

DISASTER RESOURCES FOR FLOODING
IN SOUTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 5, 2015

This document contains resources in Dorchester County, Florence County, Richland County, and Georgetown County.

State of South Carolina Emergency Management Division

2779 Fish Hatchery Road
West Columbia, SC 29172
(803) 737-8500

<http://www.scmd.org>

<https://twitter.com/SCEMD>

WebAlert@emd.sc.gov

Please call 803-737-8500 for all inquiries

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Statewide Response Continuing As Flooding Persists.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Sunday, October 4, 2015, 9:00 p.m.) – Significant rainfall across South Carolina throughout the weekend has resulted in numerous road closures and delays caused by fast-moving floodwaters. The South Carolina Emergency Operations Center is fully activated at Operating Condition 1 by state agencies of the State Emergency Response Team for the duration of the incident.

As of 8:00 p.m. Sunday, October 4, 2015:

- Fifteen counties remain fully activated at Operating Condition One.
- Ten counties or municipalities have declared States of Emergency.
- Eight counties or municipalities have imposed overnight curfews.
- Five weather-related deaths have been reported. Three were reported by the S.C. Highway Patrol, two from Richland County Sheriff's Department.
- Numerous roads have been closed due to flooding conditions.
- The S.C. Highway Patrol has 255 troopers on duty with others on standby.
- The S.C. Law Enforcement Division has 320 agents on active or standby duty.
- Some 30,000 sandbags have been used by the S.C. Department of Transportation and local public safety agencies.
- S.C. Highway Patrol reports Interstate 95 between I-20 in Florence County and I-26 in Orangeburg County has been closed. Interstate traffic in that affected area is being rerouted.
- S.C. Highway Patrol reports that today from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. there were reports of 315 collisions, 239 calls for assistance, 273 reports of trees on the road and 318 reports of roadway flooding
- Eight swift water rescue teams are operating with more teams arriving from other states.

- School districts in 19 counties are closed or operating on a delayed schedule Monday.
- The S.C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control warns of the dangers associated with rising floodwaters, including drowning, bacterial and viral infection from sewage overflows.
- Public Information Phone System continues to handle inquiries from the public. The number to call is **1-866-246-0133**.
- Be aware of potential flash flooding. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move to higher ground. Do not wait to be told to move. Monitor local media and trusted websites for updated conditions, advisories and instructions.
- If you have to leave your home, prepare your home for floodwater by moving essential items to an upper floor or shelves, disconnect electrical appliances and turn off the gas, electricity and water.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. Do not drive around barricades posted at or near flooded streets. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle could be quickly swept away. One foot of water can cause your car to float off the roadway.
- Be aware of electricity issues. Don't go into a basement, or any room, if water covers the electrical outlets or if cords are submerged. If you see sparks or hear buzzing, crackling, snapping or popping noises --get out! Stay out of water that may have electricity in it!

Latest press release: October 4 – Columbia, S.C.

At least 9 reported dead as heavy rains, flash flood continue in South Carolina.

The S.C. Emergency Response Team continues to caution residents of potential dangers of rising waters, including those associated with neighborhood dams and flooding. The Department of Health and Environmental Control has been contacted by dam operators and made aware of several dams across the state that have overtopped, and some that have failed.

“If you live below a small, neighborhood dam, please be vigilant of its status,” said DHEC Director of Environmental Affairs Elizabeth Dieck. “We would strongly encourage you to pay attention to local news reports that can contain important information about the status of your dam. Be prepared to take appropriate actions you feel are necessary for your safety or as directed by your local emergency officials.”

Avoid floodwater at all costs. Do not walk through floodwater and do not play in it. Rising water from flooding can carry viruses, bacteria, chemicals and other submerged objects picked up as it moves through storm water systems, across industrial sites, yards, roads and parking lots. These threats can cause serious illness, injury and drowning, and should be avoided. Flooding can also create situations in which animals, reptiles and insects can be more likely to come in contact with humans, resulting in bites and stings.

A curfew was in effect in Columbia last night, and on Monday, officials are urging people to stay off the roads. In addition to flood hazards, thousands were left without power and drinking water. Many trees are downed – a situation that could worsen today, as forecasters expect wind gusts up to 30 mph in areas where the soil has been saturated with water. Many areas around the capital in Columbia, in the center of the state, recorded more than a foot of rainfall on Sunday. Conditions around Charleston improved Sunday to the point that residents and business owners were allowed to enter the downtown area on a limited basis.

Forecasters say that today, it's the state's Lowcountry, which got soaked over the weekend that could get the worst of the rain.

As of 9:00 p.m. Saturday, October 3, 2015:

- Dorchester County declared a state of emergency. A 6 p.m. curfew has been imposed in St. George, Ridgeville, Harleyville and Reedsville.
- A state of emergency has been declared for Edisto Beach. The seawall at Edisto Beach has breached, resulting in heavy flooding.
- S.C. Highway Patrol reports three weather-related traffic fatalities.
- S.C. Highway Patrol has responded to 439 traffic collisions on the state's roadways, assisted 170 motorists, 118 trees on roadways, and 104 reports of flooded roads.
- Federal emergency declaration announced, which activates federal resources to support the state and local emergency response efforts.
- Shelters have been opened in Anderson, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry and Spartanburg counties. Other shelters in Anderson, Colleton and Spartanburg counties are on stand-by if needed.
- The North Charleston Sewer District has reported they are experiencing sanitary sewer overflows due to the wide spread flooding conditions. The overflows are expected to continue throughout the flood event this weekend.
- The S.C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control warns of the dangers associated with rising floodwaters, including drowning, bacterial and viral infection.
- The South Carolina National Guard and the state Department of Transportation continue working to fill and deliver sandbags to SCDOT districts for local public safety agencies' use. Resource requests for bags being processed.
- County emergency managers' report multiple road closures and trees down throughout the state, particularly in coastal areas. Visit www.scdot.org for real-time road conditions.
- The S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff reports a total 2,992 power outages statewide.

Public Information Phone System has been activated for inquiries from the public. The number to call is 1-866-246-0133.

If you receive your drinking water from a private well and have experienced flooding, take precautions to boil your water before drinking.

If you are on the City of Columbia water system, you should boil your water before drinking. For other water systems, you will be told if you need to boil your water. If you haven't heard and want to be sure, contact them directly, or boil your water as a safety precaution.

Residents with questions about the statewide ongoing flooding incident can call the SCEMD 24-hour public information line at 1-866-246-0133.

President issues Emergency Declaration for South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Saturday, October 3, 6:25 p.m.) – The S.C. Emergency Management Division and partner state agencies have increased the state's operating condition to level one. OPGON 1 is the highest of the five operational classifications and indicates that a disaster or emergency situation is in effect and full emergency operations are ongoing.

The State Emergency Operations Center is fully activated and operating on a 24-hour schedule.

President Obama has declared a federal emergency in South Carolina, which activates federal resources to support the state and local efforts to protect the public during the storm and recovery. The direct federal assistance will be available to public safety agencies in all 46 counties and the Catawba Nation.

State of South Carolina – Office of the Governor, Nikki R. Haley

1205 Pendleton Street

Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 734-2100

<http://www.governor.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Latest press release: Monday, October 5, 2015.

Columbia, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley, S.C. Adjutant General Maj. Gen Robert Livingston and emergency management officials discussed preparations for historic rainfall and potential flooding throughout South Carolina.

The governor urged South Carolinians to stay home, avoid any unnecessary travel, and prepare for widespread flooding and power outages.

“This is Not Over”, S.C. Governor Halley says of historic rain and flooding.

She is urging South Carolina resident to check on neighbors.

Record rainfall could taper off in much of South Carolina late Monday, after severe flooding left houses in Columbia and elsewhere with water up to their eaves. Officials say the crisis is not over, and residents should stay away from dangerous roadways. At least nine deaths have been

reported in the state, and some 40,000 people are without water. In addition, 70 miles of Interstate 95 are closed to traffic.

Of the nine deaths, five were drownings and four were traffic-related.

Update at 12:15pm, EST. There are nearly 1,000 people in shelters. In SC, 25 shelters are now harboring 932 people against floodwaters and other damage.

Providing an update on conditions as of Monday, Haley said 1,300 members of the National Guard are now deployed, with 7,000 more troops on alert.

Haley said she had just spoken to President Obama just before noon, offering federal support to her state. She also said that Wal-Mart had donated 80,000 bottles of water – something many residents are requesting.

The Governor said 11 counties are likely federal disaster areas; she added that the federal government had allowed her to make a verbal request for a major disaster declaration, instead of requiring paperwork to begin the process.

South Carolina Department of Transportation

<http://www.dot.state.sc.us>

955 Park Street

Columbia, SC 29201-3959

Phone: 855-GO-SCDOT (855-467-2368) toll free or
803-737-2314

Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Hundreds of roads remain closed Monday across the state; the South Carolina Department of Transportation. A full list of road closures can be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.dbw.scdot.org/RoadConditionsemr/default.aspx>

Along the major East Coast artery of I-95, portions of three other interstates; I-20, I-26, and I-77 were also closed in SC on Monday. Flooded roadways were the cause in most cases, and in some instances, officials are concerned about bridges that may have been rendered unsafe.

SCDOT Reopens Some Interstates 1:30pm 10/5/15

Others remain closed due to flood waters

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) will reopen two interstates at approximately 12:30 p.m. on Monday, October 5. The following interstates will be reopened:

- The I-126 Bridge leading into and out of downtown Columbia.
- I-20 in the Columbia area will be reopened.

These interstates will remain **closed**:

- I-95 from I-26 to I-20 (70 mile section – still closed.
I-26 in the Columbia/Lexington area at the Saluda River.

SCDOT would like to thank the SC National Guard for its help in evaluating river conditions that were essential in making these decisions. Thanks go out to the SC Department of Public Safety for its tremendous assistance in maintaining traffic control at these interstates.

SCDOT will continue to monitor these Columbia area bridges. If water levels begin to increase, SCDOT engineers may need to close these portions of these interstates to protect the public.

Dorchester County Emergency Management Department

<http://www.dorchestercounty.net>

212 Deming Way, Suite 3

Summerville, SC 29483

Summerville Phone: (843) 832-0341

St. George Phone: (843) 563-0341

Curfew Issued

Posted: 10/3/2015 5:30 PM

From 6:00PM curfew has been issued by county council for the unincorporated areas of the county to include the Town of St. George, Ridgeville, Reevesville and Harleyville. The curfew will be lifted at 7:00AM, tomorrow morning.

Florence County Emergency Management Department

6719 Friendfield Road

Effingham, SC 29541

(843) 665-7255

Update 8:30AM 10/05/2015

As of 8:30 a.m. Monday, the county has received between 8"-12" of rain throughout the county over the past three days with the most affecting the southern portion.

According to the National Weather Service, Florence County is expected to receive another 2"-5" over the next 24 hours. Most of the rainfall is expected to come Monday afternoon.

The county should begin to see some relief late Monday night.

Due to the continued amount of rainfall and ground saturation, be aware of your surroundings as trees can be uprooted. Remember to not drive through standing water as there is no way to tell the condition of the road underneath.

Update 4:45PM 10/04/2015

As more rainfall hits Florence County this afternoon, conditions throughout the county are continuing to deteriorate and are becoming more hazardous by the hour.

At approximately 1 p.m. Florence County Council issued a proclamation declaring a State of Emergency for all of Florence County due to the extraordinary rainfall. Pursuant to the Proclamation, the Florence County Director of Emergency Management, the Florence County Administrator, and the Sheriff of Florence County hereby implement the following:

1. A countywide mandatory curfew from 7 P.M. until sunrise for non-emergency activities. Exceptions to the curfew include essential public safety/medical employees, and essential industry staff until the proclamation is rescinded.
 2. The mandatory evacuation of Nena Lane, Split Rail Drive, E. Black Creek Drive, Stag Horn Lane, Atlee Court, Crooked Creek Drive and Creekside Dr.
- The danger to the public will increase as darkness falls, and visibility is further reduced. Do not attempt to enter flooded areas as it could pose an immediate threat to your safety. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter where we will post additional information as the situation warrants.

In addition, the following roadways are closed or impassable due to heavy rains:

- South Hill Road and John Paul Jones Road;
- East Friendfield Road and North Old Georgetown Road;
- Anderson Bridge Road and Vancil Road and Hawk Lane;
- South Friendfield Road to Black Street Road and Rogers Road;
- Ralph Lane and Sardis Highway;
- West Palmetto Street and East Smith Street, Timmonsville;
- McLaughlin Road and Clearbrook;
- Francis Marion Road and Armfield Road, Evergreen;
- Branch Road and Pamplico Highway;
- Twin Church Road between US 76 and Alligator Road;
- Per South Carolina Emergency Management Interstate 95 from I-20 to I-26 is closed;
- Center Road between Twin Church and I-95;
- US Highway 52 near McCall Farms, Effingham.

All residents living near these streets are also encouraged to monitor rising water levels to take appropriate actions to protect themselves and their properties. Residents who need emergency assistance in evacuating should dial 9-1-1. For all calls that are not emergency related call 843-665-7255.

Follow Florence County Emergency Management on Facebook and Twitter for the most recent information as it becomes available via the National Weather Service.

Lowcountry SC Red Cross Chapter

<http://www.redcross.org/local/sc/about-us/locations/lowcountry-sc>

2424-A City Hall Lane
North Charleston, SC 29406
843-764-2323

The Lowcountry SC Chapter of the American Red Cross serves the counties of Charleston, Beaufort, Berkeley, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Jasper, and Williamsburg.

Posted October 03, 2015, South Carolina

The American Red Cross is responding to the life-threatening flooding and historic rainfall that is affecting the entire State of South Carolina. As shelters open and plans to assess damage are underway, the Red Cross is in need of additional volunteers to join its workforce in the areas of Charleston, Columbia, Myrtle Beach, and the Upstate.

"We are helping families across South Carolina that are in need of shelter, disaster relief and comfort," said Louise Welch Williams, regional chief executive officer of the American Red Cross in South Carolina. "We are also welcoming members of the community who want to help to join us as Red Cross disaster volunteers."

The Red Cross is especially in need of volunteers to be available to assist with opening and operating shelters as well as disaster assessment. Shelter volunteers provide a safe, warm, dry place for their neighbors during a disaster. These volunteers assist with registration, setup of sleeping areas, feeding, and sharing information. Disaster assessment volunteers travel to areas affected by a disaster to review and assess the amount and severity of damage.

New volunteers can visit RedCross.org/SC and click on volunteer to start their application. Red Cross volunteer training is free and open to the public. A background check will be performed on every volunteer applicant. New volunteers will be contacted by a member of the Red Cross team.

For more information please call:

- Charleston – 843-764-2323 x321
- Columbia – 803-508-5251
- Myrtle Beach – 843-764-2323 x321
- Upstate – 864-270-9575

The Red Cross is already on the ground in South Carolina, sheltering families and assisting residents impacted by flooding and storm damage, but more volunteers are needed. So far more than 60 staff and volunteers are responding in South Carolina, with additional support currently traveling from across the country to help our state. Ten emergency response vehicles from out of the state are in route to supplement the seven that are based in the state and tractor trailers of supplies are being pre-positioned distribution.

As of 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 3, 2015, the Red Cross has opened or is supporting the following shelters:

GEORGETOWN, SC 29440

J.B. Buck Education Center
2030 Church Street

NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 29405

United Methodist Church
1125 E. Montague Ave.

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29582

First Baptist Church
Family Life Center (located behind the church)
200 Hwy 17 South (at the intersection of 2nd Ave.)

SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483

Summerville High School
1101 Boone Hill Road

Additional shelters across the state are on standby and the Red Cross is working closely with government partners to ensure immediate needs of residents are being met.

Emergency shelters may be opened should a hurricane approach South Carolina. Shelters are generally the place of last resort. Individuals and families are encouraged to have emergency plans in place. These plans should include relatives or friends with whom you can stay or locations to which you will travel. In the event that you must use a shelter, there are two types: American Red Cross and Special Medical Needs (SMN) shelters. Only individuals with special medical needs will be admitted to a SMN shelter.

In the event of a major disaster, monitor local media and during and evacuation pay attention to emergency alerts via radio and road signs for information about the nearest open shelter in case you need it.

If you've decided to not stay in your home, or you live in a Mobile or Manufactured Home, and cannot go to a friend or family member's residence then an American Red Cross Hurricane Shelter is available for you. Please know that Public Shelters provide very few comforts and are intended to provide a relatively safe shelter for those who have no other options.

What To Bring To A Shelter

- Blankets or sleeping bag, pillows, air mattresses or cot/s if you have one
- Any special dietary needs. Non-perishable packed or canned food including high energy snack items.
- One gallon of water per person per day in clean plastic containers. Do not bring glass containers.

- Any required medicines, especially prescription drugs. The style & serial number of special medical devices such as pace makers.
- Personal hygiene and sanitary items (toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, towels, etc.)
- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes
- Special items for infants (formula, diapers, etc.), elderly or disabled family members
- An extra set of car keys
- Credit cards and cash (not for use at the shelter, you'll need these when you return home)
- Important family and household papers (Birth & Marriage certificates, Insurance policies, etc.)
- Flashlights, Battery Powered Radio or TV with extra batteries
- Books, games, coloring books for children

Eastern South Carolina Chapter of the Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/local/sc/locations/eastern-sc>

Myrtle Beach
 3531 Pampas Drive
 Myrtle Beach SC 29577
 843-477-0020

Florence Service Center
 1601-A West Lucas Street
 Florence, SC 29501
 843-662-8121

The Eastern SC Chapter of the American Red Cross serves the counties of Horry, Florence, Darlington, Marlboro, Dillon, and Marion.

The American Red Cross has opened up shelters for residents of Florence County residents who decide to leave there homes due to flooding at the following locations:

- **Lake City High School**, 652 N. Matthews Rd. in Lake City
- **Timmons ville High School**, 304 Kemper St. in Timmons ville
- **Wilson High School**, 1411 E. Old Marion Hwy. in Florence

Richland County, SC

2020 Hampton Street

Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 929-6000 (One Call Response Center)

<http://www.rcgov.us>

Richland County Government Offices will be closed Monday.

Richland County Emergency Response Update provided on October 5th at 10:45am:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gc1fQs5CbII&feature=youtu.be>

“Richland County Council has postponed its regular session meeting until 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12. Special meeting scheduled 3 p.m. Tuesday to discuss rescue efforts, next steps. All other public meetings Tuesday are canceled. Garbage collection for Tuesday is canceled. Monday and Tuesday routes will not be picked up this week. No collection of yard waste or recycling this week. To report downed power lines and trees in public right of way, call 803-576-3439.”

Residents Urged to Prepare for Heavy Rain, Potential Flooding

Friday, October 02, 2015

Richland County emergency officials urge residents to make preparations as a potentially dangerous rainfall event threatens the area tonight through this weekend.

While Hurricane Joaquin is not expected to hit South Carolina, several other conditions are in place which may result in more than 12 inches of rain by Monday. The persistence of steady, moderate to heavy rain, will likely cause flooding in much of South Carolina. Therefore, Richland County residents are advised to monitor local weather conditions on TV and the County’s www.rcwinds.com site.

The National Weather Service has issued a flash flood watch for the area through Monday morning. A flash flood watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flash flooding.

“This is a significant amount of rainfall for a three-day period,” said Ken Aucoin, the County’s Emergency Planner-Chief Meteorologist. “A foot of rain would represent approximately 25 percent of our yearly average.”

To help ensure residents remain safe during this weather incident, officials offer the following information:

If you live in an area where water accumulates or floods, it most likely will flood again.

- Help ease flooding by raking leaves and other debris away from storm drains.
- Have a plan and know in advance where your family can go if it floods.
- Be sure to include pets in your plans.
- Call your insurance agent in advance and know what your coverage is.
- Don’t allow kids to play in rising water.
- To avoid the risk of drowning, detour around standing water in the road.

Stay tuned to local radio and television stations.

Richland County Emergency Services

1410 Laurens Street
Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 576-3400

<http://www.richlandonline.com/Government/Departments/PublicSafety/EmergencyServices.aspx>

No current updates are posted.

Richland County Weather Information Network Data System (RC WINDS)

<http://www.rcwinds.com/#>

Provides live weather information and updates at various locations throughout Richland County.

Richland County Sheriff's Department

5623 Two Notch Road
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 576-3000

<http://www.rcsd.net>

State of Emergency and Curfew Announced for Richland County/City of Columbia:
October 4, 2015

“Please be advised that Mayor Steve Benjamin has announced a State of Emergency for all of Columbia. In addition, Sheriff Leon Lott has also set a curfew from 6pm until 6am in effect for Richland County and City of Columbia.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that once it gets dark the conditions will become even more dangerous than what we have already experienced throughout the day. Sheriff Leon Lott added that only emergency personnel is to be out on the roadways after 6pm and that Richland County Sheriff's Department deputies will stop you and make you go home if they see you on the roadways. Sheriff Leon Lott stated that this curfew has been placed in effect for the safety of everyone.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that the Richland County Sheriff's Department along with many other public safety departments, are working hard to keep up with the hazardous and life threatening conditions that we are facing due to this historic weather event. Sheriff Leon Lott added that we will continue to work together to respond to the safety needs of our citizens and that it is important that each individual complies with the curfew so that critical resources do not run thin. Sheriff Leon Lott stated that again, the curfew will be in effect from 6:00PM-6:00AM for all of Richland County, including the City of Columbia and that the conditions and curfew will be re-evaluated in the morning.”

American Red Cross

Central SC Chapter

2751 Bull Street

Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 540-1200

<http://www.redcross.org/local/sc/locations/central-sc>

Richland County shelter listings:

AC Flora High School

1 Falcon Drive, Columbia, SC 29204

St. Andrews Baptist Church

230 Bush River Rd, Columbia, SC 29204

Georgetown County, SC

129 Screven Street

Georgetown, SC 29442

(843) 545-3063

<http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/#>

“Severe flooding in the City of Georgetown

October, 4 2015

Severe flooding is being seen throughout Georgetown County, but the City of Georgetown and the Town of Andrews are currently the hardest hit. Water levels of up to four feet are being reported by emergency responders in the City of Georgetown, who are working to help flooded residents get out of their homes and to an emergency shelter.

Emergency shelters are currently open at:

- Beck Recreation Center, 2030 Church Street, Georgetown
- Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center, 83 Duncan Road, Pawleys Island
- Andrews Elementary School, 13072 County Line Rd., Andrews

Residents stranded in vehicles are also calling for rescue. The City has declared a state of emergency.

“The City of Georgetown is predominantly under water,” said Joey Tanner, Georgetown City Fire Chief.

The City is essentially closed from the Waccamaw bridges to the Sampit bridge, he added. Ladder and engine companies are working to respond to calls, with some residents being brought from their homes using boats. There are currently about 10 emergency calls pending in the City of Georgetown. Response times are being slowed by the flooding.

Emergency responders strongly urge anyone who is safe and dry to stay where they are. Avoid travel if at all possible. Anyone who believes they may be in danger should call 911. Responders will provide assistance as soon as possible, but it's best to call early if you think you may need to be relocated instead of waiting until water is already rising inside your home.

Additional information:

- Two gas leaks have been reported in the City of Georgetown and firefighters expect to see more of this throughout the day.
- Several structure fires have been reported as water seeps into electrical circuits. If water is rising into your home, cut the breakers immediately.
- If you think your home may flood, move any valuable or important items to a high location.
- Georgetown County Fire/EMS has performed over 70 rescues since 4 a.m. The majority of calls have come from the City of Georgetown, Nine Mile Curve, Greentown, Wedgefield, and North Pleasant Hill communities.
- Every ambulance in the county is currently out responding to calls.
- A Georgetown area nursing home had to move residents from one side of the facility to another due to flooding in one wing.

Shelter open in Georgetown for families affected by flooding

Oct. 3, 2015

An emergency shelter opened overnight in Georgetown to house families affected by flooding and is expected to remain open through the weekend.

The shelter, operated by the American Red Cross, is located at Beck Recreation Center, 2030 Church Street. With more rain expected to fall today and tomorrow, members of the public in low-lying areas or who believe their home may become unsafe due to flooding, should consider relocating to a safer place until the flooding threat has passed.

The full article can be accessed at <http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/Newsletters/docs/1003-15shelter.pdf>

Georgetown County Emergency Management

129 Screven Street
Georgetown, SC 29442
(843) 545-3273

http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/emergency_management/emergencyupdates.html

Shelter Information:

(866) 246-0133

Georgetown County Information Hotline (for the latest storm information):
(843) 545-3900, available 24 hours a day when the county's Emergency Operations Center is activated.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ALERTS and UPDATES

“Georgetown County is currently at OPCON 1. This is the highest level of readiness and indicates an emergency situation is in effect; full-fledged emergency response operations are ongoing.

Oct. 5, 2015, 11:30 a.m.

A number of downed trees have been reported throughout Georgetown County today. With the amount of rain already saturating the ground, and more rain and wind gusts up to 35 mph expected to continue throughout the day, more trees are likely to fall. The National Weather Service is predicting 3-5 more inches of rain for our area today, primarily in the northern part of Georgetown County and Northeast Williamsburg County.

Residents are advised to be cautious as downed trees may bring down electrical lines. Do not go near downed electrical lines; report them to authorities immediately.

Residents are also advised to avoid floodwaters and not allow children to swim or play in floodwaters, as these waters may be contaminated by raw sewage, oil or gas. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.

Residents are still advised to stay off of roadways today. Anyone who must travel should be aware that even in areas where floodwaters have receded, roads and bridges may be damaged. This damage may not be apparent and the roadway may look normal. For roads that are still flooded, do not try to drive through as water may be deeper than it appears. There is still enough water standing on many roadways to wash away even a large vehicle. Under no circumstances should motorists try to go around traffic barricades, even if the roadway looks normal. Additionally, many routes may be blocked.

Caution is also advised when entering buildings, as there may be hidden damage, particularly to foundations. Stay out of any building that is surrounded by floodwaters. Damage assessment teams began work this morning inspecting roadways and other structures in the county. This will continue as long as the weather allows.

Residents should clean and disinfect anything that got wet in floodwaters. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and other harmful chemicals.

Other information:

- The Georgetown County landfill is closed today due to significant flooding. Beck, Andrews and Waccamaw Regional recreation centers are closed today. Other county offices will open at 10 a.m.

- Two emergency shelters are still open in Georgetown County. Shelters are at Beck Recreation Center (2030 Church Street, Georgetown) and Andrews Elementary School (13072 County Line Rd., Andrews). About 24 people are being housed in the two shelters. A third shelter at Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center closed at 6 a.m.
- Several roads throughout the County remain closed.
- High tides are expected to worsen flooding.
- About 248 homes have been reported without electricity.
- The County is still under a flash flood warning.
- Residents with questions or concerns may call Georgetown County Emergency Management.
- Residents with questions or concerns may call Georgetown County Emergency Management, (843) 545-3273. The county's automated information hotline is also active. The hotline, at (843) 545-3900, is available 24 hours a day. For updates and future warnings, visit www.gtcounty.org or follow Georgetown County government's Facebook and Twitter accounts."

Georgetown County residents can sign up to receive emergency alerts at <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/27F44EE4891E>

Georgetown County Sheriff's Office
430 North Fraser Street
Georgetown, S.C. 29440
(843) 546-5102
<http://www.gcsheriff.org>

No information about flooding is currently provided.

American Red Cross
Lowcountry SC Chapter
Georgetown Office
104 Screven Street
Georgetown, SC 29440
(843) 546-5422
<http://www.redcross.org/local/sc/about-us/locations/lowcountry-sc>

United Way/2-1-1 Information and Referral

South Carolina 2-1-1

(803) 733-5408

(866) 892-9211

<http://www.sc211.org>

Serves the entire state of South Carolina.

United Way 2-1-1 may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please call and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals.

National Resources for the American Red Cross

American Red Cross

1-800-733-2767 – main number

1-866-438-4636 – disaster assistance

<http://www.redcross.org>

American Red Cross Safe and Well List

Call or check on line to register or search

1-866-438-4636

<http://www.safeandwell.communityos.org>

American Red Cross Shelters

Search for a shelter in your area

<http://www.redcross.org>

Catholic Charities

1-800-919-9338 – donations

<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/page.aspx?pid=305>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)

<http://www.emergency.cdc.gov>