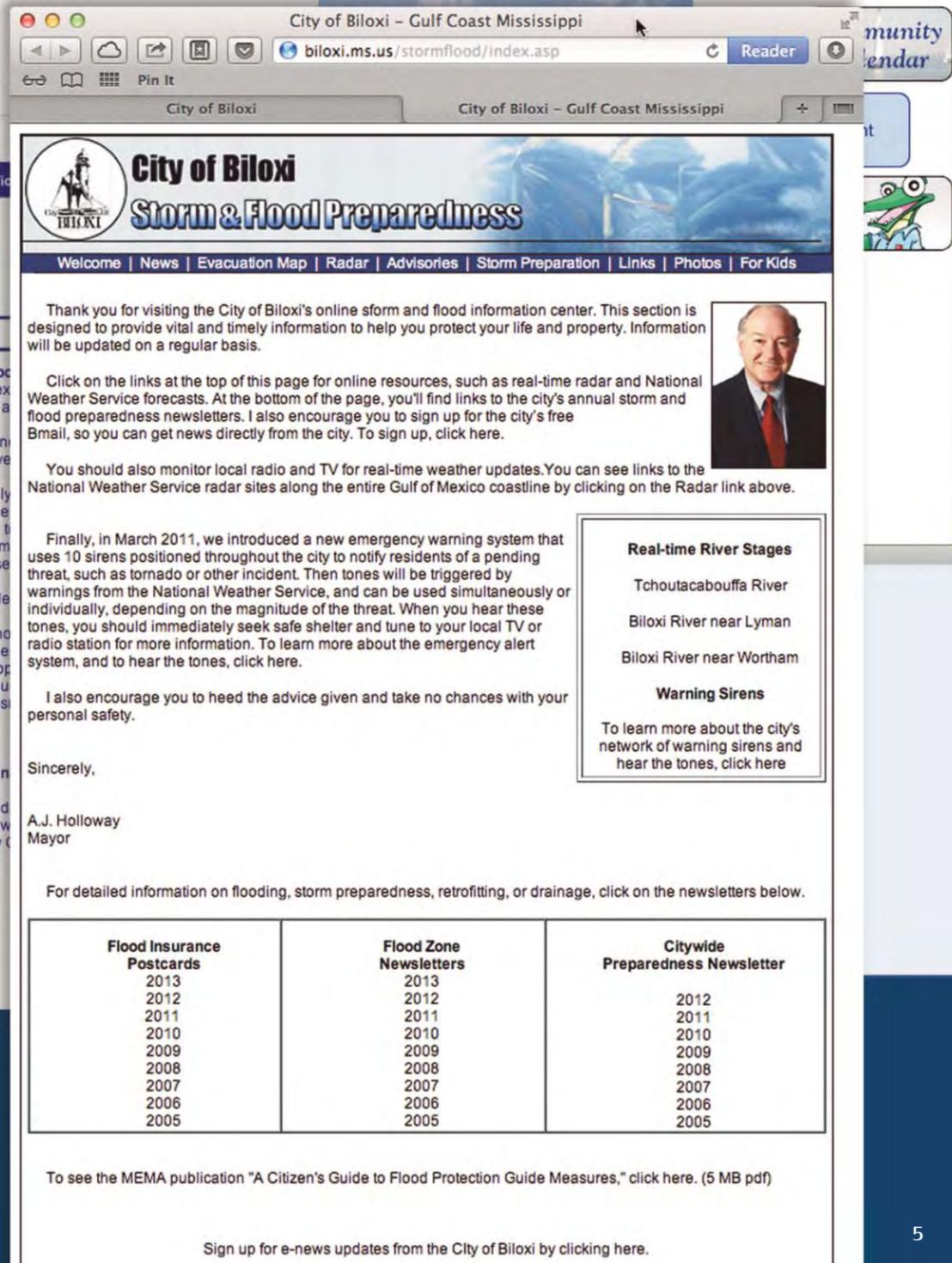
And pass the word to your neighbors, and friends and family across the country.



B SMART
Scan to register
now for Bmail



Council seeks more info on stadium proposal — Inbox



biloxi.ms.us

king Map



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
sunherald.com
wlox.com

By Phone

City of Biloxi
Storm Info Line
435-6300

2013 Storm Names

Andrea	Humberto	Olga
Barry	Ingrid	Pablo
Chantal	Jerry	Rebekah
Dorian	Karen	Sebastien
Erin	Lorenzo	Tanya
Fernand	Melissa	Van
Gabrielle	Nestor	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.

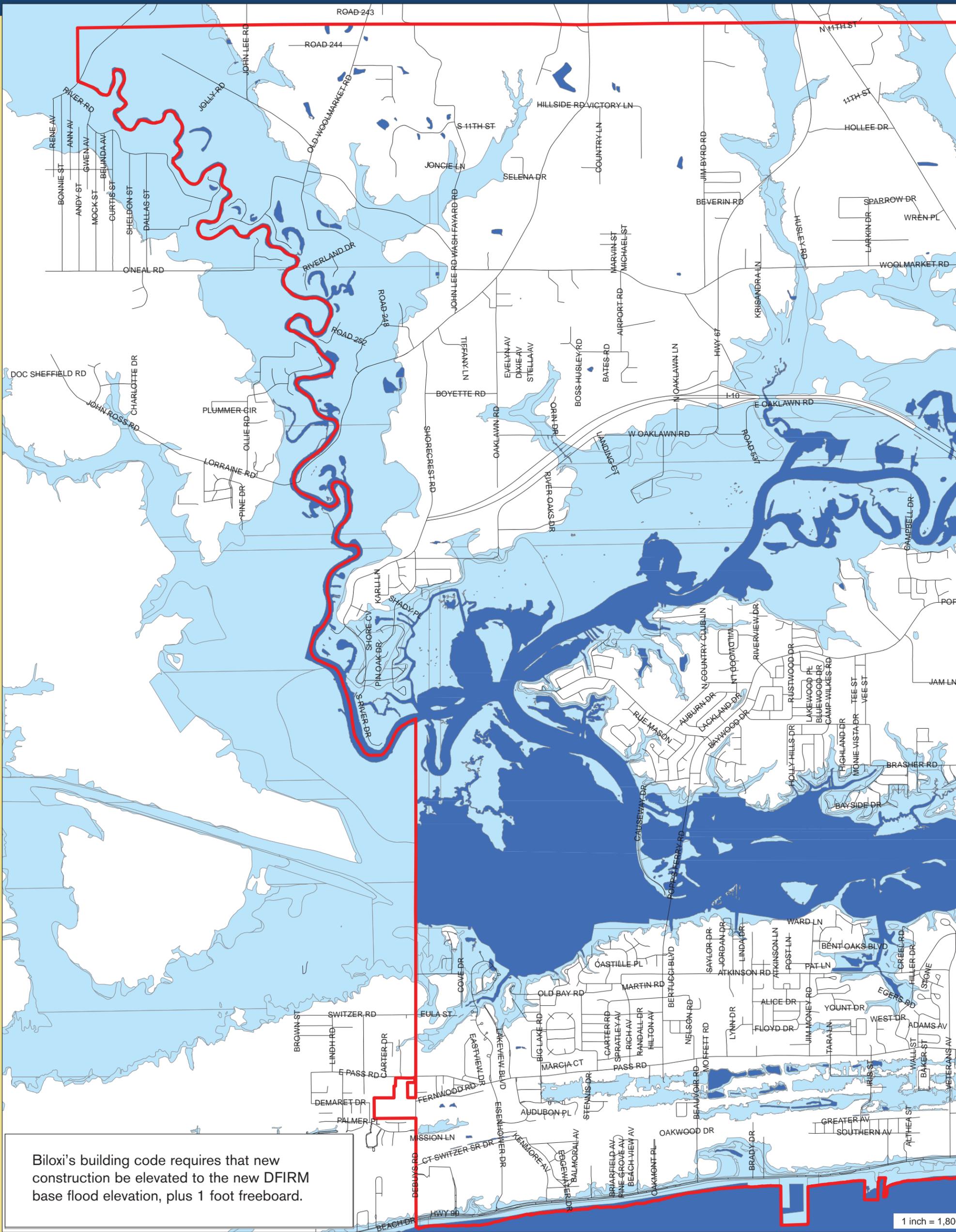
4 131-155 mph More extensive curtain wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet ASL may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas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

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 of 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.
- Generally, utility companies restore services lost during major storm events first to public service providers, such as hospitals, water systems and public safety agencies.

Flood Zones



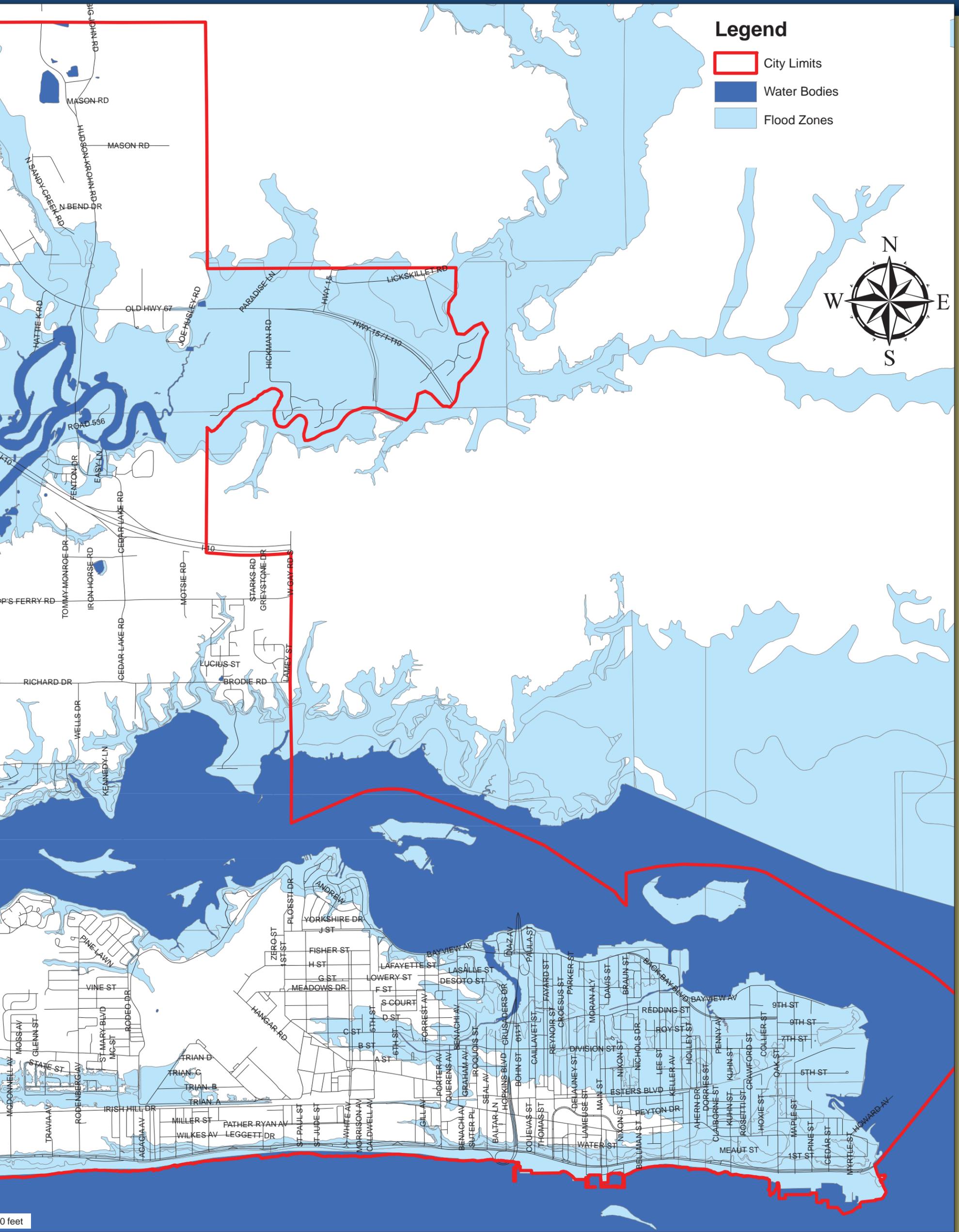
Biloxi's building code requires that new construction be elevated to the new DFIRM base flood elevation, plus 1 foot freeboard.

1 inch = 1,800

A few words about this map

Much has been made and said about the federal government's new flood elevations, which went into effect in Biloxi in May 2009. While much of the focus has been on the height of construction, this map shows the significant increase in the size of the flood zone. For instance, nearly all of Point Cadet, the eastern tip of the Biloxi peninsula, is now in a flood zone, as is Eagle Point in north Biloxi.

Completed elevation certificates are available from the city's Community Development Department.



Where to turn for help

The Community Development Department is here to help minimize the risk you face from storms and flooding. If you are having flooding problems, advice is available to help you resolve your flooding issues. To make an appointment, call contact Floodplain Manager Rick Stickler at (228) 435-6270 or rstickler@biloxi.ms.us

Flood Protection Assistance also is available from such sources as the American Red Cross, the Small Business Administration, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, United Way, Salvation Army, Catholic Social and Community Services, Back Bay Mission.



These Spanish and Vietnamese translations of storm preparation information are provided by Google. You can translate the entire City of Biloxi web site (biloxi.ms.us) by clicking on the Spanish or Vietnamese buttons at the bottom left of nearly any page on the site. More than 60 other translations also are available.



Antes de huracán se acerca o NOW

Planee una ruta de evacuación.

- Revise la ruta de evacuación, haga clic en el enlace Mapa de Evacuación en la sección de Preparación para tormenta y la inundación de la página web de la ciudad. Determinar la ruta de evacuación más seguras para usted. Esté preparado para conducir de 20 a 50 millas tierra adentro para localizar un lugar seguro.

Prepare un kit de tormenta que incluye los siguientes elementos:

- Linterna y baterías adicionales
- Portátil, radio de baterías y baterías adicionales
- Botiquín de primeros auxilios y manual
- La cinta adhesiva
- Suficiente agua y comida (por lo menos un galón de agua por persona por día durante tres a siete días; no perecederos envasados o alimentos en conserva y zumos, platos de papel y utensilios de plástico, utensilios de cocina)
- No abrelatas eléctrico
- Los medicamentos esenciales
- Efectivo y tarjetas de crédito
- Zapatos resistentes
- Celular totalmente cargado de teléfono
- Guarde los documentos importantes en un recipiente hermético o bolsa de plástico resellable. Entre los documentos importantes: seguros, registros médicos, números de cuentas bancarias, tarjetas de Seguro Social, etc.

Haga los arreglos para las mascotas.

- No se permiten mascotas en los refugios de emergencia para la salud y razones de espacio. Póngase en contacto con la sociedad humanitaria local para obtener información sobre los refugios de animales locales.

Asegúrese de que todos los miembros de la familia sepan cómo responder después de un huracán.

- Enseñe a los miembros de la familia cómo y cuándo desconectar el gas, la electricidad y el agua.
- Enseñe a los niños cómo y cuándo llamar al 9-1-1, la policía o departamento de bomberos y qué estación de radio sintonizar para oír información de emergencia.
- Proteja sus ventanas.
- Las contraventanas permanentes son la mejor protección.

Un enfoque de costo más bajo es poner paneles de madera contrachapada. Use madera contrachapada 1/2 pulgada - la madera contrachapada marina es la mejor - corte a medida de cada ventana. No olvide marcar qué tablón es para qué ventana. Perfore agujeros cada 18 pulgadas para los tornillos. Haga esto mucho antes de la tormenta.

Recorte las ramas muertas o débiles de los árboles.

Verifique el seguro de inundación.

- Usted puede encontrar información sobre el Programa de Seguro Nacional contra Inundaciones a través de su agente de seguros local u oficina de manejo de emergencias. Normalmente hay un período de 30 días de espera antes de una nueva política entre en vigencia. Políticas de vivienda no cubren daños causados por la inundación que acompaña a un huracán.

Desarrollar un plan de comunicación de emergencia.

- En el caso de los miembros de la familia se separen unos de otros durante un desastre (una posibilidad real durante el día cuando los adultos trabajan y los niños en la escuela), tenga un plan para volver a estar juntos.
- Pida a un pariente fuera del estado o amigo para que sirva como "contacto familiar". Después de un desastre, a menudo es más fácil hacer llamadas de larga distancia. Asegúrese de que todos en la familia sepan el nombre, dirección y número de teléfono de la persona de contacto.

Durante una alerta de huracán

(Una vigilancia de huracán se emite cuando existe una amenaza de huracán dentro de 24-36 horas.)

- Escuche una radio a batería o televisión para los informes de progreso del huracán.
- Verifique los suministros de emergencia.
- De gasolina del coche.
- Recoja los objetos al aire libre, tales como muebles, juguetes y herramientas de jardinería y objetos de anclaje que no se puede entrar a la casa.
- Asegure los edificios cerrando y colocando tabloncillos sobre las ventanas. Quite las antenas exteriores.
- Ponga el refrigerador y el congelador a temperaturas más frías. Abierto sólo cuando sea absolutamente necesario y se cierran rápidamente.
- Almacene agua potable en bañeras limpias, jarras, botellas y

utensilios de cocina.

- Guarde objetos de valor y documentos personales en un recipiente impermeable en el nivel más alto de su casa.
- Revisar el plan de evacuación.
- Amarre el bote de forma segura o moverlo a un lugar seguro designado. Use cuerdas o cadenas para asegurar los botes al remolque. Utilice amarres para anclar el remolque al suelo oa la casa.

Durante una Advertencia de Huracán

(Una advertencia de huracán se emite cuando las condiciones de huracán - vientos de 74 mph o más, o aguas peligrosamente altas y los mares agitados – Se espera que en 24 horas o menos.)

- Escuche constantemente un radio de baterías o la televisión para las instrucciones oficiales.
- Si en una casa móvil, verifique las sujeciones y evacue de inmediato.
- Evite los ascensores.
- Si en el hogar:
 - Permanezca en el interior, lejos de las ventanas, tragaluces y puertas de vidrio.
 - Mantenga un suministro de linternas y pilas adicionales. Evite las llamas abiertas, tales como velas y lámparas de queroseno, como fuente de luz.
 - Si se pierde la energía, apagar los aparatos importantes para reducir el poder de "oleada" cuando la electricidad sea restaurada.
- Si los funcionarios indican que la evacuación es necesaria:
 - Salga tan pronto como sea posible. Evite los caminos inundados y tenga cuidado con los puentes arrasados.
 - Asegure su casa desconectando los aparatos y apagar la electricidad y la válvula principal de agua.
 - Dile a alguien fuera del área de la tormenta a dónde va.
 - Si el tiempo lo permite y usted vive en una zona de crecientes identificada, eleve los muebles para protegerlos de las inundaciones, o mejor aún, ir a un piso más alto.
 - Tome la pre-ensamblados suministros de emergencia, ropa de protección de abrigo, mantas y sacos de dormir a la vivienda.
 - Cierre con llave su casa y se van.

Trước khi phương pháp tiếp cận bão hoặc NOW

Kế hoạch một tuyến đường sơ tán.

- Xem lại các tuyến đường di tản bằng cách nhấn vào liên kết Bản đồ di tản trong phần Chuẩn bị bão lũ của các trang web thành phố. Xác định các tuyến đường sơ tán an toàn nhất cho bạn. Hãy sẵn sàng để lái xe 20-50 dặm nội địa để xác định vị trí một nơi an toàn.

Chuẩn bị một bộ cơ bản bao gồm các mục sau đây:

- Đèn pin và pin dự phòng
- Đài phát thanh di động, hoạt động bằng pin và pin dự phòng
- Bộ dụng cụ sơ cứu và hướng dẫn sử dụng
- Băng keo
- Khăn cấp thực phẩm và nước (ít nhất một gallon nước mỗi người mỗi ngày trong 3-7 ngày, đóng gói không dễ hư hỏng thực phẩm đóng hộp và nước trái cây, đĩa giấy và dụng cụ bằng nhựa, các công cụ nấu ăn)
- Không dùng điện can opener
- Essential thuốc
- Tiền mặt và thẻ tín dụng
- Mạnh mẽ giày
- Sạc đầy điện thoại di động
- Lưu trữ giấy tờ quan trọng trong một thùng chứa không thấm nước hoặc túi nhựa resealable. Trong số các tài liệu quan trọng: bảo hiểm, hồ sơ y tế, số tài khoản ngân hàng, thẻ an sinh xã hội, v.v

Hãy sắp xếp cho vật nuôi.

- Thú cưng không được cho phép trong trường hợp khẩn cấp nơi trú ẩn cho sức khỏe và lý do không gian. Liên hệ với xã hội nhân đạo địa phương để biết thông tin về các trại động vật địa phương

Hãy chắc chắn rằng tất cả các thành viên trong gia đình biết làm thế nào để đáp ứng sau khi một cơn cuồng phong.

- Dạy cho thành viên gia đình như thế nào và khi tắt điện, khí đốt, và nước.
- Dạy cho trẻ như thế nào và khi nào gọi 9-1-1, cảnh sát, sở cứu hỏa và trạm vô tuyến điện để điều chỉnh cho thông tin khẩn cấp.
- Bảo vệ cửa sổ của bạn.

- Cửa chớp thường trực là bảo vệ tốt nhất. Một cách tiếp cận chi phí thấp hơn là để đưa lên tấm ván ép. Sử dụng 1/2 inch ván ép, gỗ dán biển là tốt nhất cắt giảm để phù hợp với mỗi cửa sổ. Hãy nhớ để đánh dấu hội đồng quản trị phù hợp với cửa sổ. Lỗ khoan trước khi mỗi 18 inch dùng cho vít. Làm điều này trước cơn bão.

Trim trở lại chi nhánh từ cây chết hoặc yếu.

Kiểm tra vào bảo hiểm lũ lụt.

- Bạn có thể tìm hiểu về Chương trình Bảo hiểm Lũ lụt Quốc gia thông qua đại lý bảo hiểm địa phương của bạn hoặc văn phòng quản lý khẩn cấp. Có bình thường thời gian chờ đợi 30 ngày trước khi một chính sách mới có hiệu lực. Chủ nhà sách không bao gồm thiệt hại do lũ lụt đi kèm với một cơn bão.

Phát triển một kế hoạch liên lạc khẩn cấp.

- Trong trường hợp các thành viên trong gia đình được tách ra khỏi nhau trong trường hợp có tai họa (một khả năng thực trong ngày khi người lớn đang làm việc và trẻ em đang ở trường), có một kế hoạch cho việc trở lại với nhau.
- Yêu cầu thân nhân của nhà nước hoặc người bạn để phục vụ như là Sau khi xảy ra thảm họa "liên lạc của gia đình.", Nó thường dễ dàng hơn để gọi đường dài. Hãy chắc chắn rằng tất cả mọi người trong gia đình biết tên, địa chỉ, và số điện thoại của người liên hệ.

Trong một Xem cơn bão

(Xem cơn bão được ban hành khi có một mối đe dọa có bão trong vòng 24-36 giờ.)

- Lắng nghe một đài phát thanh hoạt động bằng pin hoặc truyền hình cho các báo cáo tiến độ bão.
- Kiểm tra khẩn cấp.
- Nhiên liệu xe hơi.
- Mang theo trong các đối tượng ngoài trời như đồ nội thất cỏ, đồ chơi, dụng cụ làm vườn và các đối tượng neo không có thể được đưa vào bên trong.
- Tòa nhà an toàn bằng cách đóng cửa và lên các cửa sổ. Hủy bỏ ăng-ten bên ngoài.
- Rẻ tủ lạnh và tủ đông lạnh nhất thiết lập. Mở khi hoàn toàn cần thiết và gần gũi một cách nhanh chóng.
- Cửa hàng uống nước trong bồn tắm sạch sẽ, bình, chai lọ, và đồ dùng nấu ăn.

- Cửa hàng vật có giá trị và các giấy tờ cá nhân trong một thùng chứa không thấm nước lên mức cao nhất của nhà bạn.
- Xem lại kế hoạch sơ tán.
- Moor thuyền an toàn hoặc di chuyển nó đến một nơi an toàn. Sử dụng dây hoặc chuỗi để đảm bảo thuyền Trailer. Sử dụng tiedowns neo đầu trailer cho mặt đất hoặc nhà.

Trong một cảnh báo cơn bão

(Cảnh báo bão được ban hành khi cơn bão điều kiện sức gió 74 mph hoặc cao hơn, hoặc nước nguy hiểm cao và biển động được dự kiến trong 24 giờ hoặc ít hơn.)

- Nghe liên tục cho một đài phát thanh hoặc truyền hình để được hướng dẫn chính thức hoạt động bằng pin.
- Nếu trong một ngôi nhà di động, kiểm tra tiedowns và sơ tán ngay lập tức.
- Tránh thang máy.
- Nếu ở nhà:
 - Ở trong nhà, tránh xa cửa sổ, cửa sổ ở mái nhà, và cửa kính.
 - Giữ một nguồn cung cấp đèn pin và pin dự phòng tiện dụng. Tránh lửa ngọn, chẳng hạn như nến và đèn dầu, như là một nguồn ánh sáng.
 - Nếu bị mất điện, tắt các thiết bị chủ yếu để giảm quyền lực "tăng" khi điện được phục hồi.
- Nếu các viên chức cho biết sơ tán là cần thiết:
 - Để lại càng sớm càng tốt. Tránh đường bị ngập và xem cho cầu rửa ra.
 - Bảo vệ nhà của bạn bằng cách rút các thiết bị và tắt điện, van nước chính.
 - Giới thiệu một người nào đó bên ngoài của cơn bão khu vực nơi bạn đang đi.
 - Nếu thời gian cho phép, và bạn sống trong một khu vực tầng được xác định, nâng cao đồ nội thất để bảo vệ nó khỏi lũ lụt hoặc tốt hơn, di chuyển nó đến một tầng cao hơn.
 - Khăn cấp trước khi lắp ráp, quần áo bảo vệ ấm, chăn và túi ngủ đến nơi trú ẩn.
 - Khóa nhà và để lại.

Climate Change Fact or Fiction?



Overview

Regardless of whether or not you believe in global warming, there seems to be little doubt in the scientific community that the Mississippi Gulf Coast is experiencing changes in climate trends.

With more information being shared by the scientific community about increasing coastal vulnerability, Biloxi officials realize that consideration should be given to addressing projected climate-change impacts that include more days with temperatures above 90 degrees, less rainfall during the summer months and especially sea level rise.

Mark Twain said "Climate is what we expect; weather is what we get."

Climate is long-term average of weather patterns.

Weather can vary dramatically from year to year partly because it is influenced by short-term natural variations.

The City of Biloxi encompasses about 46.5 square miles, of which 82% is land and 18%, or 8.5 square miles, is water. Approximately 50% of this area is located in a special flood hazard area. Located on a peninsula between the Mississippi Sound and the Bay of Biloxi, the oldest and most developed part of the City of Biloxi is surrounded on three sides by tidally-influenced coastline. North Biloxi is bound to the west by the Biloxi River and is split diagonally, northwest, by the Tchoutacabouffa River.

With this large amount of land mass abutting significant-size water bodies, Biloxi is faced with a higher level of vulnerability than land-locked communities, if projections about sea level rise and more frequent, more severe weather are realized.

Nonstructural and Structural Protection Measures

If scientists' projections for sea level rise and increased storm intensity (higher wind speeds, more rainfall and increased height and strength of storm surges) are realized, the risk to residents and their property will increase if a proactive approach to climate-change adaptation isn't thoughtfully considered. Recent updates to the City's Land Use, Stormwater Management and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances address specific measures to help reduce structural damage; the City's all-hazards mitigation planning, currently underway, will address additional nonstructural methods to reduce damage.

Sea-Level Rise Visualization Map

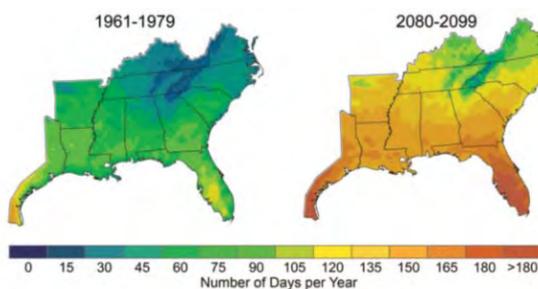
Do you want to "see" potential flooding scenarios? A Sea-Level Rise Visualization Map for Mississippi, Alabama and Florida is available online at <http://gom.usgs.gov/slr/index.html>, developed as part of a pilot project of the NOAA Coastal Services Center and the U.S. Geological Survey. The website provides user adjustable sea level rise levels, marsh locations, related vulnerability information, and flood frequency for selected areas across Southern Mississippi and other areas.

While year-to-year changes in temperature often reflect natural climatic variations such as El Niño/La Niña events, changes in average temperature from decade to decade reveal a long-term warming. Each of the last three decades has been much warmer than the decade before it, with each one setting a new and significant record for the highest global temperature. At the time, the 1980s was the hottest decade on record. But in the 1990s, every year was warmer than the average of the previous decade, and the 2000s were warmer still.

Source: Southern Regional Climate Center, based on a "higher emissions scenario"

Temperature Changes

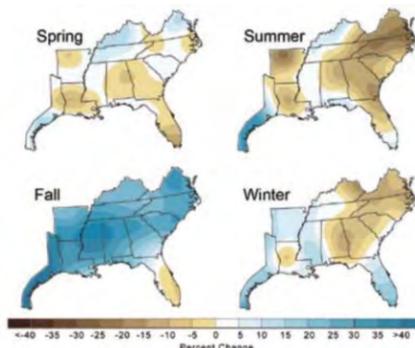
According to the Southern Regional Climate Center (www.srcc.lsu.edu/maps/current), regional mean temperatures in the Southeast region for the month of March 2012 ranged from 3 to 15 degrees above normal. In fact, four of the six states in the Southeast region experienced their warmest March since records began in 1895. These states include: Mississippi (with an average March temperature of 65.10 degrees F); Arkansas; Oklahoma; and Tennessee. Louisiana experienced its third warmest March on record since 1895, while Texas experienced its sixth warmest March on record.



The number of days per year with peak temperature over 90 degrees (F) is projected to rise significantly, as shown in the map above.

Precipitation

Average precipitation in the Southeast region during the fall has increased by 30 percent since 1901, according to the Global Climate Change Impacts in the U.S. report (the full report can be found online at www.globalchange.gov/usimpacts). There has been an increase in heavy downpours in many parts of the region, while the percentage of the region experiencing moderate to severe drought increased over the past three decades. The area of moderate to severe spring and summer drought has increased by 12 percent and 14 percent, respectively, since the mid-1970s. Even in the fall months, when precipitation tended to increase in most of the region, the extent of drought increased by 9 percent.



Biloxi's "Normal" Monthly Precipitation in Inches (1971-2000)

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
6.08	5.48	6.16	4.82	5.37	5.03	7.4	5.8	5.67	3.3	4.84	4.89	64.84

NOAA's National Climatic Data Center, "the world's largest archive of climate data," offers climate information online for those interested in tracking local or global climate trends and weather events. Visit <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>.

Information in this flier is from NOAA's User's Guide, An Annotated List of Tools for the Climate Outreach Community of Practice, the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium and FEMA.

Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

- **Animal control** 392-0641
To report stray or dead animals, leash-law violations
- **Auto Tag/Property Tax Information** . . . 435-8242
County Courthouse at Lameuse Street and MLK Boulevard
- **Birth Certificates** 601-576-7960
State Department of Vital Statistics in Jackson
- **Building Permits** 435-6270
To obtain permits for construction and improvements
- **Business Licenses** 435-6247
To obtain a license to do business in the city
- **City Council** 435-6257
To reach councilmembers or clerks of council
- **City Court** 435-6125
Information on traffic tickets and court docket
- **Code Enforcement** 435-6270
To report weeded lots, unsafe buildings, abandoned vehicles
- **Drivers Licenses** 392-1183
Automall Parkway, D'Iberville, near library
- **Emergency Police and Fire** 911
Non-emergency: 435-6100 (police) or 435-6200 (fire)
- **Garbage Collection** 328-1820
Advanced Disposal manages the city's residential garbage collection
- **Housing Authority** 374-7771
To get information on public housing
- **Human Resources** 435-6259
For info on city employment; on third floor, City Hall
- **Mayor's Office** 435-6254
Citizen services, proclamations, public records requests
- **Museums information** 435-6244
Info on city museums or to rent historic properties
- **Parks & Recreation** 388-7170
Info on programs, or to rent most city facilities
- **Planning Commission** 435-6266
To apply for a change in your zoning or land use
- **Public Schools** 374-1810
Administrative office for all Biloxi public schools
- **Streets and Drainage** 435-6271
To report pot holes, damaged street signs or traffic signals
- **Visitor Info** 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
Visitors Center is immediately north of the Biloxi Lighthouse.
- **Water Service** 435-6236
Meter Reading Specialists manages city water department

Utilities

- Cable TV
- Cable One 374-5900
- Electricity
- Mississippi Power 800-532-1502
- Coast Electric Power Assoc 388-3109
- Gas
- CenterPoint Energy Entex 896-7500
- Water/sewer
- City of Biloxi 435-6236

More information is available online at biloxi.ms.us. To receive e-news, click on Bmail.

Bmail

Storm & Flood Preparedness 2013



P.O. Box 429
Biloxi, MS 39533



B SMART
Scan these codes
with your smart phone
to find more information online.

**Important Storm & Flood
Preparation Info Enclosed**

Biloxi Resident

PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 57
BILOXI, MS 39530
ECRWSS

THE OFFICIAL CITY OF BILOXI PHOTO ALBUM & DVD

Thousands of people across the country and around the globe have purchased their copy of "Katrina and Biloxi," and now the City of Biloxi is making the DVD and companion photo album available at any Biloxi public library for the low price of \$20.

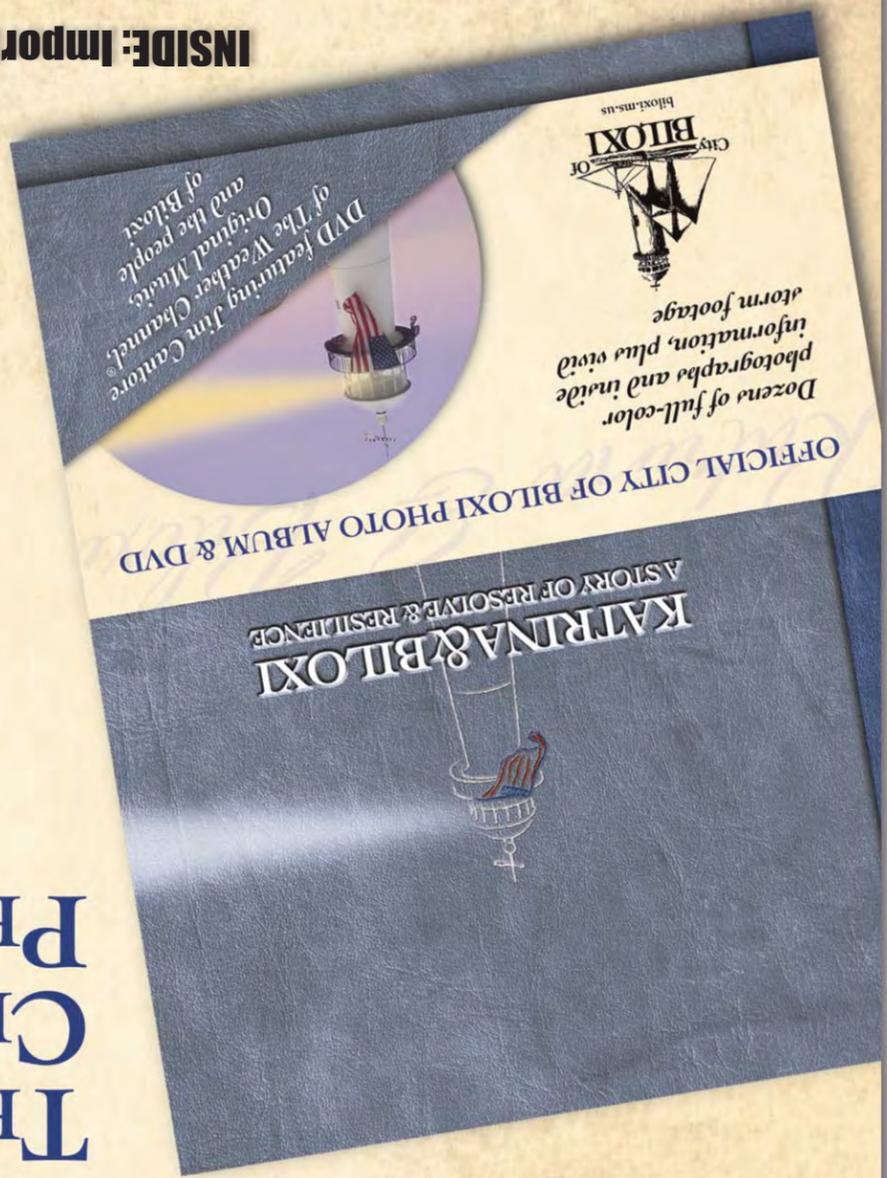
You can also place orders for friends across the country securely online at biloxi.ms.us. We'll handle the shipping. Just click on "Katrina & Biloxi."

Buy it now at any Biloxi public library or online at biloxi.ms.us



B SMART
Scan to see reviews, video and to order "Katrina & Biloxi"

INSIDE: Important Storm & Flood Info



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