



## Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 3331

Date: August 24, 2011

### **Charleston County Moves to OPCON 4 at 3 a p.m. for Hurricane Irene**

*Operating Condition 4 means an emergency or disaster situation is possible*

[Charleston County Government](#) participated in a conference call today (Wednesday, Aug. 24) 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 move into Operating Condition (OPCON) 4 from OPCON 3 at 3 p.m. today, Wednesday, Aug. 24.**

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). The EOC will remain partially activated until 3 p.m. Charleston County's EOC is located in the Lonnie Hamilton, III Public Services Building off Leeds Avenue in North Charleston.

"Even though we are moving back to OPCON 4, we remain aware and will continue to monitor the storm's progress. This is a powerful hurricane and its track is still uncertain. While things seem to have improved for Charleston County, we still have staff on stand-by and we are ready to take the steps necessary to keep Charleston County safe" said Cathy Haynes, [Charleston County Emergency Management Department's](#) Chief of Operations.

**There will be a media availability at 2 p.m. today, inside the front door of the Lonnie Hamilton III Public Services Building.**

The public is encouraged to monitor their local news media and to be prepared in case Hurricane Irene makes landfall on the state's coastline. Officials from Charleston County will stay in close communication with state agencies and other counties and organizations.

**The public can go to [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://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](http://www.twitter.com/ChasCountyGov)) on Twitter -

