**Questions and Answers on Hurricanes**

**for River Bluffs Residents[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. **Will RB Management take steps ahead of the storm to safeguard the community?**

Yes, we will be busy in advance of a hurricane, handling such things as decluttering major drains and water run-off pipes, trimming trees, securing loose outdoor items around the pool and restaurant, and other things. If the storm looks bad, we will also likely close the river walk for safety reasons.

1. **What should residents do before the storm?**

Residents are responsible for their own safety and property during a hurricane. There are many “Get Ready” checklists and guides online to help you prepare. [See the attached “Be Red Cross Ready” for one example of a checklist.] And don’t wait to put your storm kit together – the supplies you’ll need will be the first to sell out as the storm approaches. Also, if you have a generator, be sure to line up regular maintenance and service if you want it to be ready for the big event!

1. **What, if any, community-wide communications will RB Management issue on a potential hurricane emergency?**

If a hurricane triggers “Watch” precautions, RB Management will likely send a message to the community over the portal reminding them of general ways to prepare. If conditions reach “Warning” status, another message will likely go out. But everyone should closely follow their favorite news and weather channels to obtain current information and local warnings.

1. **What are the closest official evacuation routes from our community?**

To travel away from the coast, the official evacuation routes include:

* I-140 east, then I-40 west (toward Raleigh);
* I-140 west, then US 421 north (toward Fayetteville);
* I-140 west, then US 74/76 west (toward Whiteville).

Most evacuation routes are interstates and major highways that can accommodate heavy traffic volumes and higher speed limits. These roads allow motorists to leave threatened areas more quickly than using local roads. Most routes are marked with circular blue signs ("Evacuation Route.")

Travelers uncertain about a route's safety can find out the latest road conditions and closures using the N.C. Department of Transportation's “Traveler Information Management System” or by calling 511, North Carolina's toll-free traveler information line. Updated travel details will also be posted on permanent and portable message boards along the evacuation routes and via local media.

1. **How likely is Chair Road to flood or wash-out?**

Once heavy rains begin, it is possible Chair Road could flood. However, recent efforts by County officials to strengthen road shoulders and deepen the run-off ditches should help to make it passable. If you choose to evacuate, you should do so before extensive rain generates flooding conditions.

1. **How likely is Castle Hayne Road (SR 133) to flood?**

As a major north-south road, SR 133 should get the attention of county officials, but there is no guarantee it will not flood in some places. Note, however, that a major evacuation route (I-140) is only a quarter-mile from Chair Road. Again, leaving sooner will improve your chances of reaching your destination.

1. **Should residents notify RB Management if they decide to evacuate? If so, how should we send this information?**

Yes, RB Management would like to know which residents are not on-site during a hurricane, just in case there is serious fallout to their property. If you leave, please email us where you plan to go and when you are leaving. Also, if there is a greeter at the gate as you leave, stop and tell him of your plans, also.

1. **Should neighbors let each other know whether they are evacuating or staying?**

Yes, definitely! You should let your neighbors know what you plan to do in the days before the hurricane hits and find out whether they plan to stay or go. Share tips on preparing for the storm and discuss ways to provide mutual assistance during and after the storm. Most immediate post-disaster assistance is provided by neighbors!

1. **How “at risk” are RB residents from these threats?**
* Extreme winds - High
* Downed trees - High
* Electric power outages - High
* Flooding from sustained rainfall - Medium
* Storm surge from river - Low
* Water outages - Low
* Gas outages or leaks - Low
1. **If electricity fails, will the community still have security measures in place, such as gate access and security cameras?**

Probably not. The gates will remain open and security cameras will be unable to run normally. Therefore, your “Community Watch” training will come into play. This means you should secure your home and car, watch for unusual activities, and stay alert in watching your neighbors’ property (especially if they have evacuated). If we all pay attention, we are likely to discourage criminal activity in our neighborhoods.

1. **Will owners with RV vehicles in the storage lot need to do anything in advance to safeguard with their property?**

Yes, they need to secure and cover their property as much as possible to avoid damage. This is another area for owners to “think ahead” about their options.

1. **Will owners of boats at the marina need to do anything in advance to safeguard their boats?**

Yes, we will ask the owners of boats moored in the marina to remove their boats from the water. This is a “best practice” in terms of safety and security.

1. **Does RB Management have any other advice to offer?**

 Yes. Generally,…

* If you plan to evacuate, think ahead and don’t wait until the last few hours. Also, have a specific destination in mind, not just “some hotel down the road.” And expect to possibly stay there longer than you may want, given road conditions after the event.
* If you plan to evacuate, carefully assess the storm’s projected path. Many locations that may logically seem safe in terms of coastal impact may face serious damage from low-lying areas and small bodies of water. Remember (or look up) the *extensive inland flooding* following Hurricane Matthew in October 2016.
* If you stay home, think about how you’ll cope after the storm without electricity and clean water. Also, anticipate possibly being homebound for several days because of road conditions and utility damage.
* If you stay home, do not venture out in the “eye” of the storm, or shortly after, to see its impact. Downed powerlines, standing water and frightened wildlife pose dangers as serious as the storm itself.
* You may also find unusual issues after the storm. Snakes, fire ants, bees, and other wildlife may be plentiful and disoriented or looking for new homes. Be alert when you are outside, even on paths or in your own yard!
* Remember that after the storm, RB Management will have its hands full assessing community property damage. You’ll have to take responsibility for repairing your own property damage (unless it poses a danger to the community). Also, be patient in getting that damage repaired.
* But to end on a positive note, insurance companies, local government officials, and emergency relief organizations are better organized and more responsive than in past decades. These organizations will do their best to help you return to normal as soon as possible.

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**Websites for Further Information on Hurricanes:**

<https://riverbluffsliving.com/> (access the “Residents’ Only” Portal, and go to the Community News and/or Community Watch Club pages)

<https://www.ready.gov/hurricane-toolkit>

<https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/>

<https://www.weather.gov/ilm/>

http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane#About

**2 Attachments:**

* “Be Red Cross Ready”
* North Carolina Hurricane Evacuation Routes
1. Answers based on information provided to Community Watch Program, June 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)