



Charleston County

Bridge Procedures During High Winds

September 2008

The Charleston County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) works closely with local law enforcement officers to receive updates on wind speeds on the various bridges throughout the County during an emergency.

The public can expect the following warnings during storms that produce high winds:

At 30 mph sustained winds:

- When the EOC receives reports from law enforcement officers that sustained wind speeds have reached 30 mph, the media will be asked to put out a message to the public that "high profile vehicles" will be advised not to use high span bridges, and the public should use extra precautions if they decide to travel over bridges.
- "High profile vehicles" are:
- Box-type trucks similar to those operated by the United Parcel Service
 - Tractor trailers
 - Motor homes
 - Vehicles pulling travel trailers, box type trailers, large sail boats or other watercraft

At 40 mph sustained winds:

- When the EOC receives reports from law enforcement officers that sustained wind speeds have reached 40 mph, the media will be asked to put out a message to the public that high span bridges are unsafe for public travel. At these wind speeds, law enforcement officers may not be present at bridges due to unsafe conditions. Therefore, anyone who drives over the bridge against the advisory is doing so at their own risk.

The following are examples of high span bridges:

- **Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge**
Hwy 17 in both directions between Mt. Pleasant and downtown Charleston
- **Don Holt Bridge**
I-526 over the Cooper River between North Charleston and Daniel Island
- **Cosgrove Bridge (the "North Bridge")**
- **Isle of Palms Connector**
- **James Island Connector**
- **Limehouse Bridge**
- **McKinley Washington Bridge**
Hwy 174 over the Edisto River near Edisto Island
- **Wando River Bridge**
I-526 over the Wando River in Mt. Pleasant
- **Westmoreland Bridge**
I-526 over the Ashley River between North Charleston and West Ashley

Draw Bridges:

Draw bridges (bridges that can be mechanically manipulated to open and allow for tall boat traffic to pass through from the water) WILL be locked down to boat traffic during MANDATORY EVACUATION or when sustained winds reach 25 mph or greater.