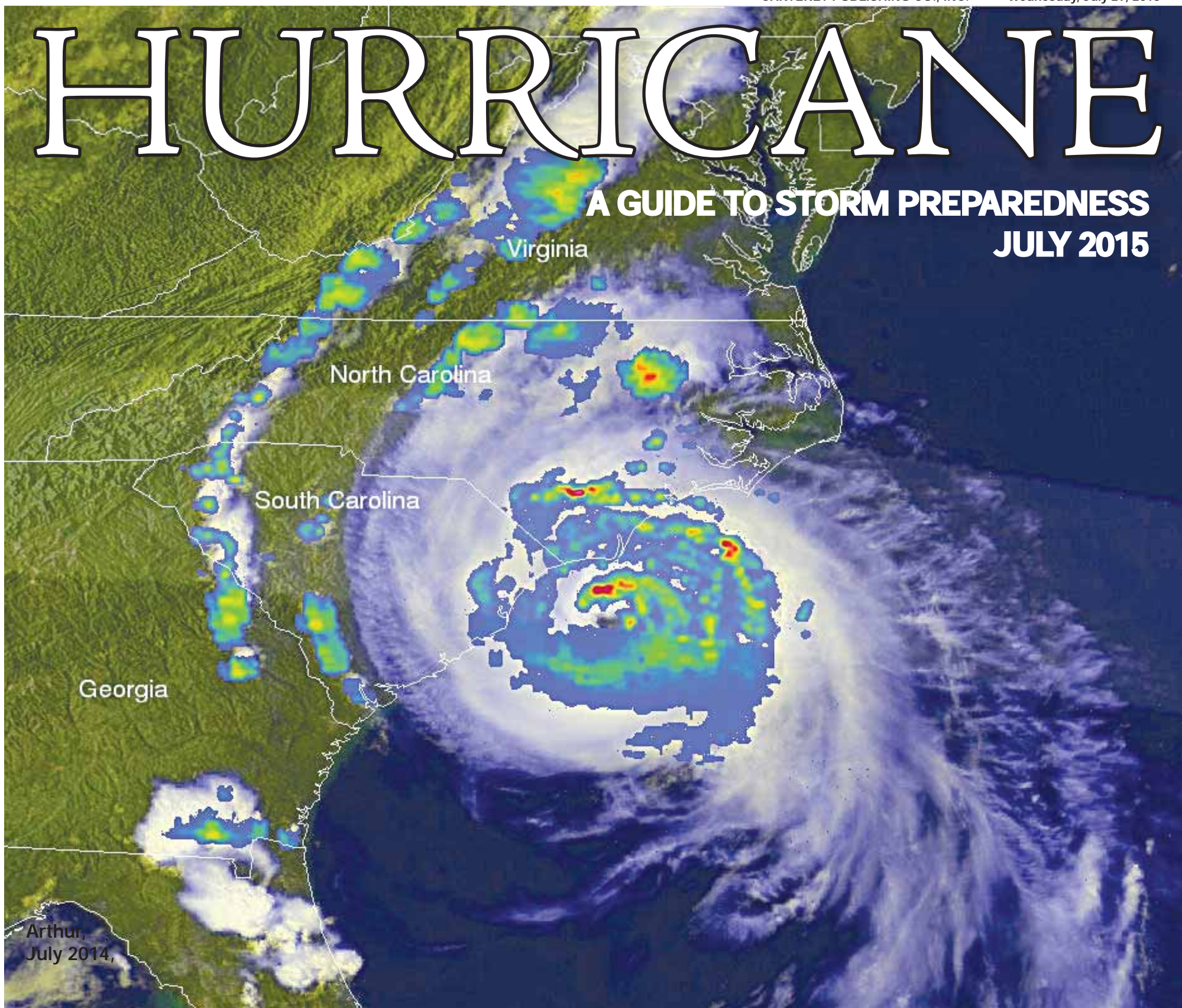


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Hurricane forecasts remain light this year

BY MIKE SHUTAK
NEWS-TIMES

MOREHEAD CITY — Both early and updated forecasts have called for a light Atlantic hurricane season this year.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs each year from June 1 – Nov. 30. Although a light hurricane season has been predicted, the first three storms, Ana, Bill and Claudette, already occurred, and as weather forecasters frequently say, it only takes one landfall to make it an active hurricane season.

Last year is an example of this saying, when Hurricane Arthur, a Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale, made landfall in Carteret County on July 3, 2014. Arthur is the earliest tropical storm to hit North Carolina in recorded history.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued its forecast for this year's hurricane season May 27. An updated forecast is scheduled for August, which NOAA says is the historical

peak of the season.

The NOAA May forecast calls for a 70 percent chance of six to 11 named storms, of which three to six may become hurricanes. Up to two of these hurricanes may become major hurricanes of Category 3, 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson scale.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, which issues the forecast, said while a below-normal season is likely, there's also a 20 percent chance of a near-normal season and a 10 percent chance of an above-normal season.

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, NOAA administrator, said a below-normal season doesn't mean "we're off the hook."

"As we've seen before, below-normal seasons can still produce catastrophic impacts to communities," she said.

Dr. Gerry Bell, the prediction center's lead seasonal hurricane forecaster, said the main factor expected to suppress this year's hurricane season is El Nino, an environmental

phenomenon where a band of warm ocean waters in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific Ocean influences weather, including depressed storm activity in the Atlantic Ocean.

Faculty from both N.C. State University and Colorado State University issued their own forecasts for the season back in April. The university forecasts are calling for no more than three hurricanes and no more than one of these to become a major hurricane this season. Four

2015 Atlantic storm names

With Ana, Bill and Claudette already used, the remaining Atlantic tropical storm names for this year are:

- Danny
- Erika
- Fred,
- Grace,
- Henri
- Ida
- Joaquin
- Kate
- Larry
- Mindy
- Nicholas
- Odette
- Peter
- Rose
- Sam
- Teresa
- Victor
- Wanda

to six tropical cyclones may develop in the Atlantic basin, but no more than one to three of these are expected to become a hurricane.

CSU issued an update to their forecast on June 1. However, it continues to forecast a lighter-than-average hurricane season. The only change was to increase the number of named tropical storms forecast from seven to

eight, due to the formation of Ana. Another university facility,



Hurricane Arthur, shown in this satellite view, is an example of what forecasters frequently say: It only takes one landfall to make it an active season. Arthur made landfall on the Crystal Coast in July last year. (NASA photo)

Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C., released an update June 23 to its own April report. According to its latest update, the Hurricane Genesis and Outlook project's Hurricane

See Forecasts / Page 5



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Have an evacuation plan before an emergency

Coastal residents should be prepared in the event evacuation orders are announced.

In Carteret County, evacuation orders are generally applied to Bogue Banks, property adjacent to waterways, low-lying or flood-prone areas and mobile home dwellers.

The evacuation order will state a time the evacuation should begin and a time when the evacuation, and all preparations, should be completed. The evacuation order will list the time when access to Bogue Banks will be controlled and will list the time that shelters will open.

Residents and visitors who intend on evacuating prior to the approach of a storm should not feel rushed to do so. Evacuation orders are issued far enough in advance of impending storms so as to allow sufficient time for residents to complete storm preparations and travel to a safe location before the arrival of gale force (39 mph) winds. This evacuation time cushion is usually between

18 and 24 hours. During tourist season, visitors, persons towing boats or campers, and persons in RVs may be asked to begin their evacuations ahead of the official evacuation period.

Hurricane evacuation routes in Carteret County are marked with blue and white evacuation route signs. The evacuation routes out of Carteret County are Highway 70, Highway 101 and Highway 58.

Evacuees from Carteret County should remember that many highways in Eastern North Carolina serve as evacuation routes for multiple counties. Expect to encounter heavy traffic conditions during evacuation events. Traffic delays have been historically encountered in Havelock at the Highway 70/101 intersection, in Maysville at the intersection of highways 17 and 58, in Kinston at the intersection of highways 70 and 58, in Kinston at the intersection of Highway 70 and Highway 258, and in Garner at the Interstate 40/



A Hurricane warning display notifies people as they come across the B. Cameron Langston bridge as Hurricane Arthur moves toward Bogue Banks in 2014. (Dylan Ray photo)

Highway 70 intersection.

Evacuating from the coast is the surest way to avoid injury from the effects of hurricane-force winds and storm surge. But evacuees should carefully choose their place of evacuation.

The effects of a hurricane

strike will be felt in all of Eastern North Carolina. High winds and river flooding are possible in all counties east of I-95.

Hurricane evacuees from Carteret County are encouraged to travel to areas in and around Raleigh.

Evacuees are reminded that hotel space is limited in many areas and destinations should be confirmed prior to evacuating the coast.

Hurricane evacuations cannot be successfully undertaken without some pre-planning and preparations.

The basic preparations include the following:

- Determine your destination prior to evacuating.
- Know your evacuation route.
- Keep a full tank of gasoline.
- Pack supplies sufficient for three to five days.
- Pack important papers (insurance, identifications, property inventory).
- Have a plan for your pets.
- Secure your home before leaving.
- Notify friends and relatives of your destination.

There are steps to ensure you can properly return to the area after the storm. Property owners on Bogue Banks are issued re-entry permits by the town in which their property is located.

Residents of the unincorporated community of Salter Path receive their passes at the Indian Beach Town Hall. The permits are distributed prior to

See Plan / Page 5

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Generators provide backup during power outages

In the event that your power goes out during a hurricane, a generator can be an immediate backup option.

Generators are not something you may think about every day, but they can be very helpful during a powerful storm.

Portable generators as well as stationary standby generators have become must-have items for many homeowners.

Portable generators

Many portable generators provide temporary power by using a fossil-based fuel, typically unleaded gasoline, and tend to range in power from 500 watts to 17.5 kW.

The more expensive and larger the unit, the more amperage it will be able to supply.

In a portable generator, the motor is typically housed on a metal frame with wheels to move the generator where it is needed.

Once fired up, the generator converts the power produced by the motor into electrical current that can supply many of the devices in a home by way of extension cords plugged into the generator.

A portable generator will only run as long as it has fuel. Homeowners should have plenty of fuel on hand to fill up the tank constantly if they plan to keep it running all day and all night in the wake of a storm.

Gassing up generators can be difficult should a power outage also knock out power to the fuel pumps at gas stations. Propane and natural gas generators are also available, although they may be more expensive than gasoline-powered units.

Standby system generators

Standby generators can be expensive, but many people find the cost of a standby generator is well worth it to maintain power

in the event of an outage or emergency.

Hospitals and retail businesses often have standby generators installed on their buildings to automatically switch over to this power source should the electrical grid go down. Homeowners are looking to these devices to offer standby power as well.

While a portable generator may cost a few hundred dollars, standby generators can cost from a few thousand dollars to as much as \$15,000 for larger units that can power much of a household.

Standby generators also require installation by a professional electrician, adding to their overall cost.

A standby generator is like a heavy-duty car engine, complete with a radiator, gas tank and an alternator that generates power.

The entire setup is
See Power / Page 5

Consider doing maintenance on home before a hurricane

The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety has several steps homeowners can take now to protect their properties from high winds and rain.

The IBHS recommends the following tips on the "five S's" – shingles, soffits, seals, surroundings and shutters.

- **Shingles:** Spending \$4 on a 10 oz. tube of roofing cement to re-adhere loose shingles can prevent water damage to your roof decking in the event of a storm. One tube of roofing cement can cover 25 feet of shingles.

- **Soffits:** Spend \$6 for a 10 oz. tube of polyurethane sealant and stainless steel screws to help secure your soffits to the walls and fascia to prevent them from blowing off.

IBHS research found that soffit materials are missing in roughly 75 percent of homes that suffer significant hurricane damage. When the soffit materials are blown off, there can be wind and water damage to the roof decking,

attic and possibly home interior.

- **Seal Gaps:** By spending just \$2 on a 10 oz. tube of caulk, you can seal gaps in outer walls to prevent water intrusion. IBHS suggests focusing on holes where wires, cables and pipes enter and exit the house; openings for cable TV and telephone lines; all the way around electrical boxes and circuit breaker panels; pipe penetrations, including air conditioning refrigerant lines and condensate lines, water heater pressure relief lines and water pipes; and cracks around wall outlets, dryer vents, bathroom and kitchen vents and electrical areas such as wall lights.

- **Surroundings:** Before a storm you should secure your surroundings to prevent damage from flying debris.

IBHS recommends spending less than \$5 a bag to replace gravel or rock landscaping materials and walkways with a softer material, like mulch or dirt.

Secure loose objects in the

yard, such as garbage cans, signs, lawn furniture, toys and potted plants, so they don't become flying objects during high winds.

Trim trees and shrubbery away from structures and remove any weakened sections of trees that could easily break off and fall onto structures during a storm.

- **Shutters:** Spend \$9 - \$30 per square foot of openings for shutters to help protect against wind-borne debris and pressurization.

Openings that need protection include windows, entry doors, sliding glass doors, garage doors and gable end vents.

The IBHS recommends you choose permanent window and door protection, or install permanent fasteners before storm warnings and attach pre-cut shutter panels that can be put into place quickly.

For additional home security information during hurricane season, visit www.disastersafety.org.

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Power

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

contained in a weatherproof box, which is connected to the main fuse box of the home by a cable.

When power is lost from the electric wires outside of a home, the generator senses it and starts up, all while blocking any power from the electric lines from the power station to prevent a feedback of power.

The standby generator is only hooked up to specific fuses in the fuse box to run certain outlets or appliances in the home. A standby generator will not supply power to all of the outlets in a home.

Plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

hurricane season.

Also, Beaufort issues re-entry passes to its residents by mail.

Each town determines the distribution policy for their

permits. Some towns have issued permanent permits to residents while other towns issue new permits each hurricane season. Residents should contact their town halls for specific information on re-entry permit policies.

Each community on Bogue Banks has a colored

permit unique to their area. The permits are to be displayed on the driver's side dashboard of a vehicle. The re-entry permits allow law enforcement officers to easily identify Bogue Banks property owners and improve traffic flow at local checkpoints.

Forecasts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Landfall Outlook Program predicts that there will be three named hurricanes this season, rather than the four predicted in April. The June report also indicates the likelihood that there will be one major hurricane (Category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale or above) in 2015 rather than two, as was forecast in April.

According to the June outlook, the statistical probability of a landfall on the East Coast rose from 0.14 to 0.31, and on the Gulf Coast from 0.10 to 0.38, in comparison with April. However, the new numbers did not necessitate any change from the April report's original forecast for the most likely landfall scenarios for 2015.

CCU said the most likely scenario is that no hurricanes will make landfall on either the U.S. East Coast or the

U.S. Gulf Coast during the 2015 hurricane season (June 1 - Nov. 30); the second most likely scenario is that one hurricane will make landfall on either the U.S. East Coast or the Gulf Coast and the third most likely possibility is that one hurricane each will make landfall on the U.S. East Coast and the Gulf Coast.

Contact Mike Shutak at 252-726-7081 ext. 206, email mike@thenewstimes.com; or follow on Twitter at @mikescent.

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Pet Hurricane Preparedness

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Identify local pet-friendly emergency shelters.
Designate a pet caretaker in your absence.

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Understanding the Saffir-Simpson Scale

MIAMI — Meteorologists often describe storm intensity in terms of category numbers known as the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

The scale is a 1 to 5 categorization based on the hurricane's intensity at the indicated time. Originally developed by wind engineer Herb Saffir and meteorologist Bob Simpson, the scale is considered an excellent tool for alerting the public about the possible impacts of various intensity hurricanes.

The scale provides examples of the type of damage and impacts in the United States associated with winds of the indicated intensity.

In general, damage rises by about a factor of four for every category increase. The maximum sustained surface wind speed (peak one-minute wind at the standard meteorological observation height of 33 feet or 10 meters over unobstructed exposure) associated with the cyclone

is the determining factor in the scale.

The scale does not address the potential for other hurricane-related impacts, such as storm surge, rainfall-induced floods, and tornadoes.

It should also be noted that these wind-caused damage general descriptions are to some degree dependent upon the local building codes in effect and how well and how long they have been enforced. For example, building codes enacted during the 2000s in Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina are likely to reduce the damage to newer structures from that described below. However, for a long time to come, the majority of the buildings in existence on the coast will not have been built to higher code.

Hurricane wind damage is also very dependent upon other factors, such as duration of high winds, change of wind direction, and age of structures.

Category 1: Sustained winds 74-95 mph. People, livestock, and pets struck by flying or falling debris could be injured or killed. Older (mainly pre-1994 construction) mobile homes could be destroyed, especially if they are not anchored properly as they tend to shift or roll off their foundations. Newer mobile homes that are anchored properly can sustain damage involving the removal of shingle or metal roof coverings, and loss of vinyl siding, as well as damage to carports, sunrooms, or lanais. Some poorly constructed frame homes can experience major damage, involving loss of the roof covering and damage to gable ends as well as the removal of porch coverings and awnings. Unprotected windows may break if struck by flying debris. Masonry chimneys can be toppled. Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof shingles,

See Scale / Page 9

Category	Sustained Winds	Types of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
1	74-95 mph 64-82 kt 119-153 km/h	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage: Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap, and shallowly rooted trees may topple. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.
2	96-110 mph 83-95 kt 154-177 km/h	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage: Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.
3 (major)	111-129 mph 96-112 kt 178-208 km/h	Devastating damage will occur: Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks.
4 (major)	130-156 mph 113-136 kt 209-251 km/h	Catastrophic damage will occur: Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

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Chip Hoffman, of Raleigh, walks along the shore of Town Creek in Beaufort where multiple boats were blown against the walkway along Turner Street in Beaufort after Hurricane Arthur made landfall on Shackleford Banks. Arthur was a Category 2 storm on the Saffir-Simpson Scale. (Dylan Ray photo)

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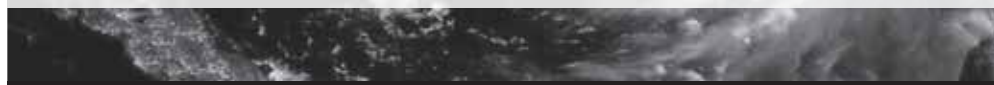
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Consider a sump pump

A sump pump may be a wise investment if your home is located near or below the water table.

According to the National Flood Insurance Program, 6 inches of water in a 2,000-square-foot home can cause around \$40,000 in damage. Homeowners looking to avoid such damages can rely on sump pumps and backup emergency systems to keep sublevels dry and safe.

Sump pumps are frequently used in homes at risk of flooding or in homes where the water table is above the foundation of the home. Sump pumps remove water that has accumulated in a water collecting sump basin built into the foundation.

Water may enter through perimeter drains (French drains) built into the basement or directly through the sump basin itself. The pump will send the water away from the house through a series of pipes that could drain into a dry well, into a municipal storm drain or at the curb.

Many sump pumps are hard-wired into a home's electrical system and will

automatically turn on when the water level in the sump basin has risen enough to trigger the pump. A flotation device built into the pump will rise enough to turn on the pump, which will then dispel the water until the device returns to its regular level.

When operating correctly, sump pumps are effective at removing water and keeping basements and crawl spaces dry. However, in the event of a power outage, which is common when strong winds accompany flooding rains, a sump pump is rendered useless unless there is a backup battery attached to the sump pump.

Having a battery hooked up to a sump pump, or a backup sump pump that is battery-powered, can give homeowners peace of mind in any storm. A backup plan ensures the pump will still remove water for a certain period of time until electricity is restored. Another option is to make sure the sump pump is connected to a power generator. As long as the generator is running, the sump pump will expel the water.

Shelter tips listed

The County Department of Social Services takes the lead in staffing the public hurricane shelters at West Carteret High School and Newport Middle School.

In addition, there are two public health nurses assigned to each who are there to address medical questions and concerns.

It's recommended that people coming into the shelters bring at least a week's worth of their prescriptions and other medications they need.

To prepare in case of major flooding or major long-term damage, individuals may want to check with their pharmacist to see if an extra month's worth of medications might be dispensed in advance.

People on oxygen should bring their own supplies, and nursing staff will help place them in a location at the shelter that will help meet their needs.

Nurses can provide minor first aid supplies along with some over the counter medicines for headache and mild allergies.

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Scale

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

vinyl siding, soffit panels, and gutters. Failure of aluminum, screened-in, swimming pool enclosures can occur. Some apartment building and shopping center roof coverings could be partially removed. Industrial buildings can lose roofing and siding especially from windward corners, rakes, and eaves. Failures to overhead doors and unprotected windows will be common. Windows in high-rise buildings can be broken by flying debris. Falling and broken glass will pose a significant danger even after the storm. There will be occasional damage to commercial signage, fences, and canopies. Large branches of trees will snap and shallow rooted trees can be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles will likely result in power outages that could last a few to several days.

Category 2: Sustained winds 96-110 mph. Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage. There is a substantial risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris. Older (mainly pre-

1994 construction) mobile homes have a very high chance of being destroyed and the flying debris generated can shred nearby mobile homes. Newer mobile homes can also be destroyed. Poorly constructed frame homes have a high chance of having their roof structures removed especially if they are not anchored properly. Unprotected windows will have a high probability of being broken by flying debris. Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Failure of aluminum, screened-in, swimming pool enclosures will be common. There will be a substantial percentage of roof and siding damage to apartment buildings and industrial buildings. Unreinforced masonry walls can collapse. Windows in high-rise buildings can be broken by flying debris. Falling and broken glass will pose a significant danger even after the storm. Commercial signage, fences, and canopies will be damaged and often destroyed. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days

to weeks. Potable water could become scarce as filtration systems begin to fail.

Category 3: Sustained winds 111-129 mph. Devastating damage will occur. There is a high risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris. Nearly all older (pre-1994) mobile homes will be destroyed. Most newer mobile homes will sustain severe damage with potential for complete roof failure and wall collapse. Poorly constructed frame homes can be destroyed by the removal of the roof and exterior walls. Unprotected windows will be broken by flying debris. Well-built frame homes can experience major damage involving the removal of roof decking and gable ends. There will be a high percentage of roof covering and siding damage to apartment buildings and industrial buildings. Isolated structural damage to wood or steel framing can occur. Complete failure of older metal buildings is possible, and older unreinforced masonry buildings can collapse. Numerous windows will be blown out of high-rise buildings resulting in falling glass, which will pose a

threat for days to weeks after the storm. Most commercial signage, fences, and canopies will be destroyed. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to a few weeks after the storm passes.

Category 4: Sustained winds 130-156 mph. Catastrophic damage will occur. There is a very high risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris. Nearly all older (pre-1994) mobile homes will be destroyed. A high percentage of newer mobile homes also will be destroyed. Poorly constructed homes can sustain complete collapse of all walls as well as the loss of the roof structure. Well-built homes also can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and some exterior walls. Extensive damage to roof coverings, windows, and doors will occur. Large amounts of windborne debris will be lofted into the air. Windborne debris damage will break most unprotected windows and penetrate some protected windows. There will be a high percentage of structural damage to the top

floors of apartment buildings. Steel frames in older industrial buildings can collapse. There will be a high percentage of collapse to older unreinforced masonry buildings. Most windows will be blown out of high-rise buildings resulting in falling glass, which will pose a threat for days to weeks after the storm. Nearly all commercial signage, fences, and canopies will be destroyed. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Long-term water shortages will increase human suffering. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

Category 5: Sustained winds 157 mph or higher. Catastrophic damage will occur. People, livestock, and pets are at very high risk of injury or death from flying or falling debris, even if indoors in mobile homes or framed homes. Almost complete destruction of all mobile homes will occur, regardless of age or construction. A high percentage of frame homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse.

Extensive damage to roof covers, windows, and doors will occur. Large amounts of windborne debris will be lofted into the air. Windborne debris damage will occur to nearly all unprotected windows and many protected windows. Significant damage to wood roof commercial buildings will occur due to loss of roof sheathing. Complete collapse of many older metal buildings can occur. Most unreinforced masonry walls will fail leading to the collapse of the buildings. A high percentage of industrial buildings and low-rise apartment buildings will be destroyed. Nearly all windows will be blown out of high-rise buildings resulting in falling glass, which will pose a threat for days to weeks after the storm. Nearly all commercial signage, fences, and canopies will be destroyed. Nearly all trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Long-term water shortages will increase human suffering. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

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Coastal residents advised to be ready for a hurricane

BY MIKE SHUTAK
NEWS-TIMES

MOREHEAD CITY — Coastal residents are advised by both state and federal officials to be prepared in the event of a hurricane or tropical storm.

During National Hurricane Preparedness Week, May 24-30, Gov. Pat McCrory encouraged North Carolinians to be ready for the threat of tropical storms by updating their emergency plans and supply kits. According to a release from the governor's office, families should discuss their emergency plans and assemble or update their supply kits.

Emergency kits should contain enough nonperishable food and a gallon of water per person per day to last three to seven days. Other essential items include:

- Copies of insurance papers and identification sealed in a watertight plastic bag.
- First-aid kit.
- Weather radio and batteries.
- Supply of prescription medicines.

- Sleeping bag or blankets.
- Changes of clothes.
- Hygiene items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and deodorant.
- Cash or checkbook.
- Pet supplies including food, water, leashes, bedding, muzzle and vaccination records.

Residents are also encouraged to review and update their homeowners' or renters' insurance policies now to make sure they include coverage for accidental damage, natural disasters and, if necessary, flood insurance.

Residents should stay informed during a storm by keeping a battery-powered radio for weather and evacuation information and should know evacuation routes in their community. They also need to heed the warnings of state and local officials and evacuate quickly when told to do so.

Residents can evacuate their homes with their small, domestic pets to specially designated pet-friendly shelters. Pet shelters will be equipped with pet crates, but

people should bring feeding dishes, food and water, immunization papers and other pet supplies.

In the event of a hurricane affecting Carteret County, there will be four shelter's available to the general population:

- Atlantic Elementary School, 151 School Drive, Atlantic.
- Beaufort Elementary School, 110 Carraway Drive, Beaufort.
- Newport Middle School, 500 East Chatham St., Newport.
- West Carteret High School, 4700 Country Club Road, Morehead City.

Of these shelters, Newport Middle School is the official pet-friendly shelter. Residents with small, domesticated pets can pre-register for the shelter online at the website www.carteretcountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1285. Registration forms are also available at the Carteret County Emergency Services office at 3820 Bridges St., Suite D, in Morehead City.

In addition to the general public shelters, Carteret County

also has a medically fragile shelter at the Leon Mann Jr. Enrichment Center at 3820 Galantis Drive in Morehead City, operated by Carteret General Hospital. Residents who want to use the shelter must pre-register with Carteret County Emergency Services; they may obtain a registration form either at the emergency services office listed above, or online at the website www.carteretcountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1003.

Jen Sawyer, County Emergency Services emergency management coordinator and planner, said anyone who is unable to evacuate or shelter on their own, who may require specialized transportation assistance or whose medical needs prevent them from evacuating on their own should register with the medically fragile registry prior to an emergency evacuation.

"Individuals on the registry will receive priority and assistance evacuating to a facility appropriate for their level of care," she said. "The program is specifically for individuals who live alone or

with their families, not those residing in nursing homes, assisted living facilities or group homes."

Ms. Sawyer said the county operates these shelters as short-term locations for residents to go to escape the effects of a hurricane.

"The shelters are not intended to be used for the long term housing of persons and have not been stocked to provide this type of sheltering," she said. "Long-term shelters that provide cots and food, for persons displaced from their homes will be established after a storm has passed."

Residents evacuating to a pre-hurricane shelter are advised to bring adequate supplies to last two to four days. Supplies evacuees should bring include:

- Baby supplies.
- Bedding (cot, lounge chair, blankets, and pillows).
- Beverages (non-alcoholic).
- Changes of clothing.
- Cooler with ice.
- Entertainment items (board games, deck of cards, and reading materials).

- Food (non-cooking, non-refrigerated, and 2-day supply).

The American Red Cross offers several mobile apps to help in emergencies, including a hurricane app for iPhone and Android. This app provides several features, including location-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather alerts that can be shared on social networks, remote monitoring of personalized weather alerts where a users family and friends live, locations of open Red Cross shelters, steps and checklists for creating emergency plans, a toolkit with a flashlight, strobe light and audible alarms and one-touch "I'm safe" messaging to communicate with family and friends during an emergency.

More information on this app and other Red Cross apps is at www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps.

The Weather Channel also offers mobile apps. More information is at www.weather.com/apps.

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Businesses should prepare for storms, too

Many people know to prepare ahead of time at home for a hurricane, but not everyone remembers to prepare at the workplace, which can be overlooked sometimes when a storm is moving in.

Whether you are an employee or an employer, it is essential to take proactive steps in preparing for unpredictable storms and other disasters, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Business Toolkit.

By having a strategy ahead of time, you can create a plan that will have you fully prepared in the event of a disaster. While securing plans for your home and loved ones, take some time to focus on the future of your business or work place.

Forty percent of small businesses that close due to hurricane damage do not reopen. In order to prevent a business from being another statistic, it is critical to prepare now.

To help, a Business Survival Plan has been compiled by FEMA to serve as a comprehensive guide

to safeguard a business. This Survival Plan provides steps to improve employee safety and protect property as well as important company information.

It can serve as an important tool to enforce your business' emergency plan in the event of any disaster.

Using these three key steps as guidelines will ensure you are prepared for any damages following any disaster. Furthermore, you should decide on a backup location where your business could run smoothly if damages occur on the original site and discuss this with all employees. If your business is damaged remember to assess, document, and report them to your insurance company as soon as possible.

Protect property

- Invest in and install shutters or plywood in order to protect windows and doors from wind borne-debris.
- Have the roof of your building evaluated to ensure it can withstand a storm.
- Remove any branches or trees adjacent to your building

that could potentially fall and damage it.

- Sandbag any area that is subject to flooding.
- Anchor and brace any large furniture (bookcases, shelves, filing cabinets) to wall studs.
- Relocate any valuable or fragile possessions.
- Secure all utilities including water heaters, gas tanks, and heaters and if necessary, raise them to higher locations to avoid water damages.
- Secure electronics such as computers and other office equipment with straps or Velcro.
- Turn off all the utilities prior to a hurricane making landfall if possible.

Protect important documents and information

- Designate important contacts to save that are crucial to business operations, such as employees, banks, lawyers, accountants, suppliers, etc.
- Backup documents that are not easily produced such as insurance documents, legal contracts, tax returns, and accounting statements to avoid

water damage.

- Seal these documents in waterproof containers onsite.
- Save all your designated contacts and documents in an alternate, accessible off-site location.

Keep a preparedness checklist

These items should be gathered in one location at your place of business should a storm hit while you are on premises. This will help protect the safety of your employees should disaster strike during regular working hours and

without ample notice.

- Battery operated radio or television.
- Nonperishable three day food supply for you and your employees.
- Three-day supply of water. (One gallon of water per person, per day).
- Coolers and containers for water and washing.
- Blankets, pillows, cots, and chairs.
- First aid kit and first aid manual.
- Flashlights, batteries, light-sticks
- Tool kit (basic tools,

gloves, etc.).

- Camera and film for documenting damages.
- Whistle/signal flare to signal for help.
- Tarps, plastic bags, duct tape.
- Cleaning supplies, including mops, towels and garbage cans.
- Smoke alarms and fire extinguishers.
- Electric generator.
- Gas for vehicles, generators and other equipment.
- Cash, ATM cards, credit

See Business / Page 12

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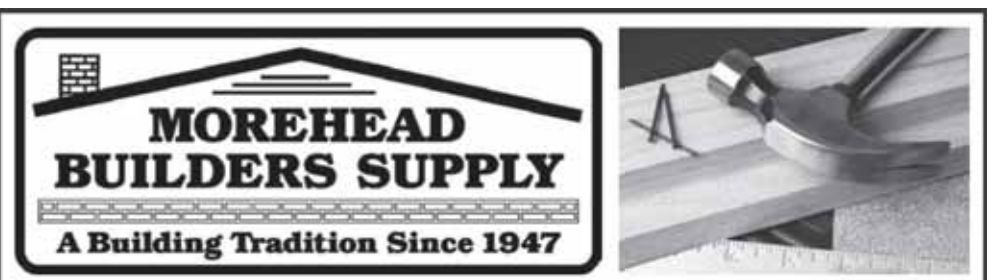
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- 1) **Wind Speed 74-95 mph**
Surge height 4-5 ft.
Pressure 980 + mb
Damage - No real damage to building structures, damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery and trees, some coastal flooding (Diane)
- 2) **Wind Speed 96-110 mph**
Surge height 6-8 ft.
Pressure 965-979 mb
Damage - Some roofing material, door & window damage to buildings. Much damage to vegetation, mobile homes and piers, coastal and low area flooded (Diana)
- 3) **Wind Speed 111-130 mph**
Surge height 9-12 ft.
Pressure 945-964 mb
Damage - Some structural damage to small residences, mobile homes destroyed, terrain lower than 5 feet may be flooded inland 8 miles or more (Donna)
- 4) **Wind Speed 131-155 mph**
Surge height 13-18 ft.
Pressure 920-944 mb
Damage - Extensive wall failures with some complete roof failure. Major erosion of beach areas, terrain flooded inland as far as 6 miles (Hazel)
- 5) **Wind Speed 155 mph**
Surge height 18 + ft.
Pressure 920 mb
Complete roof failure, some complete building failures, with many small utility buildings blown away. Extensive flooding (Hugo)

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County holds hurricane drill

BY ANNA HARVEY
NEWS-TIMES

MOREHEAD CITY — County emergency responders are prepared for a major hurricane here, following an exercise in mid-June.

Jen Sawyer, county emergency management coordinator and planner, said the county exercise was June 16.

“I think the community should know we are continuing to enhance plans and procedures so we can help residents with response and recovery to disaster,” said Ms. Sawyer.

“Basically this exercise was built around a scenario of a Category 3 hurricane making landfall in Carteret County on Labor Day weekend.”

A similar scenario, with various changes, is held

annually in Carteret County to allow emergency responders and personnel the chance to work through possible evacuation, flooding and tornado situations that could be associated with a hurricane.

“Having these exercises is really important, (and) we can learn a lot from these exercises,” said Ms. Sawyer as she recounted the day’s work.

The scenario allowed officials and county emergency workers to work through how to handle an evacuation, flooding issues and tornado possibilities.

The drill brought together more than 40 emergency personnel and staff from partner agencies, such as the National Weather Service Newport-Morehead City branch.

Ms. Sawyer said the joint

effort has allowed county staff and emergency responders to learn how to handle the possible situation.

“We’ve improved a lot on how to respond to disasters,” she said. “The exercise provides leaders and residents opportunities to learn how to work together during operations (during a hurricane.)”

Ms. Sawyer noted although nothing can prevent a disaster, emergency personnel can be ready to tackle the tough issues that come with it.

“Basically, we know that disaster can’t be eliminated, but having these exercises allows us to identify a potential hazard in a vulnerable area so we can take appropriate steps to reduce the severity of the effects,” she said.

The exercise provided an

opportunity to review what areas will still need additional help in the area in case of an emergency.

It allowed county staff to review their emergency plan and look at previous storm scenarios and real life incidences that have taken place, to be better prepared in the event of another serious hurricane here.

Ms. Sawyer said the hurricane exercise was an opportunity to make sure the county has the appropriate equipment, such as generators, to respond with and that the gear is working properly.

Training is also provided for those who support the Emergency Operations center, so they know their support role when a disaster does occur, she said.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

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- FEMA Tele-registration

hotline: 1-800-462-9029

• Insurance company and agent’s contact information.

For more information about your business’ survival guide, download FEMA’s Business Toolkit or visit FEMA: Plan

& Prepare for tips and further examples of steps you can take to prepare your business.

See more at: hurricanesafety.org/prepare/prepare-your-business/#sthash.4CoYOQ6k.dpuf.

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