

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHARLESTON SC
700 AM EDT MON MAY 25 2015

...NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK CONTINUES...

HURRICANES AND OTHER TROPICAL CYCLONES CREATE NUMEROUS THREATS...INCLUDING STORM SURGE...DAMAGING WINDS...FLOODING RAINFALL...TORNADOES...RIP CURRENTS...HIGH SURF AND BEACH EROSION. TODAY WE WILL DISCUSS STORM SURGE...THE GREATEST THREAT TO LIFE AND PROPERTY ALONG THE COAST.

STORM SURGE IS A LARGE DOME OF WATER...OFTEN 50 TO 100 MILES WIDE... THAT PUSHES INLAND MOSTLY TO THE RIGHT OF WHERE A TROPICAL CYCLONE CROSSES THE COAST. THE SURGE OF HIGH WATER...IN ADDITION TO DANGEROUS BATTERING WAVES...CAN PRODUCE MASSIVE DESTRUCTION NEAR THE IMMEDIATE COAST. HOWEVER...THE SURGE CAN ALSO PUSH WELL INLAND...ESPECIALLY IN LOW-LYING AREAS NEAR WATERWAYS SUCH AS RIVERS AND INLETS. THE COASTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO STORM SURGE DUE TO THIS REASON AS WELL AS THE LOW ELEVATION OF THE LAND...CONCAVE SHAPE OF THE COASTLINE AND SHALLOW CONTINENTAL SHELF OFFSHORE. TYPICALLY...THE LARGER AND STRONGER THE STORM THE GREATER THE SURGE WILL BE.

DURING TROPICAL CYCLONES THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PROVIDES INFORMATION REGARDING INUNDATION...OR THE DEPTH OF WATER ABOVE THE GROUND AT ANY GIVEN LOCATION. INUNDATION INCORPORATES THE ASTRONOMICAL TIDE AS WELL AS THE FORECASTED STORM SURGE.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HURRICANES VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES...

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER...WWW.HURRICANES.GOV

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHARLESTON...WWW.WEATHER.GOV/CHS/TROPICAL

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