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**Hurricane Earl is quickly approaching the East Coast. Please review the information and resources in this email if your property is in the storm's path. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.**

### **Before a Hurricane**

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

- Keep abreast of the news in your area. A *hurricane watch* means that a hurricane is possible in your area. Be prepared to evacuate the property and continually monitor local news sources. A *hurricane warning* means that a hurricane is expected in your area. If local authorities are advising evacuations, leave the area and evacuate the chapter property immediately.
- Make plans to secure your property. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, and anything else that is not tied down.
- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your property are well trimmed.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Watch [this video](#) for the most vulnerable areas of your property that need attention in the event of a hurricane.
- Have an evacuation plan in place.



### **During/After a Hurricane**

- Stay out of flood waters.
- Be alert for tornadoes and flooding.

- Do not return to the chapter property until local authorities say it is safe. Even after the hurricane and after flood waters recede, roads might be weakened and could collapse. Buildings might be unstable, and drinking water might be contaminated. Use common sense and exercise caution.

For more information, refer to the section on the [FEMA website](#) on protecting your property from flooding and high winds.

**Other Resources:**

- The [2010 South Carolina Hurricane Guide](#) is a great resource to have on hand in the event of a named storm. It includes preparation and evacuation tips, as well as other helpful information. [North Carolina](#) and [Virginia](#) also have helpful resource guides. Please refer to your state's Department of Transportation website for more information regarding state-specific evacuation routes.
- In the event that the storm causes damage to your property, please [review our website](#) for step-by-step directions.

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