

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

# HURRICANE SEASON

**R**ight now, there is a storm brewing somewhere in the South Atlantic. Will it become a hurricane? We don't know. What we do know is that if a Category 3, 4 or 5 hurricane makes landfall on Georgia's coast, there is great potential for property damage and loss of life. For that reason, we need to be prepared to evacuate in the event of a threatening storm.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) has invested more than \$5.7 million in traffic control systems, radios, cameras and reversible interstate lanes since Hurricane Floyd threatened Georgia's coast in 1999 - all aimed at securing the safety of Georgia residents and millions of others in neighboring states.

Georgia's currently mandated evacuation plan is a joint effort between the Georgia DOT, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), the Georgia State Patrol, local emergency management offices, local police departments and county sheriff's departments.

In the event of a mandatory evacuation of coastal Georgia residents, Georgia DOT will implement several emergency plans for increased traffic heading inland.

## CONTRA-FLOW LANES - INTERSTATE 16 ONE WAY

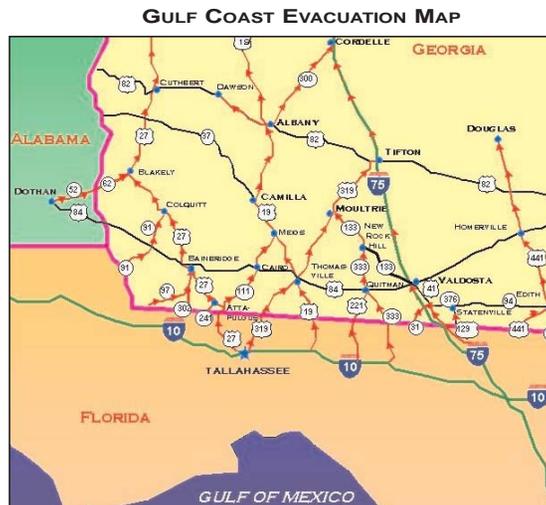
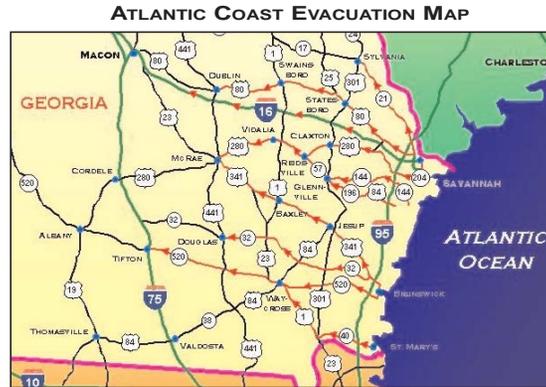
**N**ormally, Interstate 16 carries east and westbound traffic. In the event of a mandatory evacuation from coastal Georgia, I-16 eastbound lanes will become "contra-flow lanes," or reverse lanes.

All I-16 lanes will be westbound traffic only from Savannah to west of U.S. 441 in Dublin, a total of 125 miles.

Georgia DOT also can "contra flow" other interstates in the case of emergencies.



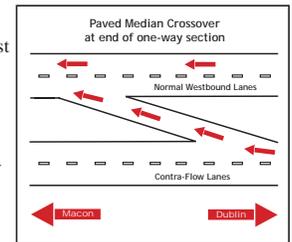
## EVACUATION ROUTES FOR GEORGIA



There are 33 Evacuation Routes in Georgia (indicated by red arrows). Routes are from Southeast Georgia and from Southwest Georgia to inland areas.

## PAVED MEDIAN CROSSOVERS

**T**o make sure the contra-flow lanes are used to their maximum capacity, Georgia DOT installed two median "cross-overs" so that drivers can transition from the normal west-bound lanes into the "contra-flow" lanes. These median cross-over lanes are east of Interstate 95. Traffic getting onto I-16 west of I-95 will not have the opportunity to cross over.



A median crossover has been constructed to take the traffic from the contra-flow lanes back to the normal westbound lanes. From that point westward, I-16 will function as normal to and from Macon.

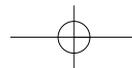
## DROP GATE BARRICADES

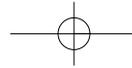
**G**eorgia DOT has installed drop gate barricades in order to keep drivers from heading east-bound on Interstate 16. The barricades are located at the I-16 eastbound entrance ramps. They resemble a pair of football goal posts standing 20 feet high that will be lowered when an evacuation is ordered.



## EMERGENCY SHELTERS

**G**EMA's Website, [www.gema.state.ga.us](http://www.gema.state.ga.us), has information on all of the state's emergency shelters. Listen to Georgia Public Radio broadcasts to determine which shelters are open BEFORE traveling. Some shelters are American Red Cross-approved, some are pet-friendly, and some cater to families with special needs.





## HERO UNITS & MESSAGE BOARDS

During hurricane season, Georgia DOT HEROs will patrol the Interstate-16 corridor to assist motorists. These units have specially-trained personnel who can respond quickly to accidents and disabled vehicles.



Message boards alert motorists to exit ramp closures/openings as well as locations for gas, food, etc.



Our signs also alert the public to selected FM radio stations for weather and traffic updates. The information will include news of shelter availability, travel time, alternate routes and other information of importance to evacuees. In addition, the DOT Website ([www.dot.state.ga.us](http://www.dot.state.ga.us))

and its NaviGator link offer information on hurricane preparedness.

511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



The service covers all state routes and interstates in Georgia and provides traffic updates as well as information on construction projects and lane closures. During a hurricane evacuation, 511 issues alert messages with information on evacuation routes and updated weather conditions. Callers can also transfer directly to airports in Atlanta and Savannah, or to neighboring states' 511 systems. 511 Operators are also available to assist callers with more detailed information.

## GEORGIA PUBLIC RADIO UPDATES

Georgia Public Radio, in cooperation with Georgia DOT, Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), Georgia State Patrol (GSP) and the Georgia Public Broadcasting System, will provide updates on road and traffic conditions in the event of a hurricane. Tune into these FM stations for severe weather information.

<b>Albany</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>Dahlonega</b>	<b>89.5</b>
<b>Athens</b>	<b>91.7/97.9</b>	<b>Ft. Gaines</b>	<b>90.9</b>
<b>Augusta</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>Macon</b>	<b>89.7</b>
<b>Brunswick</b>	<b>88.9</b>	<b>Savannah</b>	<b>91.1</b>
<b>Carrollton</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>Tifton</b>	<b>91.1</b>
<b>Columbus</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>Valdosta</b>	<b>91.7</b>
<b>Demorest</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>Waycross</b>	<b>90.1</b>

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Georgia is impacted from tropical systems from the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. During a hurricane, wind gusts exceeding 74 mph and torrential rain can cause damage to Georgia's shoreline. The direct hit of a hurricane also can cause storm surge, a large dome of water more than 50 miles wide that sweeps across the coastline near the area where the eye



of a hurricane makes landfall. Storm surge remains the greatest threat to human life, but effective evacuations have reduced the number of fatalities. The six coastal counties at highest risk of evacuation because of storm surge are Bryan, Camden, Chatham, Glynn, Liberty and McIntosh.

## YOUR RESPONSE TO A HURRICANE? BE PREPARED.

### PLAN AHEAD.

- ⇒ If you live in a coastal area, know your evacuation and shelter routes.
- ⇒ Keep your emergency supplies stocked.
- ⇒ Remain alert for tornado watches and warnings.
- ⇒ Practice and discuss your family's emergency plans.

### FAMILY EMERGENCY SUPPLY LIST

- ⇒ A three-day supply of bottled water per person
- ⇒ Non-perishable food (canned, dried, etc.)
- ⇒ First Aid Kit and any prescription medicines
- ⇒ Battery-powered radio, extra batteries
- ⇒ Flashlights, batteries
- ⇒ Flares, booster cables, tire repair kit, fire extinguisher
- ⇒ Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members
- ⇒ List of emergency phone numbers

