

Carolina Forest Fire Resource Guide

March 5, 2025

"Crews battled wildfires in North and South Carolina on Sunday amid dry conditions and gusty winds as residents were forced to evacuate in some areas... In South Carolina, where more than 175 fires burned 6.6 square miles (17 square kilometers), Gov. Henry McMaster declared a state of emergency on Sunday to support the wildfire response effort, and a statewide burning ban remained in effect... In North Carolina, the U.S. Forest Service said fire crews were working to contain multiple wildfires burning in four forests across the state on Sunday. " via [AP News](#)

North Carolina Resources

Office of the Governor of North Carolina – Josh Stein

Due to dry conditions, a wildfire in Polk County spread another 100 acres over the afternoon of March 3, burning 593 acres near the towns of Saluda and Tryon. As of March 4, the fire is 593 acres with 63% containment. The governor will provide informational updates on current state of emergencies and potential impacts from the storm. You may visit the Governor's website [here](#). At this time, there is a burn ban in effect and there are no declarations of emergency, although the governor urges North Carolinians to prepare for potential severe weather, as well as continued high fire danger conditions. Read the full statement [here](#).

- Phone: 919-814-2000
- Website: <https://governor.nc.gov/>
- [Facebook](#)
- [X \(Twitter\)](#)

North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM)

North Carolina Emergency Management deploys state resources, administers grants, and manages response to disasters. Click [here](#) to view the NCEM weather information page which includes updates on hazardous weather. Click here to view For more information, visit their website [here](#).

- Phone: 919-710-8885
- [X \(Twitter\)](#)

Crisis & Disaster Resources

- **Facebook**

Your local department of emergency management will provide updates regarding current emergencies and offer guidance on how to access emergency services such as reunification sites, emergency alerts, and assistance programs.

- Polk County Emergency Management/Fire Marshall:
 - Phone: 828-894-6342
 - Website: https://www.polknc.gov/emergency_management_fire_marshall/index.php

Ready NC

Ready NC provides information on emergencies, including weather emergencies in the area. Ready NC offers evacuation routes, weather conditions, road conditions, power outage, disaster assistance shelter information and more. For more information, visit the website [here](#).

North Carolina Environmental Quality - Division of Air Quality (DAQ)

The North Carolina Division of Air Quality (DAQ) works to improve air quality in North Carolina. The DAQ operates a network of air quality monitors across the state to measure pollutants including during wildfires. Click [here](#) to view the air quality portal for the latest forecast.

- Phone: 877-623-6748
- Website: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality>
- **Facebook**
- **Twitter (X)**

AirNow

AirNow, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and The U.S. Forest Services, offers a fire and smoke map with information regarding current air quality. Visit the website [here](#) for more information regarding air quality and how to stay prepared during a wildfire. Click [here](#) for the fire and smoke map. Click [here](#) for current smoke advisories.

- Website: <https://www.airnow.gov/state/?name=North-carolina>

North Carolina Wildfire Public Viewer

This web viewer provides current information on North Carolina's reported and active wildfires. Please note, wildfires that are controlled or put out are not shown.

Fire map: <https://ncfspublic.firesponse.com/>

Evacuation and Shelter

All evacuations have been lifted. There are no current active shelters.

North Carolina Department of Transportation and 511

North Carolina Department of Transportation provides information and resources on road closures and traffic conditions through the [NC 511](#) Information Line. When calling the 5-1-1 information line, callers hear urgent messages regarding closures for major interstates. On weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 7:45 p.m., weekends from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and state holidays from 9:15 a.m. until 4:45 p.m., callers speak directly with an operator who can answer traffic and travel-related questions.

- Click [here](#) to view the current traffic map.
- Dial 5-1-1 or 877-511-4662
- Website: <https://www.ncdot.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Power Outage Maps

Residents are encouraged to check with their service provider for updates on outages. See below for outage maps across the state:

- Click [here](#) for a list of energy providers in the state.
- [Poweroutage.us](#)
- [Duke Energy](#)

American Red Cross North Carolina

During a disaster, the Red Cross provides shelter, food, emotional support, health services, clean-up supplies and comfort items. Visit the link [here](#) for the region's main webpage.

To find open shelters via the American Red Cross please visit their website [here](#).

Crisis & Disaster Resources

Their Contact Loved Ones website recommends calling your local Red Cross if your missing loved one is elderly, disabled, has a chronic medical condition, lives in your household or is a member of the military-connected community. For more information, click [here](#).

North Carolina 211

North Carolina 211 connects callers to health and human service information and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even during disasters. Information and resources may be provided for a variety of needs including shelter, cell phone power stations, basic needs, and disaster assistance. To find your local 211, visit the website [here](#) and enter your city, county, or zip code.

- Call: Dial 2-1-1 or 888-892-1162
- Website: <https://nc211.org>

North Carolina Department of Insurance

Visit the website [here](#) for information from the North Carolina Department of Insurance regarding disaster related information including emergency planning and tips for filing claims.

Rebuild NC

This agency operates statewide and helps homeowners rebuild after natural disasters. The North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency manages several programs that support long-term disaster recovery and resiliency including homeowner recovery, infrastructure recovery, affordable housing, resiliency, strategic buyout, and local government grants and loans. To apply for these programs, please visit their [website](#).

South Carolina Resources

Office of the Governor – Henry McMaster

There are nearly 175 wildfires, impacting 4,200 acres across the state, including Horry, Spartanburg, Oconee, Union, and Pickens Counties primarily due to dry, windy conditions. Governor McMaster declared a state of emergency on March 2nd, 2025 to support South Carolina's ongoing response to the wildfires and a [statewide burn ban](#) remains in effect. Read the full declaration [here](#). As of March 4, the fire is at 30% containment. Additionally, the governor is responsible for announcing when FEMA assistance has been approved for the state. There has been no federal assistance called in for the fire, according to the governor. Governor McMaster stated that private insurance should take care of most damages.

- Phone: (803) 734-2100
- Website: <https://governor.sc.gov/>

South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD)

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) is the state agency that coordinates emergency management. The SCEMD provides preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts for emergencies and disasters that impact the state. View the SCEMD wildfire preparedness page [here](#).

- For general information: (803) 737-8500
- [X \(Twitter\)](#)
- [Facebook](#)

Your local department of emergency management will provide updates regarding current emergencies and offer guidance on how to access emergency services such as reunification sites, emergency alerts, and assistance programs.

- Horry County: <https://www.horrycountysc.gov/departments/emergency-management/>
- Spartanburg County: <https://www.spartanburgcounty.org/179/Emergency-Management>
- Oconee County: <https://oconeesc.com/emergency-services-home/emergency-management-home>

- Pickens County:

https://www.co.pickens.sc.us/departments/emergency_services/emergency_management.php

Horry County Fire Rescue

Follow the Horry County Fire Rescue social media page or visit the website for the most recent fire containment status and updates.

- 843-915-5190
- Website: <https://horrycountysc.gov/departments/fire-rescue/>
- [Facebook](#)

The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES)

The SCDES has issued an Air Quality Alert for fine particulates for Horry County in South Carolina until further notice. According to the SCDES, an Air Quality Alert means that, “the fine particulate concentrations within the specified areas may approach or exceed unhealthy standards due to local wildfire smoke in the Myrtle Beach area. SCDES recommends that individuals with respiratory health issues limit time spent outdoors and/or move all activities indoors to avoid the smoke or fine particulates. Keep windows and doors closed. Run an air conditioner if you have one but keep the fresh-air intake closed and the filter clean to prevent outdoor smoke and fine particulates from getting inside.”

- Air Quality Dashboard: <https://dph.sc.gov/professionals/public-health-data/sc-environmental-public-health-tracking/tracking-air-quality>
- [Facebook](#)

AirNow

AirNow, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and The U.S. Forest Services, offers a fire and smoke map with information regarding current air quality. Visit the website [here](#) for more information regarding air quality and how to stay prepared during a wildfire. Click [here](#) for the fire and smoke map. Click [here](#) for current smoke advisories.

- Website: <https://www.airnow.gov/state/?name=south-carolina>

South Carolina Forestry Commission – Fire Map

The South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) manages and protects the state's forests. The SCFC maintains a fire map containing information regarding current wildfires. Click [here](#) to view the state's fire map with information about current containment status.

- Website: <https://www.scfc.gov/>
- Visit the fire resource page: <https://www.scfc.gov/protection/fire-burning/fire-resources/>
- Visit the Fire Weather page to view fire conditions by county: <https://www.scfc.gov/protection/fire-burning/fire-weather/>

Evacuation and Shelter

All evacuations have been lifted at this time and there have been no reported structural losses.

The Red Cross shelter at Carolina Forest Recreation Center in Horry County is now closed. The facility will be utilized for wildfire response operations for public safety agencies in the meantime. Residents needing assistance can call the Eastern South Carolina chapter of American Red Cross at: 843-477-0020.

The after school program normally held at the Carolina Forest Recreation Center will be held at the Carolina Forest Senior Center located next to the Carolina Forest Library at 2246 Carolina Forest Boulevard, Myrtle Beach, SC. All other programs will be canceled.

For residents who have been displaced, there are local hotels offering [discounts](#):

- [**Doubletree Resort by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront**](#)
 - Pet-friendly
 - Offering rate of \$110 + tax
 - Resort and pet fees waived
 - King or queen beds
- [**The Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach. Tapestry by Hilton**](#)
 - Pet-friendly
 - Offering rate of \$110 + tax
 - Resort and pet fees waived
 - King or queen beds

Crisis & Disaster Resources

- **Courtyard & Springhill Suites**
 - 50% off retail rates
 - \$69 plus tax and parking
 - Does not accept pets
 - Must have a local address on their ID and reside in an area where evacuations were mandated
- **Grand Palms Resort**
 - Will only charge the cleaning fee to cover housekeepers that will clean the room. Reservations can be booked through Thursday night.
 - Cannot accept pets
 - Proof of residency required
 - Call 888-913-4477 for more information
- **Holiday Inn Express Broadway**
 - Offering a mangers' rate for evacuees
- Local hotel group Vacation Myrtle Beach is offering discounted rates to those displaced by the fires. Displaced residents can book a stay at Hotel Blue or the Landmark Resort for \$49 per night with additional fees waived through March 6. Proof of residence is also required. Call 866-951-6808 for more information.

South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and 511

- Click [here](#) for the road conditions map.
- Click [here](#) for to view the 511 traffic cameras and information regarding current traffic.
- Call SC 511 for updates about traffic and road conditions by dialing 5-1-1 or 877-511-4672.

Power Outage Map

Residents are encouraged to check with their service provider for updates on outages. See below for outage maps across the state:

- [Poweroutage.us](#)
- [Duke Energy](#)
- [The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina](#)

American Red Cross South Carolina

The American Red Cross in South Carolina has chapters in Central, Lowcountry, Eastern, and Upstate South Carolina. During a disaster, the Red Cross provides shelter, food, emotional support, health services, clean-up supplies and comfort items. Visit the link [here](#) for the region's main webpage and [here](#) for information regarding evacuation shelter updates, and disaster relief.

To find open shelters via the American Red Cross please visit their website [here](#).

Their Contact Loved Ones website recommends calling your local Red Cross if your missing loved one is elderly, disabled, has a chronic medical condition, lives in your household or is a member of the military-connected community. For more information, click [here](#).

SC 211

2-1-1 operates nationwide and connects callers to human service information. This service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even during disasters. Information and resources may be provided for a variety of needs including shelter, cell phone power stations, rent/utility assistance, and disaster response programs.

- Call: Dial 2-1-1 or 866-892-9211
- Text "help" to 211-211
- Website: <https://www.sc211.org/#/>. Search for resources by zip code.

Catholic Charities of South Carolina

Catholic Charities offers disaster preparedness, response, relief, and recovery support. They work closely with the SC Emergency Management Division to provide cleaning kits, food, water, baby supplies, hygiene items and more. This agency accepts donations and support with volunteering. For more information, please visit this agency's website [here](#). Find the nearest location by county [here](#).

South Carolina Department of Insurance

The Department of Insurance plays a critical role in assisting individuals and businesses after a natural disaster by providing resources and support to help navigate the insurance

claims process and ensure fair treatment by insurance companies. For more information, please visit their website [here](#).

National Resources

National Weather Service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Updated information on current weather conditions can be found [here](#). The National Weather Service has additional information on its website [here](#) regarding wildfire preparedness and safety. They also have information [here](#) regarding air quality. Stay up to date with alerts by tuning into the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) network. The NWR is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Find your local station [here](#).

Airbnb

Airbnb may provide temporary housing options after a natural disaster occurs. Learn more by visiting their [website](#). Referrals for temporary stays are provided via 2-1-1 United Way. Dial 2-1-1 in your area to learn more.

Ready.Gov

Ready.gov is a national public service campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare, respond and mitigate emergencies including natural and man-made disasters. For preparedness resources and information on staying safe during and after a wildfire, visit their website [here](#).

- Emergency Alerts: Alerts may be sent directly to your cell phone via text, phone call, or email. Click [here](#) to learn about the various forms of emergency alerts available.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Visit the FEMA website for information [here](#).

Crisis & Disaster Resources

Find open shelters near you by texting SHELTER and your zip code to 4FEMA (43362).
Example: Shelter 01234 (standard text message rates apply).

To Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance:

Online: www.disasterassistance.gov

Phone: 800-621-3362, TTY 800-462-7585

Please note, your area must first officially be declared a disaster area before FEMA can get involved.

FEMA tips on how to find short-term and long-term housing after a disaster can be found [here](#).

Disaster Assistance

DisasterAssistance.gov is a website that helps people apply for and receive federal assistance after a disaster. It also provides information and support to help with recovery following a disaster including wildfires, storms, hurricanes, floods, or other natural disasters. Visit the website [here](#). The website has information on federal, state and local supports, grants and government assistance, community resources, help for [veterans](#), individuals with [disabilities](#), [housing](#), financial assistance and more.

Veterans Administration (VA) Home Loans - After a Disaster

If you need help paying your mortgage after a disaster, the VA can help in the following ways:

- Ask loan holders to put a 90-day freeze on foreclosure.
- Encourage holders to waive late charges.

The VA may also be able to work with your servicers or loan holder to apply pre-payments already made to your upcoming payment. Click [here](#) for more information or call the VA at 844-698-2411.

HUD Disaster Relief Options for FHA Homeowners

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers relief assistance for homeowners with a mortgage insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). If your home or your ability to make your mortgage payments is impacted by a Presidentially Declared Major Disaster Area (PDMDA), you may qualify for relief assistance to help you keep your home. Click [here](#) for more information from HUD or connect with a HUD-participating housing counseling agency by calling 800-569-4287.

Crisis & Disaster Resources

U.S. Small Business Administration

The Small Business Administration (SBA) loans money to homeowners and renters whose homes have been damaged in a disaster. You may be eligible even if you do not own a business. To qualify for an SBA home loan your home must be in a presidentially declared disaster area, the loan must be for your primary home, and the loan cannot duplicate benefits from insurance policies or benefit programs. Before applying for an SBA disaster loan, you must register with FEMA. Visit the SBA website [here](#) to learn more.

Rebuilding After a Fire

- FEMA offers a fact sheet on Rebuilding after a Wildfire which can be found [here](#).
- Insurance information on wildfires can be found on the Insurance Information Institute website [here](#).
- Free Legal Advice offers information on Fire Insurance: Rebuilding Your Home after a Fire, which can be found [here](#).

National Mental Health Resources

SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline

This helpline, through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), can provide immediate crisis counseling to anyone who is experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster. The help line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (800) 985-5990. You can also reach out via text message by texting "TalkWithUs" to 66746. You can find more information online [here](#). Click [here](#) for SAMHSA's disaster behavioral health resources. Click [here](#) for SAMHSA's survivors of disasters resource portal.

SAMHSA Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator

Visit the website [here](#).

The Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator provides information and a search tool for behavioral health and substance abuse/addiction services in the United States and U.S. Territories. You can access the free and confidential treatment provider search tool using the link listed above. After completing the search criteria, you can view a list of treatment providers and detailed information about each provider.

You may also call (800) 662-4357 to receive free and confidential information about mental health and substance abuse treatment services in your area. This line is available 24 hours

Crisis & Disaster Resources

a day and 7 days a week.

Veterans Crisis Line

If you are a Veteran in crisis – or you’re concerned about one – free, confidential support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Veterans Crisis Line is available by phone, text, or chat:

- Dial 988 then Press 1
- Send a text to 838255
- [Chat online](#)
- Support for deaf and hard of hearing: call 1-800-799-4889

National Center for PTSD by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs:

The National Center for PTSD (NCPTSD) offers many resources for survivors of natural disasters, including:

- Self-Care After Disasters: Information on how to honor losses, practice helpful thinking, and build resilience. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The NCPTSD also offers other resources, including information on practical help, such as food, safety, medical care, and shelter, crisis counseling and skill-building, and trauma-focused treatment. Visit the website [here](#) for more information.

9-8-8 Lifeline

The 988 Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24/7, 365 days a year. 9-8-8 is trained to assist with disaster distress and offers resources and guidance for survivors.

- Dial or text: 9-8-8
- Online chat: <https://988lifeline.org/chat/>
- Click [here](#) to see the disaster resources page

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network has online resources for families, parents, and young children about coping with traumatic experiences and stressors, including natural disasters. For more information, please visit their website [here](#).

National Alliance on Mental Illness - NAMI

NAMI is a non-profit organization that provides education, support, and advocacy for people affected by mental illness including support groups, peer-support, and help navigating the mental health care system.

- Phone: 800-950-6246
- Text 'helpline' to 62640
- Chat online [here](#)
- Website: <https://www.nami.org/>

This guide provides referrals to resources. It does not endorse or recommend the resource providers. While every effort is made to maintain current provider information, information may change without notice.

Resources For Living

The EAP is administered by Resources For Living, LLC. This material is for informational purposes only. Information is not a substitute for professional health care and is not meant to replace the advice of health care professionals. Contact a health care professional with any questions or concerns about specific health care needs.

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