



CITY OF MOBILE
**SEVERE WEATHER
PREPAREDNESS
GUIDE 2026**



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DON'T WAIT. PREPARE NOW.

The City of Mobile's Severe Weather Preparedness Guide will help better prepare citizens for severe weather events with vital information that can be accessed in one place when a storm threatens our part of the Gulf Coast.

We urge you to make a Family Emergency Plan early on, deciding what you'll do if a storm heads our way. Make sure you have a Disaster Supply Kit prepared and an alternate, sturdy location to move to, if needed.

The Port City has seen its fair share of tropical weather through the years, with some storms impacting our infrastructure for days at a time.

STAY CONNECTED

The City of Mobile delivers vital information through many channels, including our social media platforms and through our partnering agencies. It's important you stay connected before, during and after a disaster to receive the latest, crucial information pertaining to where you live.



@CityofMobile
@CityofMobilePublicSafety
@TheMobilePolice
@MobileFireRescue



@CityofMobileAL
@mobile_fire_rescue

RADIO ALERTS

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service Office (NWS Mobile). These give official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To receive information during power outages, you should have an emergency weather radio with batteries or a crank. They will work even during the most damaging weather.

Follow local officials for directions and latest updates.



Ready 



Smart911[®]

Smart911 is a free public safety service that allows residents to create a profile with important personal and household information that can be accessed by 911 call centers during an emergency.

When you call 911 from a phone number linked to your profile, dispatchers can instantly see details you've provided to better assist you in your time of need. The system is designed to protect privacy, as users control what information they share, and data is only made available to emergency personnel when a 911 call is placed. **Smart 911 is recommended for anyone that requires updates on shelter and evacuation responses.**

Your profile can be saved through the Smart911 app. Click the following link to learn more: <https://mobilecountyyema.gov/smart911/>



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Hazardous Materials Response team for the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department responds to all situations where chemical spills and transportation or industrial accidents involve hazardous materials. The hazmat team is comprised of 30 firefighters who have been extensively trained in the control and mitigation of hazardous materials incidents.

Their armamentarium includes a variety of specialized tools and equipment that allows them to enter extremely toxic environments and secure leaking containers as well as mitigating the impact of the toxic release on the environment.

The hazmat team responds not only in the City of Mobile but also anywhere in the county. They are given updated data on chemicals being stored or manufactured in the area. All members of the hazmat team are firefighters who have volunteered for this special duty and training.

SHELTER IN PLACE INSTRUCTIONS

If a hazardous material incident occurs nearby, residents should act quickly to protect themselves and follow guidance from local authorities. You should go indoors immediately and stay there unless told to evacuate. Close and lock all windows and doors, turning off heating and cooling systems to prevent outside air from entering. You will be notified once an all-clear is given.

If an evacuation is ordered, follow the recommended instructions by local authorities. Never attempt to approach or investigate a scene. Aside from text alerts you may receive from officials, updates will also be provided on official Facebook pages, including City of Mobile - Government, Mobile County Emergency Management Agency, Mobile Fire-Rescue, Mobile Police Department, City of Mobile Public Safety social media pages.



STORM SURGE

Storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by strong winds from a tropical storm or hurricane. Storm surge is destructive and it accounts for about half of the deaths associated with tropical cyclones in the United States. As these storms make landfall, they produce rising water due to powerful winds pushing that water far in to shore.

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF STORM SURGE?

- Large areas covered with deep water due to storm surge flooding.
- Structural damage to buildings with some washing away.
- Locations may be uninhabitable for an extended period of time.
- Large sections of roads washed out or severely flooded.
- Major damage to marinas, docks, boardwalks, and piers.

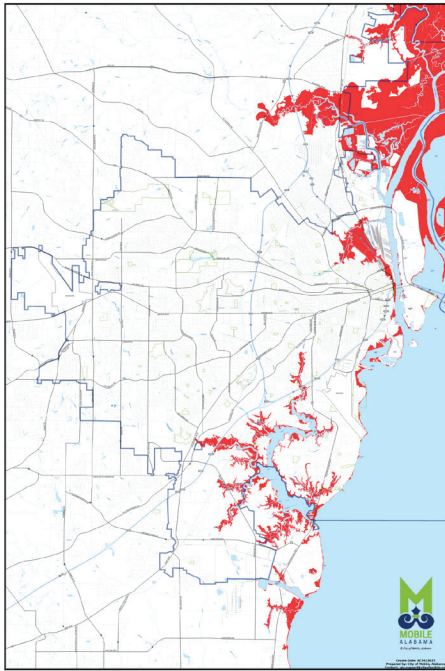


FLOODING

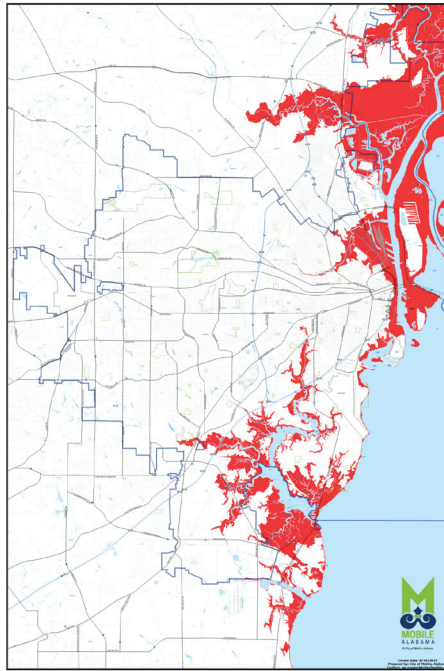
Heavy rain can cause flooding quickly. Prolonged rainfall saturates the ground and less of the water can be soaked up by the soil. It's important to avoid flooded roadways, and **never drive through a flooded area and do not touch the water.** See more facts about floods on page 12.

STORM SURGE MAPS

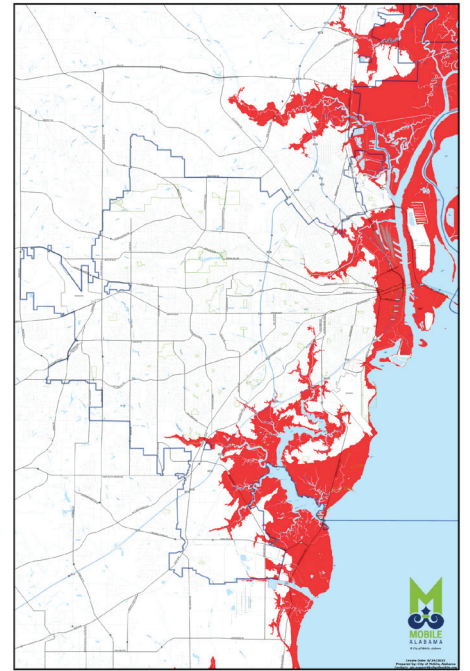
**CATEGORY 1
HURRICANE**



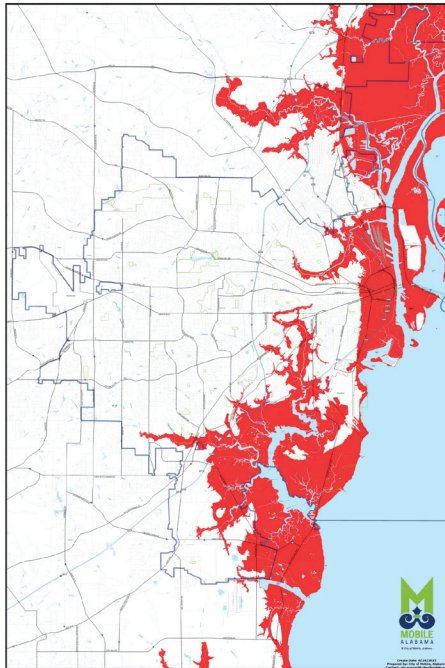
**CATEGORY 2
HURRICANE**



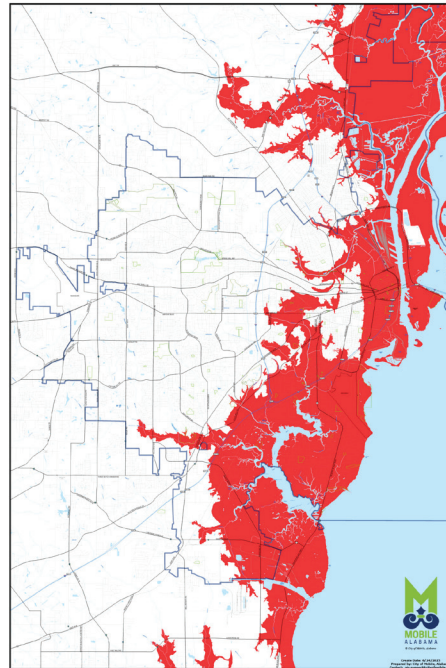
**CATEGORY 3
HURRICANE**



**CATEGORY 4
HURRICANE**



**CATEGORY 5
HURRICANE**



SEVERE WEATHER

TORNADOES

If you are under a Tornado Warning, find safe shelter immediately!

- Move to a sturdy building if it's safe to do so.
- Move to an interior portion of your home, or basement, away from windows.
- Put as many walls between you and the outside of your home as possible.
- Don't get under an overpass or a bridge. You're safer in a low, flat location.
- Watch out for flying debris that can cause serious injury, or death.
- Use your arms, pillows or other means to protect your head and neck.

THUNDERSTORMS

Thunderstorms can bring hail, damaging winds, floods and tornadoes.

Lightning can also be a dangerous element of severe weather when it strikes.

- Almost all lightning will occur within 10 miles of its parent thunderstorm, but it can strike farther away.
- The safest place to be during a thunderstorm is inside a large, enclosed structure.
- If no buildings are available, an enclosed vehicle makes a good alternative.
- If no cover is available, crouch low to the ground.
- Lightning can strike with little or no warning.

What to avoid during a thunderstorm:

- Electrical appliances and outlets.
- Corded phones, desktop computers.
- Showering, taking baths, using sinks.
- Doors, windows and porches.
- Standing in groups.
- Tall trees.

KNOW YOUR ZONE

It's important to know where you live in relation to rivers, bays and other bodies of water when a tropical system begins to eye the Port City. Paying attention to evacuation zones is important so you know where to go in a moment's notice.

Know your zone and where to evacuate!

Scan the QR code to learn more.

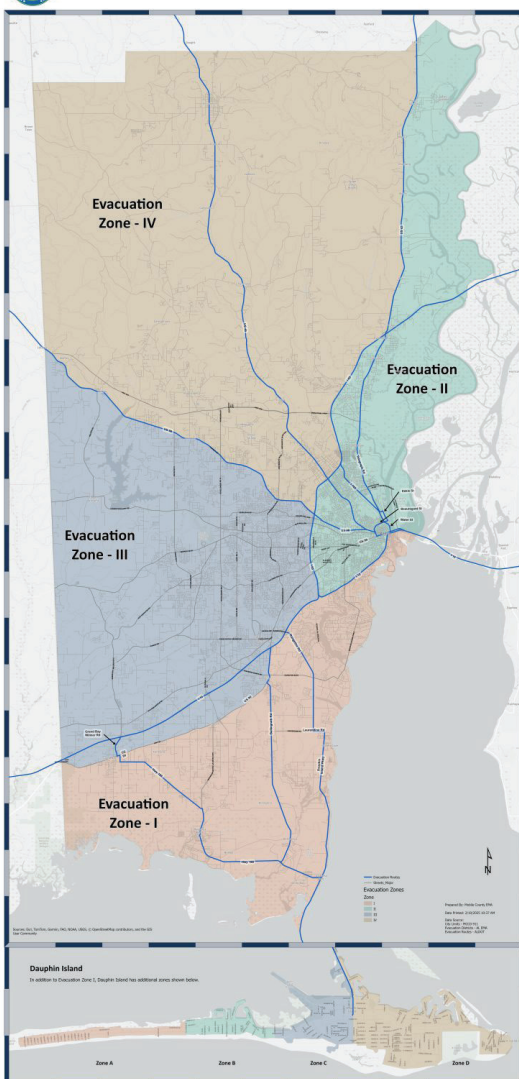


DID YOU KNOW?

More people die from storm surge than high winds during a hurricane. Make sure you obey the warnings and messaging when evacuations are ordered.

If you live in a mobile home, or recreational vehicle, you should safely evacuate before the storm arrives, or when a warning is issued.

 Mobile County Evacuation Zones & Routes



EVACUATION

Deciding whether to evacuate or shelter in place depends on the incident or event. You want to have a plan in place NOW.

You don't need to travel long distances to find a safe location during a storm. In most cases, evacuating further inland will take you away from many of the storm's direct impacts, including coastal storm surge.

The Mobile County Evacuation Zones are shaded for your knowledge. Click [here](#) to find the safest route out of the area should you need to evacuate.

SHELTER INFORMATION

MASS CARE SHELTER — Shelters opened for 12+ hours.

- **Agencies:** Mobile County EMA, Red Cross, Mobile County Department of Human Resources
- Cots are provided, but residents need to bring bedding.
- Bring personal hygiene items.
- Spaces are shared.
- No pets allowed except service animals.

MEDICAL NEEDS SHELTER — A medical needs shelter supports people who need more care than a shelter can give, but do not need to go to the hospital.

- **Agencies:** Mobile County EMA, Mobile County Department of Public Health, Mobile County Department of Human Resources
- Must bring a caregiver (18+).
- Must have a valid ID.
- Must bring medical equipment and medications for 72-96 hours.
- Must bring special diet food and personal supplies.
- Conditions considered: Use of CPAP, oxygen, and nebulizers; IV therapy or wound care; ostomy or catheter; wheelchair users.

SAFER PLACES — Short-term, locally opened, and non-hurricane shelters typically opened for events like tornado warnings. Not for overnight stays.

- **Agencies:** Mobile County EMA, Mobile County VOAD
- These places are designed only for short-term protection (less than 10 hours). They will not have supplies, bedding, or food.

HEATING & COOLING CENTERS — Opened when the heat index reaches or is expected to reach 105 degrees Fahrenheit or above, or if the wind chill reaches or is expected to reach 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

- **Agencies:** Mobile County EMA, Mobile County VOAD, local churches and community organizations.
- Registration and admission instructions will be shared via the news, social media, and other communication outlets.
- The center locations and procedures change with every incident.



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD
THE MOBILE COUNTY EMA APP!**

TAKE CARE OF YOUR PETS

Planning is the best way to keep your pets safe during an evacuation. Remember, if it's not safe for you, it's not safe for them. Plan and assemble an emergency kit for your pets before it's needed. Do not abandon your pets at home during an evacuation.

PET SUPPLIES YOU MAY NEED

- Water and food bowls.
- Food and treats (for at least 1 week).
- Manual can opener and spoon.
- Water (1 gallon per day, per animal, for at least 1 week).
- Toys and bedding.
- Newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and bleach.
- Litter and litter box for cats.
- Collar and leash with ID and rabies tags for cats and dogs.
- Crate or pet carrier.
- Photo of you with your pet to show ownership, if separated.
- Health records and medication.
- First aid kit.

STORM SHELTERING? **PLAN FOR** **YOUR PETS.**



Not all hurricane shelters accept pets.



Plan in advance to take the best care of your pets.



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MANUFACTURED HOMES

No matter how well your manufactured home is tied down, never take chances during a storm. It's always best to evacuate to help keep you and your family safe.

If you're living in a manufactured home, you're likely aware of the safety requirements already. However, if not, you can read the Alabama Manufactured Housing Commission's rules and regulations by clicking [here](#).

PREPARE YOUR HOME BEFORE A STORM

- Check for loose straps.
- Make sure straps are properly aligned and not angled.
- Use the proper number of tie-downs and ensure they're installed correctly.
- Make sure ground anchors are installed correctly.
- Be sure support piers are in contact with the frame.
- Replace any straps or ground anchors that appear damaged.

FACTS ABOUT FLOODS

Recovering from flood damage can be costly! Just 1 inch of water can cost \$27,000+ in repairs. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a federal program designed to provide flood insurance to property owners in participating communities, and also to encourage communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. If you don't have a mortgage and aren't required to have flood insurance, you should consider getting an NFIP policy to help pay for the unexpected.

Flash flooding doesn't just occur near rivers or bays. Urban areas are also prone to flooding. Highways and parking lots can decrease the amount of land able to absorb rain that's fallen.

It only takes 12 inches of water to sweep your car off the road. Many times, the water is much deeper than it appears. Rushing water can not only move vehicles, it can quickly wash out roadways creating major infrastructure problems.

HAVE YOUR DISASTER KIT READY

FOOD & SANITATION

- Bottled Water
- Nonperishable
- Foods
- Cooler & Ice
- Matches/Lighters
- Grill
- Plastic Dishes & Utensils
- Infant & Senior
- Supplies
- Pet Food & Supplies
- Cleaning Supplies
- Hand Sanitizer

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Soap, Shampoo, Hygiene Items
- Towels
- Clothing Items
- Rain Jackets, Boots
- Blankets
- First Aid Kit
- 2 Weeks Supply of Medications
- Sunscreen, Bug Repellent

COMMUNICATION

- Flashlight
- Batteries
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Pad, Pencils, Pens
- Cash, Checks & Debit Cards
- ID, Insurance Policies, Important Records
- Phones and
- Chargers
- Spare Keys
- Whistle

Hurricane Preparedness

Take Action Today

weather.gov/hurricane



Determine your risk from water & wind



Begin preparing now, before a storm



Learn how to understand hurricane forecasts and alerts



Learn what to do before, during, and after a storm



KNOW YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE

Not every homeowner's insurance policy protects them from loss due to flooding or rising water. It's important you know and understand your insurance coverage well before a storm makes landfall.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

<https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance>

BEFORE THE STORM

- Take photos of your property, inside and outside.
- Take photos of serial numbers and gather any receipts you might have.
- Store important documents in a safe, dry, place.
- Check your insurance coverage to determine what is covered.

AFTER THE STORM

- When it's safe to do so, evaluate the damage inside and outside of your home.
- Report any damage to your insurance company right away, taking photos as you create a list.
- Secure your property if windows or doors are compromised.

AFTER THE STORM

With power outages likely and temperatures high, the possibility of heat exhaustion is a real concern following any summer storm. If you begin to experience excessive sweating, cramps, dizziness or nausea, make sure to get to a shaded area and drink cool, non-alcoholic fluids right away.

Tropical systems can cause flooding, and standing water can easily create hazards. You should avoid walking in floodwaters as they can be contaminated with sewage, chemicals and other hazardous materials, posing risks of illness and infection. Mosquitoes and other insects are also drawn to this water. You should apply a repellent with DEET and stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active.

HOME SAFETY

- Patch open holes in your roof to prevent further damage.
- Turn off the main electricity breaker if the power is out.
- Take photos and document any damage.
- Ask contractors for a valid county license.
- Report suspicious contractors.

HAZARD AWARENESS

- Avoid downed wires and standing water.
- Be careful around wild and domestic animals.
- Call utility companies to report hazards such as broken gas or water mains, downed power lines or overturned gas tanks.
- Limit driving until roads are deemed safe.

WATER & HYGIENE SAFETY

- **HAND WASHING** — Use soap and water that's been boiled or disinfected.
- **BOIL WATER ADVISORIES** — Pay attention to alerts received during, and after, a storm. Use bottled water, if needed.
- **DISINFECT YOUR WATER** — If needed, add 8 drops of unscented bleach per gallon and wait 30 minutes before using it.

FOOD SAFETY

- Toss out any food that may have spoiled during a power outage.
- Throw away opened canned goods and remove labels to disinfect the cans before opening
- If you're using formula for infants, be sure to use clean bottles and refrigerate any unused formula. Remember, if you're using powdered formula, mix it with sterilized water.

After the Storm: **HAZARDS REMAIN**



Be careful near damaged buildings

Do not enter a damaged building until local authorities say it's safe. Leave your home if there's shifting or unusual noises. If you smell gas, get outdoors immediately and call 911.



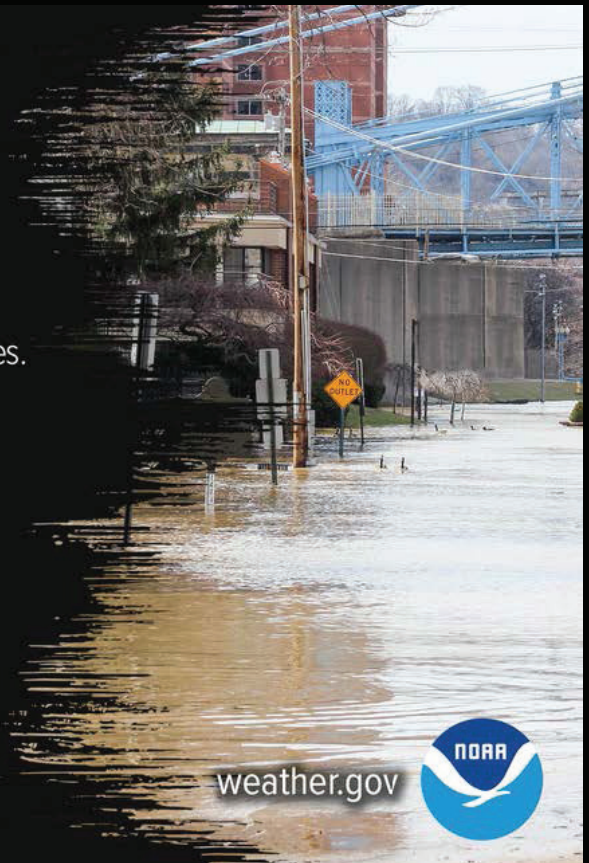
Watch out for power lines

Stay far away from damaged power lines, whether they've fallen to the ground or are dangling overhead.



Don't walk or drive through floodwaters

They can contain harmful bacteria, chemicals, sharp objects, live wires and reptiles/other animals. It only takes 12 inches of fast-moving water to sweep a car away.



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After the Storm: **CLEANING UP**



Don't push yourself

Straining the body can lead to heart attacks and other serious issues. Perform cleanups slowly, taking lots of breaks.



Be careful with chainsaws

Wear protective gear. Keep a safe distance from bystanders. Avoid contact with fallen power lines to prevent electric shock. If you aren't trained to use them, leave power tools to the experts.



Stay safe in the heat

Stay hydrated. Wear light, loose-fitting clothing. Take breaks in shaded areas or in air conditioning. Cleanup during cooler hours if possible.



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WHAT TO DO DURING AN EMERGENCY SITUATION

BUSINESSES & NON-PROFITS

Business owners should develop a clear plan to protect employees, customers, and property before, during, and after an emergency. Start by identifying potential risks in your area and create written procedures for each scenario. Establish a communication plan so employees can receive alerts and instructions quickly. Be sure to practice these plans prior to having to use them in a real-world scenario.

RESIDENTS

Designate a safe shelter area within the building, such as an interior room away from windows. Keep an emergency kit on site with first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, weather radios, and make sure essential documents are backed up digitally.

After the emergency, have a recovery plan in place to assess damage, restore operations, and communicate with staff, vendors, and customers.

INDIVIDUALS WITH MEDICAL NEEDS

Individuals with medical needs should create a personalized plan to ensure their safety and continuity of care during emergencies and afterward. Be sure you have an updated list of medical conditions, medications, dosages, allergies, and healthcare providers. This information needs to be easily accessible.

Always have at least one week's supply of medications and necessary medical supplies on hand, along with backup equipment such as extra batteries or power sources for devices like oxygen machines or mobility aids.

Identify the nearest medical facilities and shelters that can accommodate specific health needs, and plan ahead with transportation options in case an evacuation is required.

We also urge you to register with Smart911 so first responders can better assist you if a situation occurs where you need their life-saving services.

GENERATOR SAFETY

While generators are convenient when the power goes out, they can also create extreme hazards when not used properly. Call 911 or the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222, if needed.

Always operate your generator outdoors in an area with proper ventilation. Generators should never be used indoors as they can produce deadly carbon monoxide gas.

Use proper extension cords to connect your appliances to the generator outlets. Keep children and pets away from generators to avoid harmful contact with the hot equipment.

STORM DEBRIS CLEANUP

The City of Mobile provides regular roadside trash and debris collection as part of its public works services. You can find details about standard pickup schedules, guidelines, and accepted materials at: www.cityofmobile.org/public-works/residential-trash-pickup. These services will resume normal operations as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so following a severe weather event.

In the event of a major storm, the City of Mobile partners with a third-party contractor to assist with the removal of excessive debris caused by storm damage. This includes tree limbs, vegetation, and other storm-related debris that may be too large or widespread for regular collection services.

After a storm, residents should place all storm debris in the right of way in front of their homes — not in the roadway, and not stacked near mailboxes, fire hydrants, utility poles, or other obstructions that could delay collection.

The City will share detailed instructions and any changes to regular collection schedules through:

- www.cityofmobile.gov
- The City of Mobile's official social media channels
- Local news outlets

Please monitor these platforms for the most up-to-date information following any storm event.

UTILITIES & CRITICAL CONTACTS

UTILITIES

Alabama Power — request assistance or subscribe to emergency alerts

<https://www.alabamapower.com/news/company/find-out-all-the-ways-we-serve-you.html>

Spire Gas — 1-800-292-4008 (for emergencies call 911)

MAWSS — 251-694-3165

OTHER CRITICAL PHONE NUMBERS

Mobile County Public School System, Student Services — 251-221-4245

Mobile Police Department (non-emergency) — 251-208-7211

311 — Call 311 to report flooding and request non-emergency support from the City of Mobile

211 — Call 211 or text 888-421-1266 to be connected to non-profit services offered

QUICK REFERENCE LINKS

CITY OF MOBILE

[Facebook.com/CityofMobile](https://www.facebook.com/CityofMobile)

<https://www.instagram.com/cityofmobileal/>

<https://www.cityofmobile.org/hurricane-preparedness?action=preview>

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

[Facebook.com/CityofMobilePublicSafety](https://www.facebook.com/CityofMobilePublicSafety)

EMERGENCY SERVICES

[Facebook.com/TheMobilePolice](https://www.facebook.com/TheMobilePolice)

[Facebook.com/MobileFireRescue](https://www.facebook.com/MobileFireRescue)

FEMA

<https://www.fema.gov/>

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY & NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

[Facebook.com/NWSMobile](https://www.facebook.com/NWSMobile)

[Facebook.com/MobileCountyEMA](https://www.facebook.com/MobileCountyEMA)

<https://mobilecountyema.gov/>



CITY OF MOBILE
DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

MAILING ADDRESS

City of Mobile
P.O. Box 1827
Mobile, AL 36633-1827

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Government Plaza, 5th Floor
205 Government Street
Mobile, AL 36602-0001

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www.cityofmobile.gov

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