



Storm & Flood Preparedness

August 2005

INFORMATION TO HELP YOU MINIMIZE DAMAGE TO YOUR PROPERTY

This information can save you money on flood insurance

Each year, your city government invests several thousand dollars to print and mail this Storm & Flood Preparedness newsletter and other storm mailouts to help educate new residents and remind longtime residents about the dangers of storms and flooding, and how you can minimize the risk to you and your property.

Hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30, but torrential downpours and flooding know no season. That's why you should read the information in this Flood and Storm Preparedness mailout.

Our local media does a good job of educating the public at the outset of the season, and the city reinforces that information



with this mailout each August, usually around the anniversary of Hurricane Camille, the Category 5 storm that did so much damage and took so many lives in 1969.

Camille serves as a benchmark on just how severe a hurricane can be. Education is the key to dealing with storms and flooding, along with building roads with better drainage, and improving the drainage in older or undeveloped areas of our city.

Undertaking this outreach effort each year is part of the city's obligation as a member of the National Flood Insurance Program.

The federal government grades the city on the job we are doing in maintaining and improving our storm-water drainage infrastructure, enacting and enforcing common-sense building codes and zoning ordinances, and educating the public about hurricane and flood preparation.

For several years, I've been telling you how proud I am that the city's efforts have reduced your flood insurance rates by 15 percent, and we're hoping to reduce those rates even more in our continuing efforts.

This year, I'd like to give you some substantive numbers so you'll have an idea of how this issue affects your pocketbook.

In the past year alone, 2,015 flood insurance policies were purchased in Biloxi, and the total discounts on those policies was \$102,940, according to our partners with National Flood Insurance Program. That means, on average, Biloxi residents saved \$50 on their flood insurance policy last year alone. It's great to see an occasion like this where your city government can hold the line – or even reduce – the cost you pay for services like this. In some quarters, this could be akin to a tax break.

Many of you, like me, sit up and pay closer attention when there's an opportunity to save money. The cost-savings we've earned for you, I believe, are a bonus when it comes to flood and storm preparedness.

Remember the primary goal here is saving lives. The information we're providing you in this publication will not only save your property, but it could also save your life. Please heed the advice, and stay safe.

A.J. Holloway
Mayor

Biloxi City Council: George Lawrence • William "Bill" Stallworth
Charles T. Harrison Jr. • Mike Fitzpatrick • Tom Wall
Edward "Ed" Gemmill • David Fayard

Cable One will air "A Lady Called Camille" at 10 a.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Aug. 17, the 36th anniversary of the storm striking Biloxi and the Gulf Coast. More on the special presentation on Page 2.

You're seeing the reason to be ready this season

Record number of storms kicks off hurricane season

For the past few years, leaders in Biloxi have been noting that Biloxi not only has a rich and colorful history, but these days the city is making history.

That description refers to the growth that residents are continuing to witness in terms of waterfront development, improvements in public education and recreational opportunities, and the increasing number of visitors and new residents.

This year, however, with the arrival of the 2005 hurricane season, history is being made in a dubious manner. As of mid-July, the hurricane season already has seen five named tropical storms – the most storms this early in the season than at any other time in recorded history.

Biloxi has faced threats of varying degrees from Arlene, Cindy and, most significantly, Hurricane Dennis, although none caused extensive damage to the city. Others, unfortunately, were not as lucky.

The fact is, this record-setting pace this early in the hurricane season supports the predictions that this hurricane season will be an active one. From 12 to 15 tropical storms are predicted, along with seven to nine hurricanes, and three to five major hurricanes are forecast for the June 1 to Nov. 30 season.

If these numbers sound astounding, consider recent history: The 2004 season saw 15 named storms and six that reached Category 3 or greater.

All of this, says Mayor A.J. Holloway, should motivate you to take the necessary and prudent steps to minimize the risk to you and your property.

This should motivate you to take the time to formulate your personal hurricane plan. It's a matter of thinking about things such as:

- If you decided to evacuate, where would you go, and which route would you take? Have you stored important papers in a secure location? Have you made arrangements for care of your family pet? Have you thought about getting an adequate supply for any prescription medications you may need? And, finally, have you assembled the necessary items for your personal hurricane kit?
- Preparing a personal storm plan and having a hurricane kit are basic tools that will help get you prepared for a storm. Another important tool is having a battery-powered radio or TV to monitor weather reports and announcements.
- The key is to be in a good position to make a sound decision on the action you need to take.

"Everyone has to do what they think is the appropriate thing to do," Mayor A.J. Holloway said. "Decisions should be based on the information you're receiving. Have a plan and work that plan. Certain conditions dictate that you take certain actions, and, when you follow procedures like that, it takes all of the guesswork out of the equation."

"Your safety is one of the basic responsibilities of city government, and we're going to do everything we can in that regard, but residents need to do what they can to be prepared on a personal level, and, by all means, heed the advice we pass along."



Wells Ferry area on a typical day.



Wells Ferry area after 10 hours of rain.

Bag those leaves and trimmings after yard work

Chances are, you've seen it done or even done it yourself: You cut your lawn, rake up the trimmings and pile them near the curb in front of your home. Or, you'll sweep the trimmings into the street, where you hope they'll be carried away by the wind.

These two scenarios result in one of the biggest causes of flooding in the city – blocked storm drains. These careless or unthinking actions negate the millions of dollars in improvements that the city is making citywide to drainage systems.

Piling leaves at the curb or sweeping trimmings into the street means that they will eventually find their way into the city's storm drains. Either bag the leaves for pickup, take them to a neighborhood dumpster or compost them. A stopped-up storm drain or ditch cannot carry run-off water as it is intended to do. When it rains, that water can flood streets, your property or your neighbor's property.

It's actually a violation of city ordinance to dump any material into storm drains, ditches, culverts, streams or waterways. (Sec. 9-1-15, Code of Ordinances, 1992). If you see anyone dumping debris into storm drains, ditches, culverts or streams, please contact the Public Works Department at 435-6271 or online at rsullivan@biloxi.ms.us, or the Code Enforcement staff in the Community Development Department, 435-6270 or online at dking@biloxi.ms.us.

Do you have flood insurance?

Some homeowners may have been required to buy flood insurance when they obtained a mortgage or home-improvement loan.

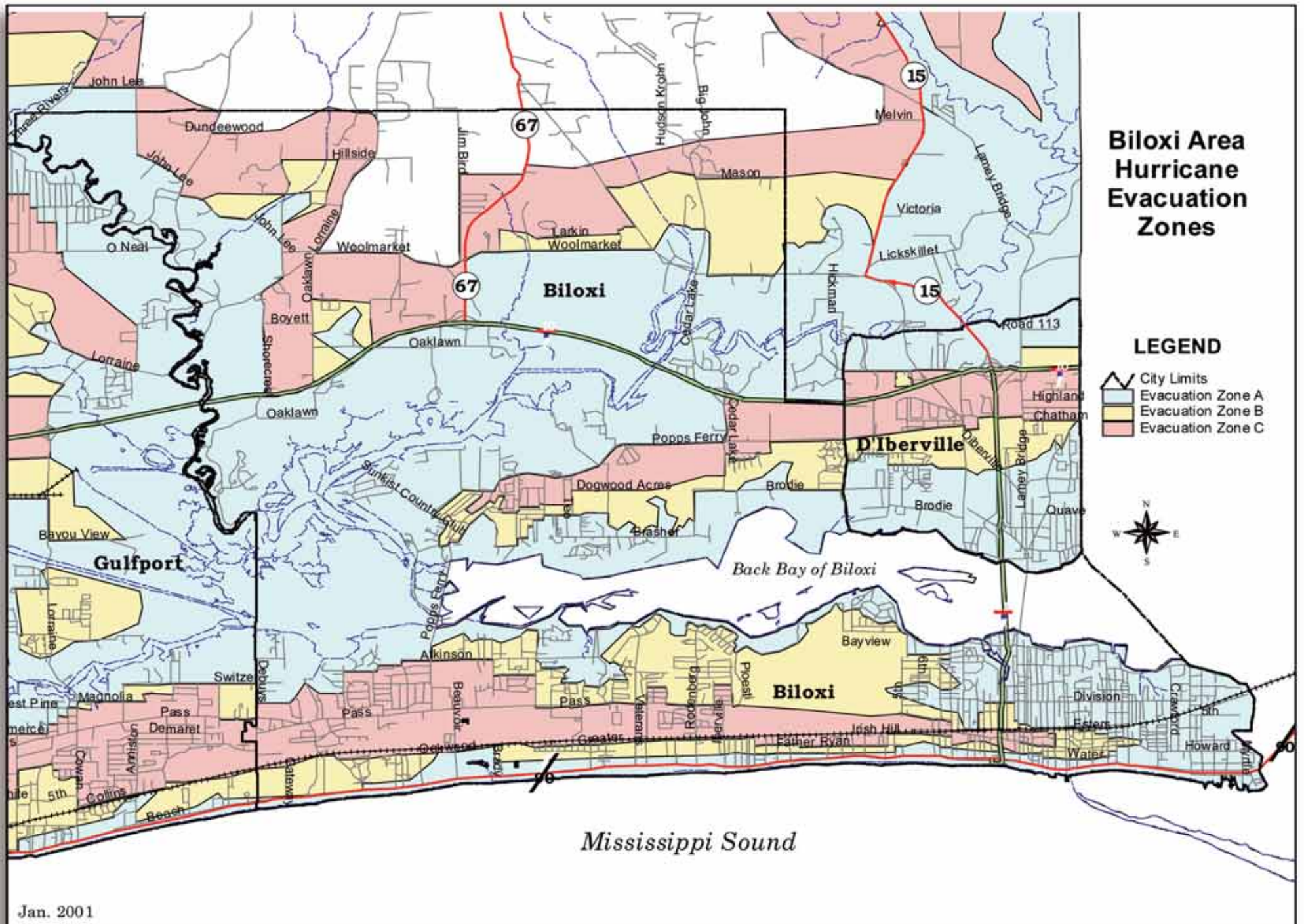
However, in many cases, these policies cover only the structure and not your possessions. You can protect your home and contents through the National Flood Insurance Program, in which the City of Biloxi participates.

Local insurance agents can sell a flood-insurance policy separate from your homeowners or windstorm policy.

These policies are regulated by the federal government. Any agent can sell a policy and all agents must charge the same rates, which are set nationally. Your rates will not change even if you file a claim.

There is a 30-day waiting period before the policy becomes effective.

Contact your insurance agent to determine what type of coverage you have.



Think ahead on evacuations, storm shelters

One of the toughest decisions that residents may have to make on when a storm approaches is whether they should evacuate their property and possessions for either a local shelter or out-of-town accommodations.

Depending on the severity of the storm, that decision can be made for those in low-lying areas: local authorities may order a mandatory evacuation.

In Biloxi, as many as six hurricane shelters can be activated in times of peril, but residents need to be aware of several factors if they are considering seeking refuge in a shelter.

The decision to open a shelter is usually based on the intensity of a storm and where it is expected to make landfall. Local Emergency Management leaders make the decision to open shelters in coordination with the American Red Cross, and the public is notified through

the media. In many cases, elementary schools are used for shelters, which are manned by Red Cross workers and public safety officers.

And the shelter sites can vary for year to year and storm to storm.

"The category of storms and the direction they are coming from are just a couple of the considerations when determining which shelters will be used," Biloxi Emergency Management coordinator Linda Atterberry says. "Things like tides are also a consideration, so the locations of shelters and when they are activated are made on a case-by-case basis."

If you think you may seek refuge in a shelter, some points to consider:

- Bring enough food and water for at least the first day. Bring your own blankets and other personal

needs. Cots cannot be guaranteed. No pets, firearms, alcohol or tobacco products are allowed.

- Public transit systems – buses and taxis – will stop operating when sustained winds reach 35 mph.
- If you have an infant, bring an adequate supply of diapers and formula.
- If you or a member of your family is on a special diet, bring the necessary food.
- If you are on prescription medication, try to have a two-week supply of medication.

If you're thinking about evacuating, be familiar with evacuation routes. Traffic may be delayed by bridges opening to marine traffic. Bridges, by the way, will not open for marine traffic when sustained winds reach 35 mph.

Cable One to air Camille documentary

Biloxi residents will have a chance to revisit the devastation wrought by Hurricane Camille during the cablecast of the documentary "A Lady Called Camille," which Cable One will air on its Biloxi system on Aug. 17, 2005, the 36th anniversary of the Category 5 storm making landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The 30-minute documentary, which features actual footage from the aftermath of a Category 5 storm, will air at 10 a.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Aug. 17 on Cable 13 in Biloxi. Cable One is airing it as a public service to help educate residents on the dangers of hurricanes.

Camille, with winds in excess of 200 mph and a 25-foot storm surge, swept across the Coast on the night of Aug. 17, 1969. The storm, which at the time was the most severe to strike the U.S., caused billions of dollars in damage, with 134 deaths and 23 persons missing from the Gulf Coast area. A nationwide relief effort, which included scores of military and civilian volunteers and businesses, helped Biloxi and surrounding communities in the aftermath of the storm. President Richard M. Nixon visited the Coast in the days after the storm.

"A Lady Called Camille," which was created by the

National Office of Civil Defense shortly after the hurricane, shows preparation and recovery efforts that were organized largely by the legendary Wade Guice, former Harrison County Civil Defense Director whose wife, Julia, served as Biloxi Civil Defense Director at the time. The duo are seen at their posts at the outset of the film.

Copies of "A Lady Called Camille" are available for \$19.95 each from the Biloxi Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, which is also home to the Wade Guice Hurricane Museum. Details: 435-6320.

Make sure to get a building permit before construction

When you or a licensed contractor make repairs or alterations to your property, those repairs should be in compliance with established building codes. This ensures that work is up to code and will be able to withstand most weather conditions.

To make sure that your plans are within code, a building permit must be obtained from the City of Biloxi Building Division before you build, alter, regrade or fill on your property.

You can take steps now to protect your property against flooding

There are some steps that you can take now to prepare your property against flooding.

One option may be "retrofitting," which is altering your home to eliminate or reduce flood damage.

A few things to consider:

- Elevate your building so that flood waters do not enter or reach any susceptible portions.
- Construct barriers out of fill or concrete between your building and flood waters.
- "Dry flood proof" your building, which entails making walls and flooring watertight so water cannot enter.
- "Wet flood proof" your building, which entails modifying the structure and relocating contents to lessen the damage caused by any flood waters that enter your structure.
- Sandbagging is a short-term measure that can also be helpful.

The City of Biloxi is home to many reputable, licensed building contractors who are qualified to make repairs for you. However, after each storm, a number of transient contractors sets up temporary shop in our community. Before signing any contract or paying any money for repair work, you should ask to see the person's City of Biloxi license.

If you have any doubts or questions, contact the Building Division at 435-6270 or online at building@biloxi.ms.us to ensure that this individual is licensed to operate in the City of Biloxi.

Storm, disaster info can be kid stuff, thanks to website



It's never too soon to begin the education process about storms and the damage they can cause, and a host of educational activities especially for children are now available online.

The Flood and Storm section of Biloxi's web site (<http://biloxi.ms.us>) includes a direct link to

FEMA for Kids, which

features Herman, "the spokescrab" and

kid-style information on how to be prepared for disasters and how you can prevent disaster damage.

Parents and teachers will find a number of family or classroom activities for groups.

To see the FEMA for Kids site, visit <http://biloxi.ms.us/floodstorm> and click on For Kids at the top right.

For work under \$500, there is no fee for the permit.

New buildings in the flood plain must be protected from flood damage. Biloxi's building code requires that new buildings must be elevated one foot above the base or 100-year flood level. (See the enclosed map for a view of the 100-year floodplain.)

The code also requires all "substantial" improvements or repairs from damage to a building be treated as new construction. A substantial improvement or repair is one

in which the value of an addition, alteration, repair or reconstruction projects exceeds 50 percent of the total value of the existing building.

Before you begin a project, contact the Building Division at 435-6270 or online at building@biloxi.ms.us. Qualified staff can help make sure that your project complies with building codes.

Stay in the loop year 'round



Why wait until a storm approaches to get timely information about your city? You can get regular e-mail news about city projects and initiatives, special events, and agendas for public meetings. And you can get it now – delivered to you for free and on a regular basis. It's all part of the City of Biloxi's online efforts that include a Weekly Briefing, which is delivered each Friday, and "Hot News" e-mails about other events or issues of interest.

Visit biloxi.ms.us and sign up by clicking on "Are you in the loop?"

<http://biloxi.ms.us>

BEFORE HURRICANE APPROACHES

- Plan an evacuation route.**
- Contact the local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter, and ask for the community hurricane preparedness plan. This plan should include information on the safest evacuation routes and nearby shelters.

- Learn safe routes inland.**
- Be ready to drive 20 to 50 miles inland to locate a safe place.
 - Have disaster supplies on hand.
 - Flashlight and extra batteries
 - Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
 - First aid kit and manual
 - Duct tape
 - Emergency food and water
 - Non-electric can opener
 - Essential medicines
 - Cash and credit cards
 - Sturdy shoes

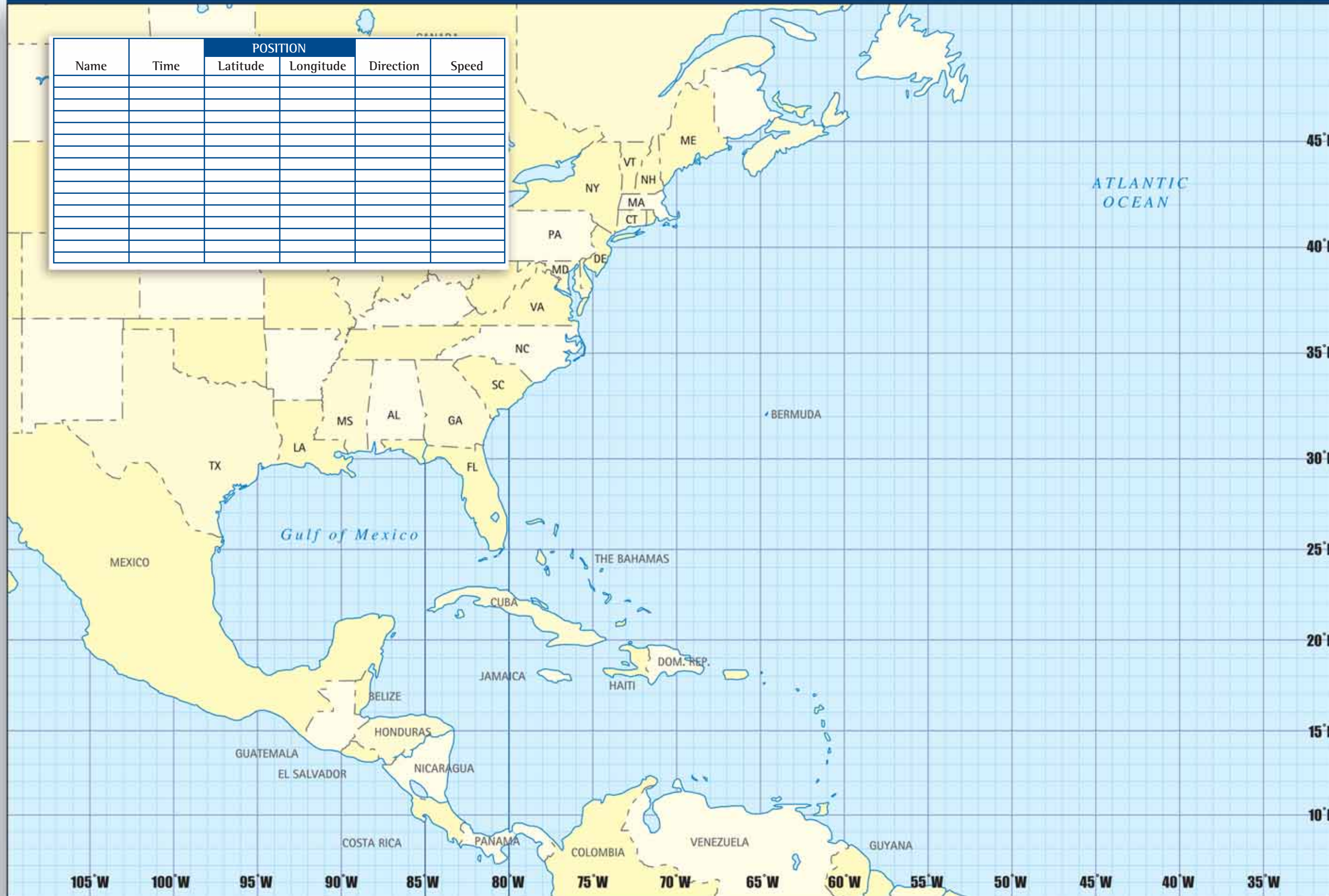
- Make arrangements for pets.**
- Pets may not be allowed into emergency shelters for health and space reasons.
 - Contact your local humane society for information on local animal shelters.

- Make sure that all family members know how to respond after a hurricane.**
- Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
 - Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police, or fire department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
 - Protect your windows.
 - Permanent shutters are the best protection. A lower-cost approach is to put up plywood panels. Use 1/2 inch plywood – marine plywood is best – cut to fit each window. Remember to mark which board fits which window.
 - Pre-drill holes every 18 inches for screws. Do this long before the storm.

- Trim back dead or weak branches from trees.**
- Check into flood insurance.**
- You can find out about the National Flood Insurance Program through your local insurance agent or emergency management office. There is normally a 30-day waiting period before a new policy becomes effective.
 - Homeowners policies do not cover damage from the flooding that accompanies a hurricane.
- Develop an emergency communication plan.**
- In case family members are separated from one another during a disaster (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.
 - Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the “family contact.” After a disaster, it’s often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.



Hurricane Tracking Map



Stay tuned for more storm information

The National Weather Service monitors hurricane and storm activity, and issues official bulletins to local and regional TV and radio stations. Since television coverage may be interrupted by power outages, you should also have a battery-operated radio to follow emergency advisories. It is vital that you monitor these weather broadcasts, especially as a storm approaches.

Additionally, the City of Biloxi relays vital information on a regular basis through its online e-mail program. To sign up for the notices, visit <http://biloxi.ms.us>, where you'll also find detailed and regularly updated weather forecasts.

Here is a list of local outlets where you can obtain information:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Television
WLOX-TV 13
WXXV-TV 25
The Weather Channel | Radio-AM
WQFX 1130
WBSL 1190
WGCM 1240
WROA 1390
WXBD 1490
WTNI 1640 |
| Radio-FM
WQYZ 92.5
WMJY 93.7
WJZD 94.5
WZNF 95.3
WUJM 96.7
WCPR 97.9
WKNN 99.1
WGCM 102.3
WBUV 104.9
WXRG 105.9
WXYK 107.1
WZKX 107.9 | Online
biloxi.ms.us
fema.gov
co.harrison.ms.us |

2005 Storm Names

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

Major flood-producing storms that have impacted Biloxi since 1969 include:

- Hurricane Camille
- Hurricane Frederic
- Hurricane Elena
- Hurricane Georges
- Tropical Storm Allison
- Tropical Storm Isidore

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

1 74-95 mph No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage

2 96-110 mph Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2-4 hours before arrival of center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings.

3 111-130 mph Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtain-wall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 feet above sea level (ASL) may be flooded inland 8 miles or more.

4 131-155 mph More extensive curtain wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet ASL may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas inland as far as 6 miles.

5 greater than 155 mph Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet ASL and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 to 10 miles of the shoreline may be required.

DURING A HURRICANE WATCH

- (A Hurricane Watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours.)
- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for hurricane progress reports.
 - Check emergency supplies.
 - Fuel car.
 - Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, and garden tools and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
 - Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows. Remove outside antennas.
 - Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly.
 - Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles, and cooking utensils.
 - Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.
 - Review evacuation plan.
 - Moor boat securely or move it to a designated safe place. Use rope or chain to secure boat to trailer. Use tie-downs to anchor trailer to the ground or house.

DURING A HURRICANE WARNING

- (A Hurricane Warning is issued when hurricane conditions – winds of 74 mph or greater, or dangerously high water and rough seas – are expected in 24 hours or less.)
- Listen constantly to a battery-operated radio or television for official instructions.
 - If in a mobile home, check tie-downs and evacuate immediately.
 - Avoid elevators.
 - If at home:
 - Stay inside, away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
 - Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy. Avoid open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light.
 - If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power “surge” when electricity is restored.
 - If officials indicate evacuation is necessary:
 - Leave as soon as possible. Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges.
 - Secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve.
 - Tell someone outside of the storm area where you are going.
 - If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding or better yet, move it to a higher floor.
 - Take pre-assembled emergency supplies, warm protective clothing, blankets and sleeping bags to shelter.
 - Lock up home and leave.

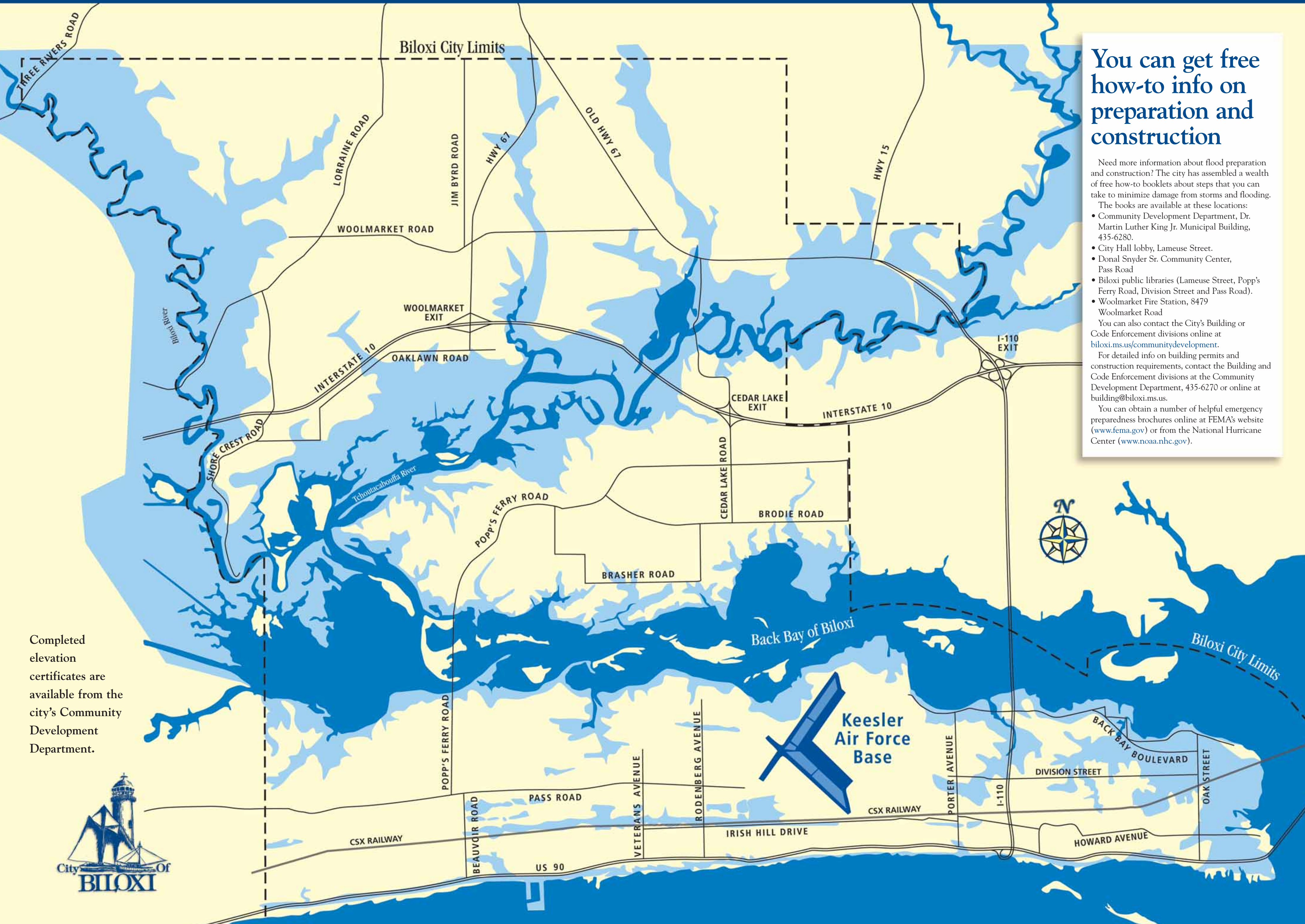
AFTER THE STORM

- Stay tuned to local radio for information.
- Help injured or trapped persons.
- Give first aid where appropriate.
- Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.
- Return home only after authorities advise that it is safe to do so.
- Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company, police, or fire department.
- Enter your home with caution. Beware of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage; if electricity is off, keep refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible.
- Take pictures of the damage, both to the house and its contents for insurance claims.
- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Refrain from sightseeing.

- Use telephone only for emergency calls.
- Inspecting utilities in a damaged home
 - Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor’s home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.
 - Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.
 - Check for sewage and water lines damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid the water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.

City of Biloxi 100-Year Floodplain

This map shows existing waterways in dark blue. The areas in light blue show the 100-year floodplain. City ordinances require that any new construction in the floodplain must be elevated one foot above the base of 100-year floodplain.



You can get free how-to info on preparation and construction

Need more information about flood preparation and construction? The city has assembled a wealth of free how-to booklets about steps that you can take to minimize damage from storms and flooding.

The books are available at these locations:

- Community Development Department, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Municipal Building, 435-6280.
- City Hall lobby, Lameuse Street.
- Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center, Pass Road
- Biloxi public libraries (Lameuse Street, Popp's Ferry Road, Division Street and Pass Road).
- Woolmarket Fire Station, 8479 Woolmarket Road

You can also contact the City's Building or Code Enforcement divisions online at biloxi.ms.us/communitydevelopment.

For detailed info on building permits and construction requirements, contact the Building and Code Enforcement divisions at the Community Development Department, 435-6270 or online at building@biloxi.ms.us.

You can obtain a number of helpful emergency preparedness brochures online at FEMA's website (www.fema.gov) or from the National Hurricane Center (www.noaa.nhc.gov).

Completed elevation certificates are available from the city's Community Development Department.





The color of construction

City simplifies permits, adds splash of color to better identify work

Identifying the types of construction going on in Biloxi is simpler these days – for contractors, property owners and city inspectors, as well as citizens interested in construction in their neighborhoods. Tracking construction is a particularly vital concern in flood zones.

The city's Community Development Department is now using color-coded permits that clearly illustrate the type of permit granted for construction work, and the new system has reduced what once may have required a contractor to obtain five separate permits to having everything all on one permit.

It's all part of the city's continuing efforts to help streamline and simplify the process, and to amplify that different types of work may be required to meet stricter standards. For instance, work in an area susceptible to flooding, known as a special flood hazard area, must comply with FEMA regulations and the city's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

Previously, permits were a standard beige color, and contractors may have been required to obtain separate permits for building, electrical, plumbing, gas and mechanical (heating, ventilation and air conditioning).

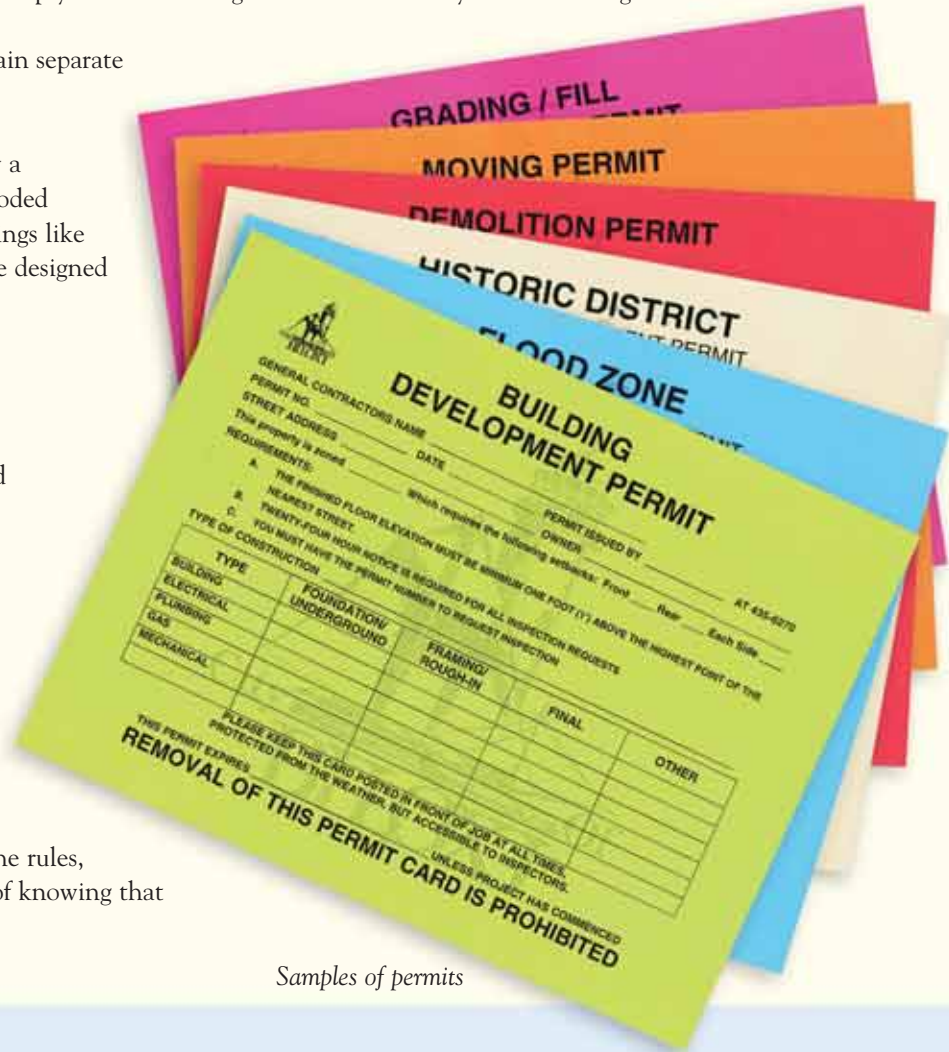
"Now," says Jerry Creel, the city's Community Development director, "when someone passes by a project, they won't be seeing a collection of non-descript permits. Instead, they'll see that color-coded permit, and they'll know that if it's blue, then the project is in a flood zone, which means that things like elevation will be more serious than on the typical construction job. These color-coded permits are designed to help call attention to those issues."

The colors:

- Lime green permit is the basic permit for work where there are no special conditions or enhanced requirements.
- Blue permit is for properties or structures located in a special flood hazard area.
- Beige signifies the "Architectural/Historical Review District," which means that the proposed project has been reviewed and approved by the Architectural and Historical Review Committee.
- Red is a Demolition Permit.
- Orange is for "Moving" a structure.
- Purple is for "grading" or "filling" a site.

The permitting process is essential to all residents – not just those who are making improvements to their property.

"By obtaining the proper permits, you are making sure that the work meets the city's adopted code and ordinances," Creel said. "This means that the work will be done correctly, and will be better able to withstand the elements. And by following the procedures and adhering to the rules, people will see their flood insurance rates continue to decrease, and they'll have the satisfaction of knowing that they have a safe and secure structure."



Samples of permits

Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

- **Animal control** 435-6103
To report stray or dead animals, leash-law violations
- **Auto tag info** 435-8242
County Courthouse at Lameuse Street and MLK Boulevard
- **Birth certificates** 601-576-7960
State Department of Vital Statistics in Jackson
- **Building permits** 435-6270
To obtain permits for construction and improvements
- **Business licenses** 435-6247
To obtain a license to do business in the city
- **City Council** 435-6257
To reach council members or clerks of council
- **City Court** 435-6125
Information on traffic tickets and court docket
- **Code enforcement** 435-6270
To report weeded lots, unsafe buildings, abandoned vehicles
- **Drivers licenses** 432-7803
Dr. Eldon Bolton State Office Building, Bayview Avenue
- **Emergency police and fire** 911
Non-emergency: 435-6107 (police) or 435-6200 (fire)
- **Garbage collection** 392-5108
BFI manages the city's residential garbage collection.
- **Housing Authority** 374-7771
To get information on public housing
- **Human Resources** 435-6259
For info on city employment; on third floor, City Hall
- **Mayor's office** 435-6254
Citizen services, proclamations, public records requests
- **Museums information** 435-6244
Info on city museums or to rent historic properties
- **Parks & Recreation** 435-6281
Info on programs, or to rent most city facilities
- **Planning Commission** 435-6266
To apply for a change in your zoning or land use
- **Public schools** 374-1810
Administrative office for all Biloxi public schools
- **Streets and drainage** 435-6271
To report pot holes, damaged street signs or traffic signals
- **Visitor info** 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
Visitors Center is on the Biloxi Town Green
- **Voter registration** 435-6279
To register to vote or change in address
- **Water service** 435-6240
Meter Reading Specialists manages city water department



P.O. Box 429
Biloxi, MS 39533

**Important Storm & Flood
Preparation Info Enclosed**

PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 57
BILOXI, MS 39530

Postal Customer
ECRWSS

Are you in the loop?

Sign up at <http://biloxi.ms.us>
for the most current news
about your city.