Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 3332
Date: August 25, 2011

Charleston County Remains at OPCON 4 for Hurricane Irene

Operating Condition 4 means an emergency or disaster situation is possible

Charleston County Government participated in a conference call today (Thursday, Aug. 25) regarding Hurricane Irene. The call was initiated by the S.C. Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) and included representatives from several counties.

Based on the information learned in the conference call and the storm's current track forecast, **Charleston County will remain in Operating Condition (OPCON) 4. Charleston County continues to maintain contact with State and local emergency management agencies discussing the projected landfall of Irene.**

OPCON 4 means there is a possibility of an emergency or disaster situation that may require a partial or full activation of the Charleston County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Emergency support functions that would be needed in the event of an extreme change in the storm's projected path remain on stand-by.

"Right now in Charleston County, we are expecting mostly marine activity from Irene. That means rip currents, high seas and possible beach erosion starting on Friday and continuing through Saturday" said Cathy Haynes, Charleston County Emergency Management Department's Chief of Operations.

The public is encouraged to monitor their local news media and to be prepared.

The public can go to www.charlestoncounty.org and click on the "Are You Ready?" banner on the front page of the County's Web site to download, print and share:

- The 2011 Charleston County Hurricane Preparedness Guide (in English and Spanish)
- The 2011 Disabilities and Special Needs Emergency Preparedness Guide
- *NOTE:* The shelter list has changed for the 2011 hurricane season, as the new Stall High School on Ashley Phosphate road has been added to the list. See the complete list of Charleston County shelters at:
  http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/EPD/Shelters.htm

- Get emergency information on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCo -
- Follow "ChasCountyGov" (www.twitter.com/ChasCountyGov) on Twitter -