



Hurricane Season: June 1 – November 30

Property Management Companies and Homeowners/Property Owners Associations (HOA/POA) should undertake hurricane preparation efforts now before any storm danger is near. A thorough inspection and preventative maintenance of neighborhood stormwater drainage systems needs to be completed annually.

As a reminder, most stormwater drainage infrastructure is privately owned, and as such, maintenance is the responsibility of the POA/HOA.

Activities to be completed prior to, or at the beginning of, Hurricane Season include:

- Inspect all catch basins and storm drains for debris or blockages and remove any obstructions (e.g. pine needles/leaves, dirt, trash).
- Inspect all pipe outfalls to ditches or ponds for blockages and remove any obstructions (e.g. dirt, debris, vegetation).
- Inspect all ditches for any blockages and remove obstructions, if possible (e.g. fallen trees, debris, vegetation).
- Confirm arrangements for debris/vegetation removal with a landscaping company or contractor for clean-up following a storm.
- Request residents conduct inspections of drainage features around their homes and yard, including gutters and swales, to ensure functionality.

Activities to be completed prior to a storm include:

- Coordinate with your POA/HOA maintenance division to ensure any well-water being pumped into your stormwater pond(s) (commonly referred to as a lagoon or lake) is turned off until after the storm has passed. This will allow pond water levels to drop and increase the storage capacity of your stormwater system *well before a flooding occurs*.
- Shut off common area irrigation until after the storm passes so the ground isn't already saturated.
- Request residents:
 - Secure any loose articles on their property that may become airborne and cause damage, or block pipes, ditches, or outfalls (e.g. plants, outdoor furniture);
 - Turn off irrigation systems; and
 - Remove items which may hold water to deter mosquito breeding after the storm passes.

To ensure your safety, **do not** conduct inspections during a storm.



TOWN OF BLUFFTON HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDELINES FOR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANIES AND HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS

Activities to be completed by POAs following the storm include:

- Inspect all stormwater infrastructure for damage. This includes catch basins, storm drains, pond banks, pond inlets, pond outfalls, etc. Arrange for damage to be repaired as soon as possible.
- Inspect all stormwater drainage infrastructure including inlets, grates, outfalls, pipes, ditches, etc. for debris or blockages and remove any obstructions (e.g. pine needles/leaves, dirt, trash).
- If offered for your community, coordinate for roadside debris/vegetation removal with your contracted landscaping company or contractor.
- Please remember to report any mosquito breeding to Beaufort County Mosquito Control at (843) 255-5800 Office or <https://www.beaufortcountysc.gov/mosquito-control/>.

Report maintenance needs that are not HOA/POA responsibilities:

- In the Town of Bluffton municipal limits, use “SeeClickFix Bluffton” app:
 - This free mobile and web-based app allows citizens to request services from the Town and report non-emergency issues within the Town’s jurisdiction
 - The SeeClickFix mobile app is available for download on Android (Google Play) and iPhone (App Store)
 - Issues not serviced by the Town’s Engineering Department will be redirected to the appropriate town department or outside entity like SCDOT, Beaufort County or Property Management company.
- In unincorporated Beaufort County, use the Beaufort County Connect app. More information can be found at <https://www.beaufortcountysc.gov/apps/>
- Along SCDOT roads, submit a maintenance work request at <http://dbw.scdot.org/workrequest/>

For more information on how to prepare for a hurricane visit:

<https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>