



## Charleston County Emergency Operations Center News Release

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**See Graphic of Tropical Storm Hanna:** <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/hanna9-3-08-11AM.htm>

## **Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties Remain at OPGON 3 After 8:30 & 11:15 AM Conference Calls on Hanna**

*Operating Condition 3 means an emergency situation is likely or imminent and the County's Emergency Operations Center is fully or partially activated.*

Based on the information learned in both the 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. conference calls with state officials and officials from other counties and the National Weather Service, **Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties remain at Operating Condition (OPGON) 3 today, Wednesday, Sept. 3.** The OPGON 3 level means that an emergency situation is likely or imminent. At OPGON 3, there is full or partial activation of the Counties' Emergency Operations Center.

The public is encouraged to monitor their local news media and to be prepared in case Tropical Storm Hanna moves toward the state's coastline.

Officials from the Tri-county area will stay in close communication with state agencies and other counties and organizations.

### **Information from the Charleston County School District:**

- All Charleston County Schools will be operating on a normal schedule on Thursday, Sept. 4.
- All evening activities scheduled for 6 p.m. or later on Thursday, Sept. 4, have been cancelled.

### **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 will be open as follows:
  - Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
  - Thursday: 8 a.m. – to be determined (this information will be announced to the media as soon as it is determined)
- 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) at (843) 953 - 2450
  - Mobility Needs:  
Disabilities Resource Center at (843) 225 - 5080.
- 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>

### **Information for the public from SCE&G:**

- If the storm prompts an evacuation and you're relocated to a region unaffected by the storm, you can report your outage and check the status of your outage quickly and easily at [www.sceg.com/storm](http://www.sceg.com/storm).
- You can report and check the status of your outage by using a handheld device, such as a BlackBerry or Treo, or Internet ready cell phone. Visit [www.sceg.com/mobile](http://www.sceg.com/mobile) and go to the Storm Center.
- Stay away from downed or sparking power lines. Always assume any downed power line is live; keep your distance and call us at 1-888-333-4465 to report it. Do not report downed lines via e-mail.
- Smell a rotten egg odor? You may have a gas leak. Leave the area immediately and then call SCE&G from a safe location. For more gas safety tips, visit [www.sceg.com/gassafety](http://www.sceg.com/gassafety).
- Visit the storm safety Web page for more information:  
[http://www.sceg.com/en/residential-services/customer-service-center/public-safety/safety-during-power-outages/?WT.mc\\_id=StormAlertEmail2](http://www.sceg.com/en/residential-services/customer-service-center/public-safety/safety-during-power-outages/?WT.mc_id=StormAlertEmail2).

### **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](http://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

Information in the 2008 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 – *NEW! Four more pick-up point signs have been 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

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.

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**The following is an explanation of each OPCON level, and Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties remain at OPCON 3 today (Wednesday, Sept. 3):**

- 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.

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Visit [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) for updated information, news and instructions related to Tropical Storm Hanna.