



Charleston County Emergency Operations Center News Update

Date: September 5, 2008

Time: 3:45 PM

Release Number: 2922

Charleston County Updates on Shelter Numbers and Power Outage Information

Charleston County remains at Operating Condition (OPCON) 1. The OPCON 1 level means a disaster or emergency situation is in effect, full-fledged emergency response operations are on-going, and Charleston County is in the highest state of emergency operations.

As of 3:45 p.m. today, Charleston County shelters are housing 86 residents:

- Stall High School: 33 residents
- Morningside Middle School: 28 residents
- Midland Park Elementary School: 21 residents
- Alice Birney Middle School (Special Medical Needs Shelter): 4 residents

Information from SCE&G

SCE&G Power Outage Information:

Power Outages/Downed or Sparking Power Lines: 1-888-333-4465

Natural Gas Leaks: 1-800-815-0083

Online Storm Center: www.sceg.com/storm

check outages, sign up for storm alerts, get contact info, etc.

Mobile Outage Reporting: www.sceg.com/mobile

Report and check the status of your power outage online from your PDA or internet-ready cell phone.

In order to accommodate those who wish to leave but do not have a safe location outside of the Charleston County area, a limited number of shelters are open.

Shelters Open in Charleston County:

Stall High School
7749 Pinehurst Street
N. Charleston, SC 29420

Midland Park Elementary
2415 Midland Park Road

N. Charleston, SC 29418

Morningside Middle School
1999 Singley Lane
N. Charleston, SC 29405

Special Medical Needs Only

Alice Birney Middle School
7750 Pinehurst Street
N. Charleston, SC 29420

Pet Shelter

North Charleston Coliseum
5000 Coliseum Dr
N Charleston, SC 29418

REQUIREMENTS: Pets are only allowed in the designated animal emergency shelter at the North Charleston Coliseum. Only one person per pet is allowed to stay, and one person must stay with a pet because animals cannot be dropped off. You must bring all supplies needed for your pet: crate, collar, leash, food, identification, veterinarian/immunization records, etc.

Residents needing transportation to a shelter may call the Citizens Information Line at (843) 202-7100 or the Spanish Information Hotline, (843) 202-7191.

Emergency Information for the Public:

- The **Charleston County Citizen Emergency Information Line, (843) 202-7100**, and the **Spanish Information Hotline, (843) 202-7191**, have been activated so citizens can call in and get answers to any questions relating to Tropical Storm Hanna. The emergency information lines opened at 8 a.m. today and will remain open 24 hours a day until further notice.
- The following organizations can help anyone with special medical needs make a plan and register for emergency assistance:
 - Special Medical Needs:
S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) staff are now part of the Charleston County Citizen Emergency Information Line and can be reached at (843) 202-7100
- Charleston County residents can register for Alert Charleston County, a free program that allows the public to receive phone and text message notifications about emergency situations, such as a chemical spill, an escaped convict, a missing person or a hurricane evacuation order. When notified, citizens will hear a message that gives details on the emergency and includes instructions on any actions they should take. Alert Charleston County. Register online at: <http://alert.charlestoncounty.org>

2008 Charleston County Hurricane Guide:

To download the 2008 Charleston County Hurricane Preparedness Guide, and to keep up to date with County news releases concerning Tropical Storm Hanna, visit www.charlestoncounty.org. Click on the "Are You Ready?" banner on the front page of the Web site to download, print and share:

- The 2008 Charleston County Hurricane Preparedness Guide
- The 2008 Disabilities Emergency Guide

The Operating Condition (OPCON) levels of readiness run from five to one in level of severity, with one being the most severe. This is opposite of how hurricane severity levels run, from one to five, with five being the most severe.

The following is an explanation of each OPCON level, and Charleston County remains at OPCON 1 (Friday, Sept. 5):

- 5: Day-to-day operations to include normal training and exercises.
- 4: Possibility of an emergency or disaster situation that may require a limited or full activation of the County's Emergency Operations Center.
- 3: Disaster or emergency situation likely or imminent. Full or partial activation of the County's Emergency Operations Center; activate County Emergency Operations Plan.
- 2: Disaster or emergency situation in effect; maximum preparedness level; full activation of the County's Emergency Operations Center.
- 1: Disaster or emergency situation in effect; full-fledged emergency response operations on-going; highest state of emergency operations.**

Visit www.charlestoncounty.org for updated information, news and instructions related to Tropical Storm Hanna.