

South Carolina Continues To Lead

South Carolina remains the only state in the United States that has an on-going hurricane mitigation grant program.

Projects completed through SC Safe Home include roof or window replacements, roof to wall tie-downs, gable-end bracing, and storm shutter installations. All retrofits are completed using ENERGY STAR® rated materials and provide much-needed jobs to individuals working in the construction and home improvement industries.

Since its' creation SC Safe Home has received a total of 2,199 grant applications and has awarded 1,429 grants totaling approximately \$6.1 million.

The SC Safe Home program currently has 63 certified wind inspectors and 52 certified contractors working with homeowners in South Carolina's coastal communities.

County	Number of SC Safe Home Grants Awards
Beaufort	97
Berkeley	281
Charleston	110
Colleton	20
Dorchester	63
Florence	36
Georgetown	126
Horry	592
Jasper	3
Marion	69
Williamsburg	32
Totals	1,429

The Responsibility of Being Prepared

It is never too late to prepare for what the future has in store. Although hurricane season begins June 1st and runs through the end of November, devastating natural disasters can ravage our lives at any time. No one is exempt from the possibility of being impacted by these tragic events. You need to prepare yourself, your home and your family in case of a disaster. Review your homeowner's policy, prepare a disaster kit, make an emergency plan and retrofit your home now. Also, set aside savings for an emergency fund through a catastrophe savings account. Building a savings plan into your budget creates financial reserves to help you get back on your feet when faced with an emergency. Inside this newsletter you will find examples of ways you can be responsible and become better prepared.

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Save Money and Energy with these Important Tips

The following information can save energy and money, and also help the environment with minimal effort.

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs use about 75 % less energy than incandescent bulbs. They last longer so you'll buy fewer bulbs and you'll save at least \$30 in electricity costs over the lifetime of the bulb.
- In the winter, keep your thermostat at 68 to 70 degrees when you're at home or awake. Whether you choose to upgrade your thermostat, turn it back (or up in the summer) when you're away or asleep.
- Wrapping your water heater with an approved insulation method is an easy way to save. Lower your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees for more painless savings.
- Sealing large air leaks in your home can save you a bundle: Try foam tape inside of door and window jams. Focus first on sealing air ducts that pass through the attic, crawlspace, unheated basement, or garage.
- Inadequate insulation means losing up to 35% of your heating energy. Your attic needs at least six inches of insulation to efficiently keep heat and A/C in.
- Clean your refrigerator coils once a year. Clean coils help the compressor cool faster and run less frequently, which extends the life of your refrigerator and reduces energy costs.
- Keep oven door closed when cooking. Every time the door is opened the oven temperature can drop 25 degrees.



The Key to a Smooth Recovery is to Prepare Now

It is important to annually review your homeowner's insurance policy to determine coverage and ensure that you are properly covered. If you have questions about coverage speak with your agent or call the SC Department of Insurance.

Disaster Kit should include:

- Water, one gallon of water for each person for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container.

Make a Plan:

- Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.
- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood.
- It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.

Prepare your home:

- Plan to bring all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans, grills and anything else not tied down into home.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed so they do not produce excess debris that can cause further damage.
- Turn off utilities as instructed. Turn off propane tank.

Before the Flood:

- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Seal the walls in your basement with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage.

2010 Annual Meeting

The SC Safe Home Annual Meeting and Training Session took place October 20th-22nd at the Clarion Downtown Columbia, SC. Forty-eight Certified Contractors and fifty-seven Certified Wind Inspectors attend this important event which included educational training and updates to the program and application processes. The event also provided the perfect forum to discuss what inspectors and contractors are encountering in the field as they work to retrofit the grant recipient's homes.

The Annual Meeting provided the inspectors and contractors a unique opportunity to hear from experts in the fields of construction and mitigation. The speakers included representatives from several state agencies to include SC Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, the SC State Fire Marshal's Office, SC Emergency Management Division as well as the SC Flood Mitigation Program housed within the SC Department of Natural Resources. The meeting also featured a presentation about the newly constructed Institute for Business and Home Safety wind mitigation laboratory now operating in Richburg, SC.



October 20th Current Contractors and Inspectors.



October 21st eight new inspector attended training which was held at the Clarion Downtown Columbia, SC.



October 22nd seven new contractors attended training at the Capitol Center Building in Columbia to begin working with SC Safe Home.

To view a copy of the *SC Safe Home Mitigation Techniques Resource Guide*, navigate to www.SCSafeHome.com and click Homeowner Resources in the left column. Click Tools once on that page.

Continuing Your Efforts to Prepare and Protect

Finally while you may have participated in the SC Safe Home program and received a grant award, please do not neglect to utilize the wind inspection report that you paid for as a guideline to further enhance and strengthen your home. It is our hopes that the grant award is a catalyst for responsible homeowners to fully retrofit their homes and to receive the additional benefits outlined in the Omnibus Act including tax credits and insurance premium discounts.



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