



Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 3621
Date: June 7, 2013



Return to Operating Condition (OPCON) today at 12:00 pm

Charleston County Returns to Operating Condition (OPCON) 5 today at 12 p.m.

Operating Condition 5 means day-to-day operations to include normal training and exercises.

The Charleston County Emergency Management Department participated in a conference call today (Friday, June 7) regarding Tropical Storm Andrea. The conference call was initiated by the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) and included representatives from several counties.

As a result of today's conference call, Charleston County will return to normal Operating Condition (OPCON) 5 at 12 p.m. today. The Emergency Operations Center is not activated as Tropical Storm Andrea no longer poses a threat to the residents of Charleston County.

"While the damage sustained from Tropical Storm Andrea was relatively minor, everyone should be mindful of the fact that now is the time to prepare," said Jason Patno, Director of the Charleston County Emergency Management Department.

"We are now at the height of hurricane season, and for those who have not done so already, it is time to gather supplies and review family emergency plans in order to be prepared," said Cathy Haynes, Chief of Operations with Charleston County's Emergency Management Department.

Download your 2013 Charleston County Hurricane Preparedness Guide at <http://charlestoncounty.org/guides.htm>.

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 is at OPCON 5 as of 12 p.m. today:

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.

To download the 2013 Charleston County Hurricane Preparedness Guide, and to keep up to date with County news releases concerning Tropical Storm Andrea, 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 2013 Charleston County Hurricane Preparedness Guide (in English and Spanish)
- The 2013 Disabilities Emergency Guide

Information in the 2013 Charleston County Hurricane Preparedness Guide includes:

- Definitions and what you need to do during hurricane watches, warnings and tropical storms
- Preparations for your home and your family before the storm
- What you need to have in your emergency supplies kit
- Evacuation information and routes out of Charleston County
- Shelters in Charleston County
- What to do if you don't have transportation – *pick-up point signs are posted around the county. Learn now where you need to go!*
- Rules to know and items to bring if you have to bring your pet to the pet shelter
- What to do after a storm, including safety measures and handling debris
- A family communications plan form to fill out
- Important phone numbers

Information on family emergency planning is available on the S.C. Emergency Management Division Web site at www.scemd.org.

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, the public can:

- Visit our website: www.charlestoncounty.org
- Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChasCountyGov>
- Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753>
 - *Emergency Management Department:* <http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCo>



- written by Jennie Flinn -