



Charleston County Emergency Operations Center News Update

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Charleston County Remains at OPCON 1 To React to Tropical Storm Hanna

Updates include shelter numbers and new closings

Based on the information learned during the 11:15 a.m. conference call with state officials and officials from other counties and the National Weather Service, **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.

Charleston County is currently under a Tropical Storm Warning and a Hurricane Watch. Hanna's track continues to move westward, meaning a greater impact on Charleston County than previously expected. Tropical storm force winds of 40-45 mph are expected to reach the county's coast around 2 p.m. today. The heaviest winds will be late this afternoon and through tonight. Wind gusts could be as high as 60 to 70 mph. If the center of the storm moves south, those estimations could increase. The storm surge is expected to be three to five feet above normal tide levels by later today through midnight, especially in the northern end of Charleston County, causing some minor coastal flooding and beach erosion. There is also a possibility of tornadoes for the northeastern portion of Charleston County. Rainfall will be increasing over the next few hours and reaching up to four inches.

Charleston County issued a voluntary evacuation effective at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4 for people living east of Highway 17 in vulnerable or low-lying areas, and anyone who lives in a mobile home anywhere in Charleston County.

As of 12:15 p.m. today, Charleston County shelters are housing 60 residents.

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.

A voluntary evacuation is targeted toward people who are most vulnerable to the threat, including people living on barrier islands and in manufactured homes.

The public needs to monitor their local news media and be prepared as Tropical Storm Hanna moves toward the state's coastline.

Officials from Charleston County will stay in close communication with state agencies and other counties and organizations.

New Closure Information

Swing and Draw Bridges

At 12:15 p.m. today, the S.C. Dept. of Transportation is in the process of locking down swing and draw bridges to BOAT TRAFFIC ONLY.

Charleston County Detention Center

Inmates at the detention center will not be allowed visitation today, this restriction will begin 12 p.m. today until 12 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6. This is in anticipation of weather conditions associated with tropical storm Hannah. Any family members who may have questions or concerns please call the Sheriff's Office at (843) 202-1700.

Charleston Water Systems

(September 5, 2008, 10:00 a.m.)—Charleston Water System's business offices will close today at noon in advance of deteriorating weather conditions associated with Tropical Storm Hanna.

Essential personnel will continue to staff Charleston Water's treatment plants and emergency dispatch center. Charleston Water System has prepared for the storm by securing critical water and sewer infrastructure and having plenty of fuel for back-up generators.

Though an interruption of water supply is unlikely, it's a good idea to store drinking water. Information about storing water and emergency water purification procedures is available on Charleston Water System's web site at www.charlestonwater.com, as well as in Charleston County's Hurricane Guide.

To report a water or sewer emergency, please call 727-6800.

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.