



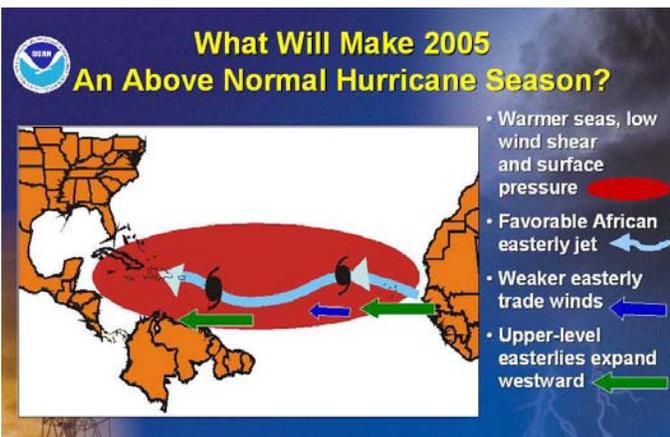
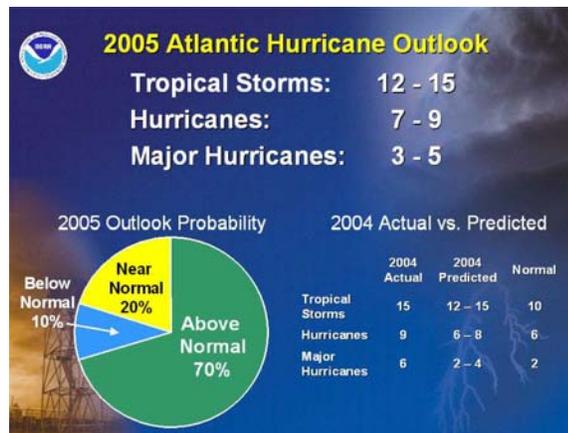
CAROLINA SKY WATCHER

HURRICANE EDITION-SUMMER 2005



THE 2005 HURRICANE SEASON BY JOHN COLE

Another active hurricane season is expected in the Atlantic this year. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, is predicting 12-15 named storms, 7-9 hurricanes, and 3-5 major hurricanes with sustained winds over 110 mph. The most active hurricane months in eastern North Carolina are in August, September, and October. Increased tropical cyclone activity in the Atlantic hurricane basin runs in cycles, which usually lasts for two to three decades. This is primarily related to above normal water temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean. We have been in an active hurricane period since 1995. Many hurricanes affected NC during the previous active hurricane period which began in the 1940s and lasted through the mid 1960s. Three hurricanes made landfall in eastern NC within a six week period during the summer of 1955, Connie, Dianne, and Ione. The 10 year period from 1995 through 2004 has been the most active on record with an annual average of 14 named storms, 8 hurricanes, and 4 major hurricanes. Since records began, the long-term annual average is 10 named storms, 6 hurricanes, and 2 major hurricanes. History has shown that we're definitely more vulnerable during these active hurricane periods. The best

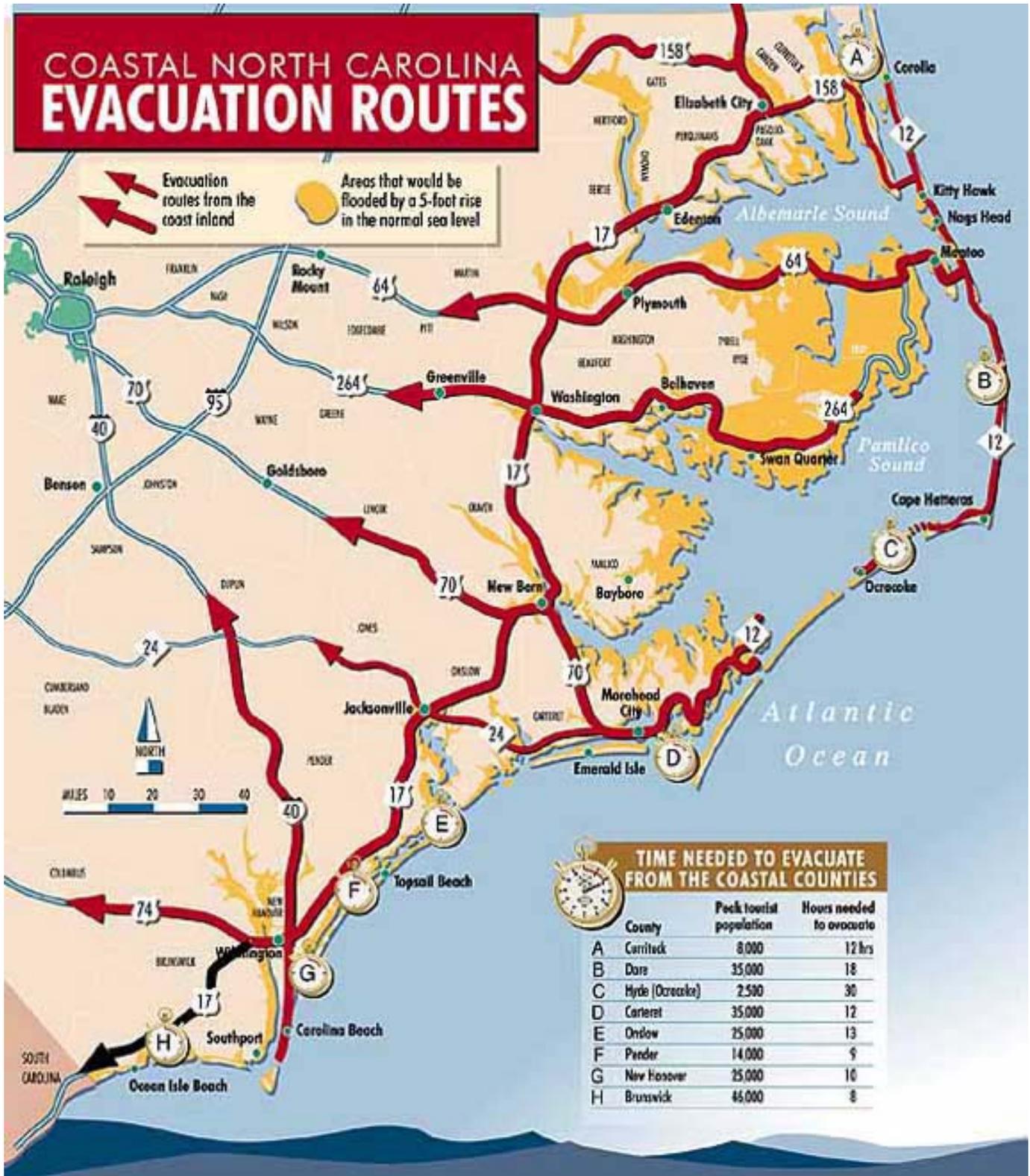


thing eastern NC residents can do is to be prepared. Have a plan of action in place and a disaster supplies kit. Listen and heed the advice of the National Weather Service, media, Emergency Management officials, and local elected officials during times of a hurricane threat.

2005 STORM NAMES

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| Arlene | Lee |
| Bret | Maria |
| Cindy | Nate |
| Dennis | Ophelia |
| Emily | Philippe |
| Franklin | Rita |
| Gert | Stan |
| Harvey | Tammy |
| Irene | Vince |
| Jose | Wilma |
| Katrina | |

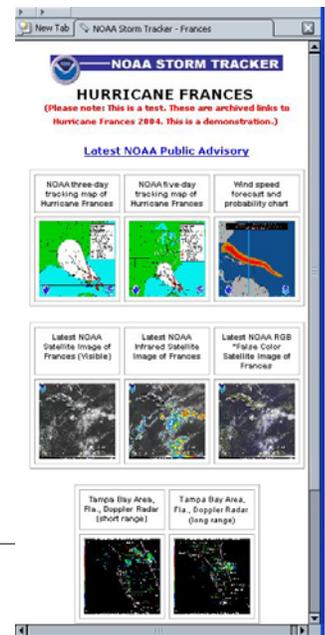
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KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO!

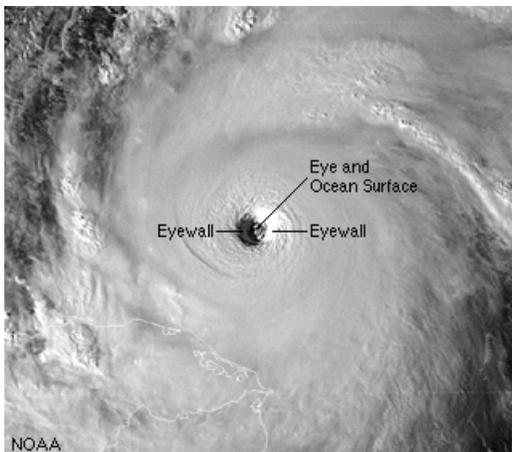
NOAA STORM TRACKER BY HAL AUSTIN

On May 1, NOAA introduced a smart new way to easily monitor specific tropical storms and hurricanes...directly from your desktop! *NOAA Storm Tracker* will contain *live* links to advisories, tracking maps and high resolution satellite images of any storm projected to strike the U.S. or any nation in the storm's path. It will also contain National Weather Service Doppler radar imagery, data from ocean buoys and affected airports. *NOAA Storm Tracker* is designed to open in a new browser window, which can be resized and placed anywhere on your computer desktop (see example at right). The live links in the Storm Tracker window will update automatically without having to "refresh" or "reload" the browser window. To use this exciting new tool, go to: www.stormtracker.noaa.gov.



IN THE EYE OF THE STORM! BY WAYNE SHAFFER

Here are some safety tips for when the eye of the storm is in the area.



Details of the hurricane's eye structure

All people should be on high ground and inside a sturdy structure (not in mobile homes). The safest place in a building is usually on the lowest floor. Stay on the downwind side of the building or seek refuge in small interior rooms or hallways. Stay away from windows.

Persistent high winds and potentially lethal wind blown debris pose considerable danger in hurricanes. Nobody should be outside, PERIOD!!! You and your family are at great risk should you abandon your shelter. Roadways may be blocked by high water, fallen trees and other debris. Live power lines may also be down on the ground and dangling from utility poles. Do not leave your place of shelter until the storm has passed.

Within the eye of a hurricane the winds are light. However, this oasis of calm air is encircled by destructive and deadly hurricane force winds rotating in a counterclockwise direction. Should the eye of the hurricane pass directly over your location, the winds will often shift to the opposite direction, following a short period of relative calm.

Do not go far from your place of shelter when the eye of the hurricane is overhead. Make temporary emergency repairs as necessary and be ready to get back indoors as soon as the wind starts increasing. Be alert to all types of hazards littering the ground and dangling from buildings, trees, and utility poles. Assume all wires are live.

The light winds in the eye will only last for about a half hour or less, and if you are near the edge of the eye the winds will only diminish for a few minutes. So act quickly, and stay in sight of your place of shelter.

Continue to monitor the progress of the hurricane and pay special attention to later statements from the National Weather Service Office in Newport about when the storm might finally subside in your area.

AFTERMATH OF A HURRICANE BY WAYNE SHAFFER

In the aftermath of a hurricane there are many things you need to be aware of and take necessary precautions to avoid injury and possibly even death.

If you were evacuated delay your return until it is recommended or authorized by local emergency officials. Beware of outdoor hazards by watching out for loose or dangling power lines. Many lives are lost by electrocution.

Be very careful when cleaning fallen trees with a chain saw. Many of the trees will be under unusual stress and could result in the saw kicking back at you and causing severe injuries. Better yet, leave the work to professionals.

Walk or drive cautiously as debris filled streets are dangerous. Snakes and poisonous insects may also be a hazard. Be alert for roadways and bridges that are undermined or washed out. They may collapse under the weight of the vehicle.

Guard against spoiled food. In warm weather, the food in your refrigerator may have spoiled even though the power interruption may have only lasted a few hours. Freezers will keep food for several days if the doors were left closed after the power went off. Do not refreeze food once it begins to thaw.

Do not use water until safe, use your emergency supply or boil water before drinking any until you get the official word that it is safe.

Take extra precautions to prevent fire. Candles, if left unattended are often the main cause of house fires following prolonged power outages. Use alternate sources for lighting.

Remember, even a small fire can have major consequences when coupled with low water pressure. Roads blocked by debris could delay the arrival of fire and rescue vehicles, and may limit phone service.

Continue to monitor NOAA Weather Radio, local radio and TV broadcasts for emergency bulletins.



Aftermath of Hurricane Isabel-Cape Hatteras-Sept. 2003

NEW SKYWARN WEBPAGE BY HAL AUSTIN



Skywarn in eastern North Carolina has a new home on the web. If you haven't seen it yet, you should! Eric Christensen KF4OTN has created a Skywarn website for the National Weather Service Newport forecast area that is packed with lots of great information. There's something there for everyone: storm spotters, emergency managers and amateur radio operators. Check out the links to spotter training, guides, weather data, dates for upcoming spotter training and much more. The address is: www.mhxskywarn.org. From the NWS Newport website, www.erh.noaa.gov/mhx simply click on "SKYWARN Spotters" on the left-hand side.

EVACUATION SAFETY TIPS BY WAYNE SHAFFER

Make sure that all family members not at home know where you are going. Move valuable items that you cannot take with you to higher points within your home.

Protect your property as best you can and then complete your checklist.

1. Turn off propane tanks, water, and electricity.
2. Lock windows and doors.
3. Know where you are going. Leave early.
4. Make sure you have a motel reservation if that is where you are headed.
5. Make sure you have warm and protective clothing for all family members.
6. Remember to bring along a first aid kit, bottled water, canned or dried food, can opener, spoons, extra family medication and prescriptions, cash, spare glasses, hearing aid batteries, and the like.

Travel trips...

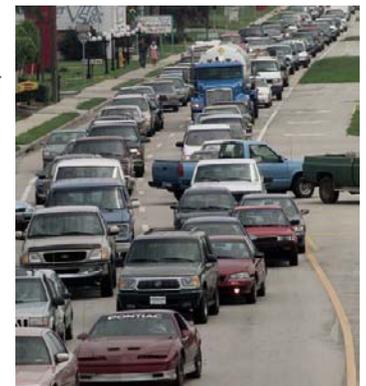
1. Don't drive farther than necessary.
2. Take familiar routes.
3. Travel in daylight.
4. Make sure you have a full tank of gas.
5. Leave well before the onset of tropical storm force winds (39 mph) and heavy rain, and especially before the advancing storm surge can cut off your escape route.



Will you be ready when one of these comes your way?

Going to a shelter...

1. First consider staying with friends or family, next consider going to a motel, and lastly consider going to a shelter.
2. Take along blankets, sleeping bags, flashlights, special dietary foods, infant needs, and lightweight folding chairs.
3. Make sure that you register every person arriving with you at the shelter.
4. Remember that alcoholic beverages, and weapons are not allowed at evacuation shelters. Most shelters do not allow pets.



Leave early so you don't get caught in something like this.

Important Papers...

1. Driver's license and other identification.
2. Insurance policies.
3. Property inventory lists.
4. Special medical information.
5. Maps to your destination.

Leaving a home that you may never see again can be very unsettling. Be sensitive to the feelings of other family members and show compassion to those whose unusual behavior may reflect heartfelt loss.



NOAA'S NATIONAL
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Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

1 **MINIMAL DAMAGE**
Winds 74-95 mph
Storm Surge 4-5 feet

2 **MODERATE DAMAGE** Small trees down
Winds 96-110 mph roof damage
Storm Surge 6-8 feet

3 **EXTENSIVE DAMAGE** Moderate to heavy
Winds 111-130 mph damage to homes.
Storm Surge 9-12 feet Many trees down.

4 **EXTREME DAMAGE** Major damage to all
Winds 131-155 mph structures.
Storm Surge 13-18 feet

5 **CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE** Severe damage to all structures.
Winds >155 mph
Storm Surge > 18 feet

If you observe severe weather, we want to hear from you! Please call us at:

1-800-889-6889