



News Release

October 7, 2015
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Charleston County Severe Weather Update #16

Charleston County Emergency Management is asking citizens living near the Edisto and Santee rivers to closely monitor rising river levels. The latest information from regional experts shows the river levels approaching major flood stage periodically during the next seven days. The areas of concern include but are not limited to Germantown and Parkers Ferry Road and the Adams Run area. We have deployed a number of emergency and rescue assets throughout the potential affected areas in case an evacuation is required, which includes assets from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Charleston County Government, Charleston County Rescue Squad, S.C. National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, North Charleston Police Department, Charleston Police Department and the American Red Cross.

Main Road:

At 6:00 p.m., deputies will close Main Road to all traffic due to expected high tide. Main Road near the Limehouse Bridge will be reassessed after this evening's high tide has subsided. The County's Public Works Department and the South Carolina Department of Transportation are working to clear the roadway and sandbag operations are underway. Authorities are asking local businesses along Maybank Highway to allow employees to leave early to help ease traffic congestion during rush hour. At the request of County Councilmember Joe Qualey, Charleston County has coordinated with the U.S. Coast Guard and the S.C. DOT to keep the Wappoo Bridge closed to marine traffic from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. today and from 6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. tomorrow in an effort to keep traffic flowing to Johns Island and James Island.

Please check the Charleston County Sheriff's Office Twitter page and local media for updates on the road's condition.

Harbor View Road:

Harbor View Road will be closed and a detour route will be in effect overnight at 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. This will be in an effort to reduce standing water on the roadway by use of pumps that will need to cross Harbor View Road. The detour will be between Fort Sumter Drive and Quail Drive. Residents will have access to their homes at all times. Please follow instructions on message boards and be aware of crews in the area.

Additional County Road Information:

Drivers are asked to be aware of crews working near the intersection of Plow Ground and River Road on Johns Island during NON-peak traffic hours. Work in this area is expected to be completed by tomorrow afternoon.

County Facilities Information:

Charleston County Government's Emergency Operations Center remains at Operational Condition 3 (OPCON 3) status.

For definitions of all OPCON levels, visit our site here:

<http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/emergency-management/opcon.php>.

The Citizen Information Line (843-746-3900) will not be staffed from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. However, citizens can leave a voicemail and their calls will be returned the following day. If you have an emergency, please dial 9-1-1.

Charleston County is also communicating with our tri-county partners to set up a volunteer coordination effort to match needs and volunteers. We will utilize our Citizen Emergency Information Line at **843-746-3900** as this effort evolves and provide updates as needed.

Court

Charleston County Circuit and Family Court hearings are canceled for the remainder of the week. This includes General Sessions, Common Pleas (jury and non-jury), Grand jury and Family Court.

The Judicial Center will be open for administrative purposes and filings. Hearings will not be taking place the remainder of the week.

Other Facilities

All Charleston County facilities will remain open. The Bees Ferry Landfill and Convenience Centers remain open and recycling collection resumes.

Assistance

Early registration is open for the State of South Carolina for flood damage, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Currently, Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland and Williamsburg counties are on the list of eligible counties for federal declaration for Individual Assistance. This list may later include other counties based on damage assessment reports. If your county is on the current list, you may go ahead and complete an application now. Please visit the FEMA website listed below and apply online to start your application.

- <http://www.disasterassistance.gov>
- 800-621-3362

Si sufrió daños causados por las inundaciones, puede solicitar asistencia con FEMA aquí:

- <http://www.disasterassistance.gov/es>
- 800-621-3362

Those without Internet access, Charleston County Public Libraries have computers with Internet access that may be utilized. Please note, two of the 16 library branches are not open Tuesday, Oct. 6 due to flooding damage. Those include the West Ashley Branch in South Windermere and the POE Branch on Sullivan's Island. Please see attachment for list of library branches.

A local disaster recovery center will be opened at a later date. More information will be provided about this as it becomes available.

For updates, visit the Charleston County website or follow us on our social media platforms:

- Visit our website: www.charlestoncounty.org
 - Emergency Management Department: <http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCo>



- Written by Charleston County Public Information Office -