



## Charleston County Emergency Operations Center News Update

Date: September 5, 2008

Time: 5:45 PM

Release Number: 2923

---

### **Tropical Storm Hanna Update, 101 Residents in Shelters**

**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. Tropical Storm Hanna is expected to make landfall near the North Carolina coast around 1 a.m. The storm is moving northward at 20 mph with maximum sustained winds at 70 mph. The outer bands with heavy rain and tropical storm force winds could hit Charleston County between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m., especially in the northern end of the County. Up to two inches of rain have been reported in some areas of Charleston County.

**As of 5:45 p.m. today, Charleston County shelters are housing 101 residents:**

- Stall High School: 41 residents
- Morningside Middle School: 32 residents
- Midland Park Elementary School: 22 residents
- Alice Birney Middle School (Special Medical Needs Shelter): 6 residents

**Shelters Open in Charleston County:**

Stall High School  
7749 Pinehurst Street  
N. Charleston, SC 29420

Midland Park Elementary School  
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.

### **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](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

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