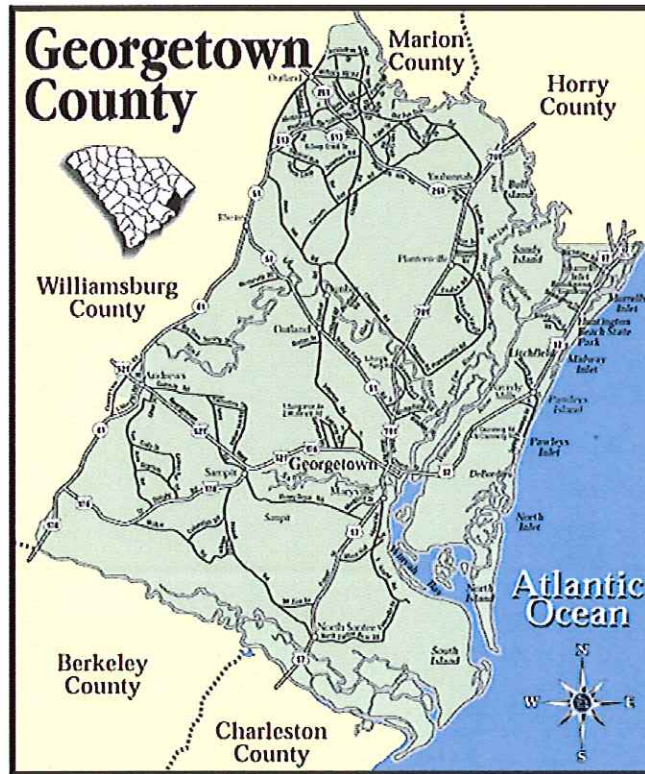
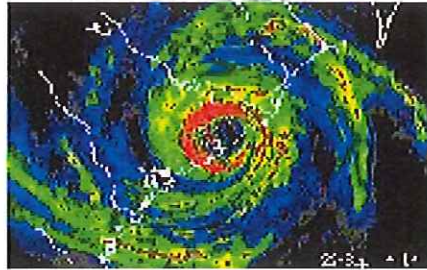


# Georgetown County Fire/EMS

## Hurricane Plan for 2015



## Mission Statement

The mission of Georgetown County Fire/EMS will be to provide an orderly, efficient, coordinated and organized response for the public we serve during major disasters or threatening disasters and for the career and volunteer members of our organization.

## 2011 HURRICANE SEASON Georgetown County Fire / EMS

PRIMARY                      ALTERNATE

### **COMMAND SECTION**

Incident Commander	Mack Reed	Tony Hucks
Operations Officer	Battalion Chief	Battalion Chief
Safety Officer	Terry Skidmore	Lieutenant - TBD
Staffing / Accountability	Battalion Chief	Battalion Chief

### **PLANNING & OPERATIONS SECTION**

Shift Officer	Ryan Allen	Brian Ullom
Shift Officer	Deborah Johnson	Robbie Williams
Shift Officer	David Geney	Jeff Gore
Hazardous Materials Operations	Wayne Hardee	Brian Ullom
Staging Officer	Eric Hemeon	Theron Alston

### **LOGISTICS SECTION**

Materials Coordinator	Tina Skidmore	David Scoggins
Facilities Coordinator	Jesse Cooper	TBD
Food Coordinator	Harry Avant	Lisa Barnes
Telephone / Fax Coordinator	Annie Bowers	TBD
Communications Coordinator	Ryan Allen	TBD
Medical Coordinator	Lesley Eastham	Jim Eastham
EOC Coordinator	Tony Hucks	Mack Reed
Public Information Officer	Tony Hucks	Mack Reed

### **FINANCE SECTION**

Administrative Assistance	Traci Hessler	TBD
---------------------------	---------------	-----

## 1. GENERAL

### a. PURPOSE

To establish policies and procedures which will assure the maximum and most effective utilization of all resources in the fire district, minimize the loss of life and/or injury to the community, and protect and conserve the resources and facilities in the Georgetown County Fire/EMS Department during emergencies resulting from hurricanes.

### b. SPECIFIC

This plan supplements the South Carolina Plan and Georgetown County Emergency Operations Plan. It establishes policies and procedures to be followed while responding to the threat of tropical storms approaching our area. This plan addresses those issues that must be dealt with pre-fall; activation, operations, support and staffing of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during a hurricane; and post-landfall issues, to include recovery operations.

## 2. PURPOSE

- a. To prevent or minimize injury to people and damage to property or to the environment resulting from a tropical storm by planning and coordinating activities.
- b. To provide for the efficient activation, operation and staffing of the EOC during a hurricane.
- c. To provide our staff with the assistance to secure property in a timely manner to allow them to function as part of the department's emergency team both pre and post storm.
- d. To provide for the efficient evacuation of and safe shelter for the firefighters and support staff during the mandatory evacuation period.

To provide immediate relief and short and long-range recovery operations.

## 3. SITUATION

Georgetown County Fire/EMS is susceptible to all levels of tropical storms, from tropical depressions to severe category 5 hurricanes. These tropical storms produce three major hazards; the storm surge, high winds and rainfall-induced flooding.

- a. Storm Surge: The storm surge is a large dome of water often 50-100 miles wide that sweeps across the coastline near where a hurricane makes landfall. The surge of high water topped by waves is devastating. The stronger the hurricane, the higher the surge will be. Along the immediate coast, storm surge is the greatest threat to life and property.

- b. Winds: Hurricane winds can destroy buildings, mobile homes and other property. Debris, such as signs, roofing material, siding and other items become missiles in a hurricane. The winds are the greatest cause of property damage to the inland coast. In addition, hurricanes often produce numerous tornadoes, which add to the storm's destructive power. The tornadoes most often occur in rain bands well away from the center of the storm.
- c. Rainfall-Induced Flooding: Widespread torrential rains, often in excess of six inches, can produce deadly and destructive floods. Long after the winds have subsided, hurricanes can still generate immense amounts of rain.

Each year on average, ten tropical storms develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. Of these, six become hurricanes. Many of these storms remain over the ocean; however about five hurricanes strike the United States coastline every three years. Of these five, two will be major hurricanes (category three or greater).

#### 4. MISSION/PURPOSE STATEMENT, IMS, COMMAND POST

##### a. MISSION/PURPOSE

This document will establish responsibilities, policy and procedures to follow during declared major natural emergencies such as Hurricanes, Tornadoes, and Floods. The mission of Georgetown County Fire/EMS will be to provide an orderly, efficient, coordinated and organized response for the public we serve during major disasters or threatening disasters and for the career and volunteer members of the Department. Since it is normally hurricanes that threaten our response area, this document will frequently refer to this type of natural disaster; however, the plan could easily be utilized for other major-type disasters that strike our area.

##### b. COMMAND POST

The Command Post for Georgetown County Fire/EMS Department is located at Headquarters Station, 3605 Highmarket Street, Georgetown SC 29440 and can be used to coordinate and manage large-scale emergencies or disasters. Those officers listed in this plan will staff the Command Post. Activation of the Command Posts will commence at OPCON 3 as described in this plan. The Incident Commanders or in their absence the Operations Officers will order actual activation of the Command Post.

##### c. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Incident Management System is a system designed to begin developing from the time an incident occurs, until the requirements for management and operations no longer exist. The structure of the IMS can be established and expanded depending upon changing conditions of the incident. It is intended to

be staffed and operated by qualified, trained personnel from Georgetown County Fire/EMS staff.

In the context of this document, the IMS system will be implemented to manage major natural disasters that may affect Georgetown County Fire/EMS Department.

The IMS organization structure builds from the top down. Five separate sections, Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics and Finance will be staffed and function during a major incident.

d. COMMAND

Responsible for overall command and administration of the incident for Georgetown County Fire/EMS Department. Included are the Incident Commander and Operations Officer. Command will coordinate with the County Emergency Operations Center.

e. OPERATIONS

The Operations section is under the supervision of the Operations Officer and consists of the Battalion Chiefs who will coordinate operations at the stations. This section is also responsible for Evacuation and Damage Assessment as outlined in this document.

f. PLANNING

Also under the supervision of the Operations Officer, this section consisting of the Shift Officers and Materials Coordinator, are responsible for a pre-determined checklist of anticipated resources required. Functions will be taking place during OPGON 3 or earlier as determined.

g. LOGISTICS

This section also under the supervision of the Operations Officer provides all of the support needs to the incident. The plan specifies the responsibilities of each assignment in the Logistics section.

h. FINANCE SECTION

This section also, under the supervision of the Operations Officer, provides for the tracking of the time worked by all emergency personnel involved in the incident. FEMA may approve refunds for expenses during storm events. Certain criteria to track expenses are required and determined during OPGON 3. Items such as vehicle mileage, staff hours, fuel, generator running hours, etc. must be tracked and provided to the Administrative Assistant (actual tracking should be accomplished by the Shift Officers).

## 5. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- a. Conglomerate Operations: For hurricane related activities, South Carolina operates on a regional basis. These regions are called hurricane conglomerates and consist of the Southern Costal Conglomerate, the Central Costal Conglomerate and the Northern Costal Conglomerate.

Conglomerate Membership: Northern Costal Conglomerate

Horry County (Lead County)	
Georgetown County	Williamsburg County
Marion County	Florence County
Dillon County	Clarendon County
Sumter County	Darlington County
Lee County	Marlboro County

## 6. POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

- a. INCIDENT COMMANDER (COMMAND) -The Incident Commander (IC) is the person in charge of the entire incident for Georgetown County Fire/EMS. The Fire Chief will normally fill this role. Should the Chief be unavailable, the Operations Officer (Assistant Fire Chief) will normally fill this position and therefore delegate a replacement as OPS/OFC or fill a dual role at their discretion. The IC will be in regular contact with the appropriate officials at the Georgetown County EOC and other area Fire Chiefs, as required. The IC will determine which level of alert is activated and when the level is changed.
- b. OPERATIONS/PLANNING OFFICER (COMMAND) - The Operations Officer (OPS/OFC) will be in charge of all day-to-day operations during the course of the event. Assistant Fire Chief will normally fill this role. In his absence, the IC will appoint a replacement. The OPS/OFC shall be responsible for scheduling and staffing of all vehicles and assure that all equipment is in a state of readiness for the pending event. This person shall coordinate with each level as the incident escalates and functions designated in the organization are being fulfilled.
- c. BATTALION CHIEFS (OPERATIONS/PLANNING) - The Battalion Chiefs will likely change during each phase of the operation. Each Battalion Chief however will be required to attend a meeting to be called by the IC during the OPCON 4 - Anticipation Phase (Watch possible 24-72 hours).

The Battalion Chiefs will be responsible for the activities of all career and volunteer fire personnel on duty during each phase of the event. The Battalion

Chiefs will receive regular communications from the OPS/OFC and then pass this information on to the duty personnel.

The Battalion Chiefs will be designated by the OPS/OFC to participate in evacuation procedures and damage assessment when directed by the Incident Commander.

- d. FOOD COORDINATOR (LOGISTICS) - During the course of a major disaster or pending disaster, a coordinated effort is necessary to assure that all Fire/EMS personnel receive meals on a timely basis. This will include personnel from other organizations that may be detailed to the Georgetown County Fire/EMS Department.

The OPS/OFC will assign a person, usually from non-fire suppression, to serve as the Food Coordinator. The Food Coordinator may have one or more assistants to carry out this function.

During the OPGON 4 phases, Georgetown County Fire/EMS Department Food Coordinators will meet to plan food service operations and designate any assistants.

Food service will commence when the Command Post are activated at OPGON 2 (Warning in Effect). When food service terminates will be a decision of the Incident Commander. Extended service can be anticipated during the recovery phase.

Actual food purchases should be made very early in OPGON 3 or late in OPGON 2 depending on local food store anticipated closings.

- e. SUPPLY OFFICER (LOGISTICS) - A Georgetown County Fire/EMS Department Supply Officer will be assigned by the OPS/OFC during OPGON 3 (Preparation Phase). Typically this will be a person who will be available during the entire course of the event. The Supply Officer will assure that the following materials and other equipment necessary for operations are available:
- i. Portable battery operated radios for each Station
  - ii. Emergency drinking water
  - iii. Dry erases board supplies
  - iv. Chain and ropes
  - v. FAX machine operation
  - vi. Base station operation
  - vii. Resource Book of local sources for equipment such as additional chain saws, backhoes, chains, etc. that may be required
  - viii. Verify fuel supply hours – County and Local Fuel Vendors
  - ix. Source for portable toilets, if needed
  - x. Flyers for stores - re: Propane Tanks



f. TELEPHONE/FAX COORDINATOR (LOGISTICS) - Typically non-fire suppression support staff will fill this function. Telephone messages for personnel in the Command Post will be received and taken to the C.P. Incoming FAX messages from the EOC's and other sources will be taken to the C.P. Questions from the public will be directed to the Georgetown EOC. Questions of a medical nature will be directed to the Medical Coordinator. Emergency calls for assistance will be directed to Central Dispatch after recording basic information, i.e.: telephone #, name, address and nature of problem.

Evacuation shelter location, hours and date they will open will be determined by the EOC and relayed to the Telephone/FAX Coordinator by the Incident Commander. Alternative transportation locations should be determined.

g. FACILITIES COORDINATOR (LOGISTICS) - The IC will designate someone to assume responsibility for all energy. This will include:

- i. Generator operation
- ii. Provision of generators
- iii. Emergency lighting - all stations
- iv. Coordinate any plans to relocate Repeater with Radio Service Provider
- v. Secure LP tanks

h. FINANCE OFFICER (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS) - The Administrative Assistant in the Finance Section will track all costs incurred Georgetown County Fire/EMS in storm planning and operations. Tracking will be done upon receiving data from the Officers.

i. MEDICAL OFFICER (LOGISTICS) - The Incident Commander shall assign a Medical Officer. They shall be responsible for ensuring that all medical needs of Georgetown County Fire/EMS personnel are taken care of. The Medical Officer shall also attempt to evaluate members of the visiting mutual aid departments and report their condition to the Incident Commander so they can determine appropriate duty assignments.

j. COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (LOGISTICS) - A Communications Officer will be assigned by the OPS/OFC during the incident, if required. Continuing operation of all portables, vehicle radios and base stations will be the responsibility of the Communications Officer. Should Central, at any point, lose the capability to dispatch calls in our area, the Communications Officer will assume this responsibility at Headquarters Station.

k. SAFETY OFFICER - The Incident Commander will assign a Safety Officer. The Safety Officer will report directly to the Incident Commander. They will

have the authority to terminate any operation they deem unsafe on the spot. The Safety Officer should be well versed in occupational health and safety in the workplace. The Safety Officer shall be mobile and able to visit various operations as they see the need. It is recognized that multiple operations may be ongoing simultaneously; clearing trees, LP gas cylinders, etc. During these smaller scale operations, the Company Officer or Group Leader shall act as or appoint a Safety Officer for that operation.

- l. STAFFING / ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER - The Incident Commander will assign a Staffing / Accountability Officer. The Staffing / Accountability Officer will report directly to the Incident Commander. This person will track all personnel, equipment and apparatus during the incident. This is a very important task to ensure all personnel are accounted for. Tracking sheets will be maintained to ensure adequate staffing is maintained and this will assist with receiving additional funds from local, state and federal agencies.
- m. PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER - The Incident Commander will assign a Public Information Officer. The Public Information Officer will report directly to the Incident Commander. This person will coordinate and handle any news media inquiries. Any inquiries beyond the scope of Georgetown County Fire/EMS shall be referred to the PIO for Georgetown County.

# GEORGETOWN COUNTY FIRE / EMS

## SOG 660.00

### Emergency Operations

**Issued: 6/07/01    Effective Date: 8/02/01**

Page 1 of 8

Revised: 07/13/04

Procedure: "Hurricane Preparedness"

---

**Scope:** This guideline establishes policies and procedures to be followed by Georgetown County Fire/EMS personnel when responding to the threat of a tropical storm impending on Georgetown County. Situations relating to before, during, and after the storm will be addressed in this guideline.

---

**Purpose:** This guideline will help prevent or minimize injury to the citizens of Georgetown County and any damage to their property or to the environment resulting from a Hurricane by planning and coordinating our actions and activities.

---

**Definitions:** The following terms will be used whenever it's appropriate and have the following meaning:

- A. Tropical Depression – An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.
- B. Tropical Storm – An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots).
- C. Tropical Storm Watch – Tropical Storm conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 48 hours.
- D. Tropical Storm Warning – Tropical Storm conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 36 hours.
- E. Hurricane – An intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.
- F. Hurricane Watch – Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 48 hours.
- G. Hurricane Warning – Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 36 hours.
- H. Hurricane Eye - The relatively calm center part of the storm. This region will generally be sunny to partly cloudy with near calm winds.
- I. Storm Surge - The height difference between the observed level of seawater and the level that would have been there in the absence of the storm.

J. Storm Eye - An abnormal rise of the sea as a result of storm winds. This may cause flooding in dry lowlands in coastal areas.

### **SAFFIR/SIMPSON Hurricane Scale**

Category 1 - Winds of 74 to 95 miles per hour. Damage primarily to shrubbery, trees foliage and unanchored mobile homes. No real damage to other structures. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. And/or: storm surge 4 to 5 feet above normal. Low-lying coastal roads inundated, minor pier damage, some small craft in exposed anchorage torn from moorings.

Category 2 - Winds of 96 to 110 miles per hour. Considerable damage to shrubbery and tree foliage; some trees will get blown down. Major damage to exposed mobile homes. Extensive damage to poorly constructed signs. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some window and door damage. No major damage to building. And/or: storm surge 6 to 8 feet above normal. Coastal roads and low-lying escapes routes inland cut by rising water 2 to 4 hours before arrival of hurricane center. There will be considerable damage to piers. Marinas flooded. Small craft in unprotected anchorages torn from moorings. Evacuation of some shoreline residences and low-lying island areas required.

Category 3 - Winds of 111 to 129 miles per hour. Foliage will be torn from trees; large trees will be blown down. Practically all poorly constructed signs blown down. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some window and door damage. Some structural damage to small buildings. Mobile homes destroyed. And/or: storm surge 9 to 12 feet above normal. Serious flooding at coast and many smaller structures near coast destroyed; larger structures near coast damaged by battering waves and floating debris. Low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water 3 to 5 hours before hurricane center arrives. Flat terrain 5 feet or less above sea level flooded inland 8 miles or more. Evacuation of low-lying residences within several blocks of the shoreline possibly required.

Category 4 - Winds of 130 to 156 miles per hour. Shrubs and trees blown down; all signs down. Extensive damage to roofing materials, windows and doors. Complete failure of roofs on many small residences. Complete destruction of mobile homes. And/or: storm surge 13 to 18 feet above normal. Flat terrain 10 feet or less above sea level flooded inland as far as 6 miles. Major damage to lower floors of structures near shore due to flooding and battering waves and floating debris. Low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water 3 to 5 hours before hurricane arrives. Major erosion of beaches. Massive evacuation of all residences within 500 yards of shore possibly required, and of single-story residences on low ground within 2 miles of shore.

Category 5 - Winds greater than 157 miles per hour. Shrubs and trees blown done; considerable damage to roofs of buildings; all signs down. Very severe and extensive damage to windows and doors. Complete failure of roofs on many residents and industrial buildings. Extensive shattering of glass in windows and doors. Some complete building failures. Small buildings overturned or blown away. Complete destruction of mobile homes. And/or: storm surge greater than 18 feet above normal. Major damage to lower floors of all structures less than 15 feet above sea level within 500 yards of shore. Low lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water 3 to 5 hours before hurricane center arrives. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 to 10 miles of shore possibly required.

---

**Guideline:** By following these guidelines, we will be fulfilling our responsibility for the coordination and utilization of all fire fighting and medical resources made available to the county.

1. Follow the Georgetown County Emergency Management Departments Emergency Operations Plan to include the following<sup>1</sup>:
  - a. Maintain a liaison with the Emergency Operations Center.

- b. Perform fire fighting and medical duties as needed to include emergency shelters.
- c. Perform radiological monitoring assignments as directed.
- d. Perform decontamination if needed.
- e. Determine needs for disaster victims.
- f. Keep the Emergency Operations Center informed of situations within the area of responsibilities.


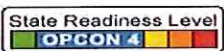



2. The Incident Management System Command Staff will consist of the following:

- a. Command - Responsible for overall command and administration of the incident for the Georgetown County Fire / EMS. Those who are included are the Incident Commander, Operations Officer, and the Logistics Officer. Command will determine which level of alert is activated and when the level is to be changed.
- b. Operations - Responsible for the coordination operations at the stations. The Operations Officer will be in charge of the day-to-day operations during the course of the event. OPS shall be responsible for scheduling and staffing of all vehicles and shall assure that all the equipment is in a state of 100% readiness for the event. This section is also responsible for Evacuation and Damage Assessment procedures.
- c. Logistics - Responsible for materials and other equipment necessary for operations during the event to include medical, communications, facilities, and food.

3. The Incident Management Support Staff will require the following:

- a. Planning - Responsible for a predetermined checklist of anticipated resources required. Functions will be taking place during OPCON 2 or earlier as determined.
- b. Finance - Responsible for the tracking of the time worked by all emergent personnel involved. Certain criteria to track expenses are required, such as vehicle mileage, staff hours, fuel, generator running hours, etc.

4. The Hurricane Sequence will be described as follows for the levels of operation:

OPCON Levels	Description of Levels of Readiness
	<p>Most day-to-day operations to include normal training and exercises. Pre-disaster preparedness activities that usually fall outside of the requirement to activate the SEOC may begin during this time frame.</p>
	<p>Possibility of an emergency or disaster situation that may require state coordination during emergency management operations. SEOC activation is dependent on the status of the event.</p>
	<p>Disaster or emergency situation is likely. The South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan and the appropriate specific impact hazard emergency plan is activated.</p>
	<p>Disaster or emergency situation is imminent or in effect.</p>
	<p>Major disaster or emergency situation in effect; highest state of emergency operations and the SEOC is at fully activated.</p>

5. OPCON 5 June 1<sup>st</sup> Start of Hurricane Season

1. Meeting - Primary and Alternates. Administrative Assistant will update call list.

#### 6. OPCON 4 - Anticipation Phase

When a watch is possible 24 to 72 hours prior to the storm, the Chief of the Georgetown County Fire/EMS shall activate "OPCON 4". The purpose of this phase is to actually prepare for a hurricane watch. Upon activation of this phase, the following will attend a meeting called by the Chief.

- a. Fire/EMS Chief (FD 1)
- b. Assistant Fire/EMS Chief (FD 2)
- c. Fire Marshal (FM 5)
- d. Fire Inspector (Inspector 1)
- e. Division Chief (FD 4)
- f. Battalion Chiefs (BC 91, 92, 93)
- g. Volunteer Station Coordinators

The agenda of this meeting will consist of:

- a. Review of the plan.
- b. Specific station assignments.
- c. Incoming vehicle assignments.
- d. General discussion of how operations will be conducted.
  - /Command Post
  - /Food Arrangements
  - /Evacuation Plans
  - /Damage Assessment
  - /Open discussion

Any preparations FD 1 and FD 2 need to make to ensure the safety of the employees' family and homes should be done during "OPCON 4", if at all possible. This will provide them with the maximum amount of time possible to work during "OPCON 3".

#### **EMS Responsibilities**

Provide coordination and use of all ambulances, stations, personnel, and equipment in the county during disaster situations.

EMS is responsible for:

1. Identifying, training, and assigning personnel to triage teams
2. Maintaining liaison with EOC.
3. Performing Basic and Advanced Life Support duties as needed.
4. Performing triage and directing assignments by priority.
5. Evaluating and reporting all available information concerning the nature and extent of trauma in the effected areas to the appropriate area.

#### **At least 72 hours prior to projected impact:**

Take ALL ambulances and fire apparatus, including spare trucks, to county maintenance shop for required repairs or preventative maintenance

Begin discharging and recharging all batteries for radios, pagers, Lifepaks 12 Heart Monitors, and Suction units, etc.

Obtain batteries for all non-rechargeable equipment. The Assistant Chief or designee will maintain a list of all battery requirements, reviewed at the beginning of each hurricane season.

Check availability of supplies:

- a. First-aid supplies.
- b. Emergency medication.
- c. Retrieve EMS equipment from GMH ER.
- d. Strip all equipment from any Ambulances that cannot be repaired prior to storm impact.

Call Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire / Rescue and Midway Fire / Rescue to determine how many units they will have manned.

**At least 48 hours prior to projected impact:**

Continue with completion of ALL items above.

Notify all Officers with updated storm information. Battalion Chiefs are to provide telephone/cell numbers or other means of being contacted until after the threat has passed. They are to maintain contact with the Battalion Chief on duty will notify them of any relocation related to the emergency.

All EMS dispatch pagers (i.e. for Medic 9, Medic 10) are to be "test toned" by central communications to ensure proper operation.

Keep all vehicles fueled to a minimum of 3/4 tank.

**At least 24 hours prior to projected impact:**

Continue with completion of all items above.

Fire / EMS Chief will establish minimum staffing levels and additional personnel will be notified to report for duty.

Assistant Chief or his designee will be the Fire/EMS representative in the EOC.

All ambulances will be "well stocked" with supplies over and above the normal stocks required for day-to-day activities.

**When sustained wind speeds EXCEED 40 MPH EMS operations will CEASE for the safety of emergency personnel.**

**7. OPCON 3 - Preparation Phase**

At the time a Hurricane Watch is officially declared for our region by the National Hurricane Center, FD 1 will activate "OPCON 3". Central Dispatch will be contacted and asked to tone out all fire personnel and advise them that we are now at "OPCON 3". At "OPCON 3", the Operations Officer will assure the following tasks have been completed:

- a. Assure Station Paid Employees have all equipment prepared in a state of readiness.
- b. Assure that all of the vehicles are fueled and prepared in a state of readiness.

- c. Assure that the stations are manned by two career personnel if an overnight assignment is required.
- d. Assure that all paperwork for damage assessment has been distributed to all stations.

At "OPCON 3", the Logistics Officer will assure the following tasks have been completed:

- 1. Assure that all medical supplies are up to date and they are prepared in a state of readiness.
- 2. Assure that telephone/fax is able to receive calls for information needed to respond to public calls. Assure that stations receive updates on storms progress.
- 3. Assure that the stations are structurally ready for the storm. Windows are covered, etc. Coordinate placing Hurricane Shutters for Windows and Doors at Stations 5 and 10.
- 4. Assure that food coordinators have met and food service has been planned, and stations have a supply of food.

**Note:** Due to the building construction of stations the decision will be made at this time which stations will be evacuated. If the storm is predicted to be at a Category 3 level Stations 12, 13, and 14 will be evacuated. If the storm is predicted to be at a Category 4 all other stations will be evacuated. It will be predetermined to what location personnel and apparatus will be relocated.

#### 8. OPCON 2 - Warning Phase

At the time a Hurricane Warning is officially declared for our region by the National Hurricane Center, FD 1 will activate "OPCON 2". Central Dispatch will be contacted and asked to tone out all fire personnel and advise them that we are now at "OPCON 2". Upon activation of this phase, the following will attend a meeting called by the Chief.

- a. Fire/EMS Chief (FD 1)
- b. Assistant Fire/EMS Chief (FD 2)
- c. Fire Marshal (FM 5)
- d. Fire Inspector (Inspector 1)
- e. Division Chief (FD 4)
- f. Battalion Chiefs (BC 91, 92, 93)
- g. Volunteer Station Coordinators

The agenda of this meeting will consist of:

- a. Readiness of stations and personnel.
- b. Readiness of equipment.
- c. Out of town vehicle staging locations.
- d. Personnel assignments to stations.
- e. Readiness of food supply.
- f. Emergency Service response availability.

Station officers will be notified of the progress of the storm and will be provided with any additional information acquired from the meeting.

#### 9. OPCON 1 - Stand-By Mode - Dangerous Conditions

There will be two conditions that will cause FD 1 to activate "OPCON 1".

- 1. When the conditions in the area have reached a level that is not safe to leave the stations with equipment and any personnel.
- 2. When the intensity of the oncoming storm appears to be of such magnitude that an unsafe condition will exist to have personnel and vehicles to remain at the stations.



When either of these two conditions is met, FD 1 will then activate "OPCON 1". Central Dispatch will be contacted and asked to tone out all fire personnel and advise them that we are now at "OPCON 1".

When personnel and vehicles can no longer leave the stations, FD 1 will notify Central Dispatch to no longer tone calls. Information relative to calls will be relayed to FD 1 by Central. As soon as the vehicle curfew is lifted by the EOC, these pending calls will be handled.

#### 11. Post Strike Mode/After the Storm

When FD-1 deems it safe, operations will commence under "Recovery Phase". Central dispatch will be contacted and asked to tone out all fire personnel and advise them that we are now at the "Recovery Phase".

Upon activation of this phase, the following will attend a meeting called by the Chief.

- a. Fire/EMS Chief (FD 1)
- b. Assistant Fire/EMS Chief (FD 2)
- c. Fire Marshal (FD 5)
- d. Fire Inspector (Inspector 1)
- e. Division Chief (FD 4)
- f. Battalion Chiefs (BC 91, 92, 93)
- g. Volunteer Station Coordinators

The agenda of this meeting will consist of:

- a. Response procedures.
- b. Mutual Aid.
- c. Staging of mutual aid vehicles and personnel (Old Choppee High School).
- d. Welfare of all personnel.
- e. Damage Assessment

One important difference to note is the duration of OPCON 1. It will be important that everyone pays close attention to the welfare of all personnel including any mutual aid personnel.

#### 12. Return to Normal Operations

Post storm activities will be taking place during "Recovery Phase". In the case of a Category 1 Hurricane, these activities will be limited. Storms that progress through a strong Category 2 to Category 5 will result in greatly increasing everyone's workload.

Communications will be vital for a quick and accurate damage assessment in our area. Immediate life safety situation and damage may be overwhelming. FD 1 will develop a system to prioritize the handling of all situations to be confronted.

FD 1 will make the decision to return to normal operations. He will be reviewing information from the EOC and will base his decision on the EOC's protocol.

If practical, the following will attend a meeting called by the Chief:

- a. Fire/EMS Chief (FD 1)
- b. Assistant Fire/EMS Chief (FD 2)
- c. Fire Marshal (FD 5)
- d. Fire Inspector (Inspector 1)
- e. Division Chief (FD 4)

- f. Battalion Chiefs (BC 91, 92, 93)
- g. Volunteer Station Coordinators

The agenda of this meeting will consist of:

- a. Debriefing
- b. Damage Assessment
- c. Hours worked, specifically to the emergency incident.
- d. Vehicle mileage, recorded from the beginning to end.
- e. Supplies used.
- f. Equipment used.
- g. Vehicle and equipment readiness.
- h. Open discussion.

Central dispatch will be notified at this time that we are now back to normal operations.

### 13. Damage Assessment

Damage assessment occurs at "Recovery Phase". Immediately following the lifting of the emergency vehicle curfew by the EOC, County Fire/EMS will be conducting "windshield assessment" of damage in our areas. This will consist of two separate assessments. First will be for the American Red Cross, and the second assessment for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Both will be done concurrently. The one for the Red Cross is done for the need of the family, i.e., clothing, food, and temporary repairs for the homes. The one for FEMA is done for grants and assistance from the Federal Government to assist the homeowners.

Before and following damage assessment, the responsibility of clearing the roadways blocked by falling trees lies with the South Carolina DOT and County Maintenance; however, County Fire/EMS may assist by clearing roadways they determine are high priority for emergency response.

### 14. Evacuation

Direction and control of evacuation is generally assumed by the EOC following orders issued by the Governor of South Carolina. In the past, evacuation has included 100% of the Waccamaw Neck and, at other times, only those areas east of Highway 17. In Georgetown County, the Hurricane Response Plan identifies the Sheriff as having sole responsibility for evacuation including operations, traffic control points, and security in evacuated areas. State Highway Patrol, State Wildlife, SLED, and other designated agencies are also involved with evacuation procedures.

Specific evacuation areas known as Evacuation Zones are well defined in the County Plan and our direction for assisting in evacuations will be determined by FD 1 in conjunction with the EOC.

### 15. Out of Town Vehicle Staging Regulations

In the event of a disaster, there will be an influx of out of county vehicles volunteering their equipment to the county. With this in mind, a plan needs to be established to coordinate a smooth organized process that will assist our department on a safe haven and disbursement procedure for these vehicles.

Therefore, a staging officer will be appointed who will stay on sight and coordinate this process. This staging officer will be responsible for informing each crew where they need to locate and what their individual duties would consist of. SO will ensure by keeping an active log of how long each crew is out, their location, rest periods and relief is organized.

The staging location will be at the old Choppee High School located at 8189 Choppee Road. The staging officer will be the Georgetown County Fire/EMS Chief or designee. All coordination that is done will be finalized by Fire/EMS Chief. The EOC will be working through FD 1 on the location of apparatus throughout the county.

**Special Operational Guidelines shall be followed.**

1. No member shall ride alone during or immediately following a storm. All members will operate in pairs or teams.
2. Personnel shall utilize all safety equipment available, work in teams and keep well hydrated. Every attempt should be made in order to abate any storm hazards in a safe manner during and after a storm.
3. Survey the area of any electric wire before cutting any trees or debris. If wires are present, assume they are live and contact the electric company to determine the status of the wires. Make sure members are aware that generators used by civilians may feedback into the system, thereby energizing downed wires.
4. Use chain saws for their appropriate use and use the appropriate care and protective gear.
5. Operating companies must notify dispatch and other responding companies of all hazardous conditions they encounter including high water, road damage or blockage, etc.
6. Before walking through water, members must use a pike pole or stick to ensure the ground has not washed away or collapsed.
  - Use extreme caution when walking through water. Remember six inches of moving water can knock a person off their feet.
  - Be aware of hazards in the water such as downed live electrical wires and wildlife, including snakes.
7. Use extreme caution and limit speed when driving. Be especially cautious where the ground is saturated or flooded – the road could be washed away.
8. Generators used to supply electricity to the station must be outside and elevated while ensuring the exhaust is ventilated to the outside. Generators should not be placed on the apparatus floor. Carbon monoxide exhaust kills.
9. If stations must be evacuated, company officers will ensure utilities are shut off and the station is secure and the company will report to the safe haven, all in accordance with predetermined evacuations plans.
10. Chief and company officers will establish and strictly enforce periodic rehabilitation times for Fire/EMS personnel.

**Halting of emergency operations during a storm.**

1. Operations of an aerial device will cease when sustained winds reach 35 mph or more.
2. Prior to sustained wind speeds reaching 40 mph, any chief officer or company officer who feels the situations encountered are sufficiently dangerous to the safety of personnel may cease operations and return to their assigned station. The officer must advise the incident command and the dispatch center.

3. For the safety of the members, the department will discontinue response to all Fire/EMS calls when sustained wind speeds reach 40 mph. When the order to cease response is given due to hazardous wind conditions:
  - Units responding to or on the scene of an emergency shall continue their work until completed (as long as conditions are safe to do so), at which time the units will return to their assigned stations. The officer must advise the incident command and the dispatch center.
  - Units out of the station but not on a call will return immediately to their assigned station.
4. When responses cease due to wind conditions, all apparatus will be parked headfirst in the station causing the rear of the unit to be facing outward, thus protecting the windshield. When the stations have been notified they can resume responses the department backing policy shall be used and enforced to back all apparatus from the bays.
5. All POV responses by volunteer members will be suspended when sustained wind speeds reach 40 mph as well. This will remain in effect after the storm unless otherwise directed by the Fire/EMS Chief. Should volunteer members use a POV after notification; the County will not be liable for any damages.

### **Hurricane Eye Operations**

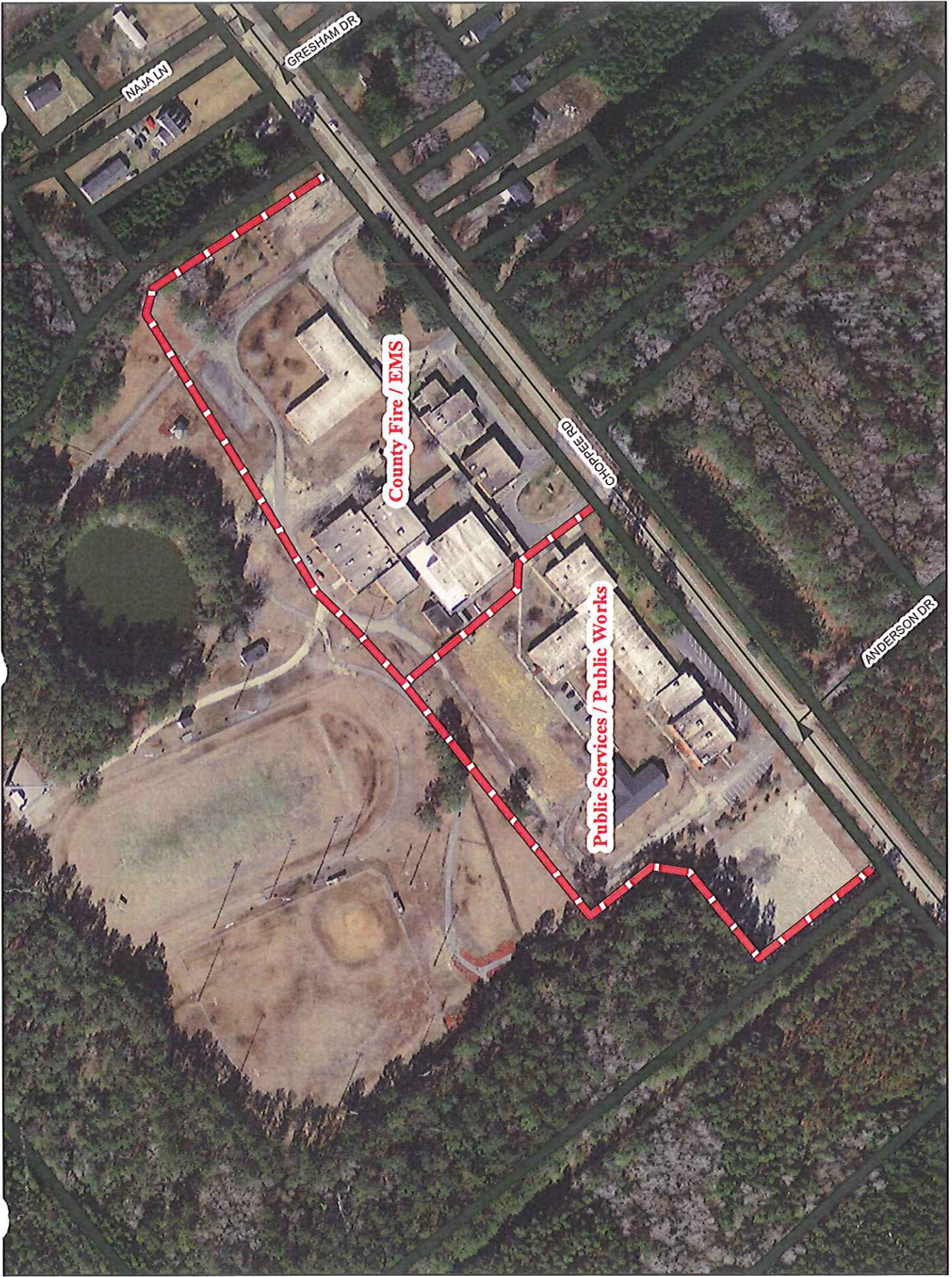
Operations during the period the eye of the hurricane passes by should be limited to resecuring the fire/EMS station. No companies will be dispatched during the eye of the hurricane. All operations during the eye of the hurricane will only be performed if they can be done safely. Members should help citizens who come to the station when it would be a danger to release them. Even though the skies appear clear, storm conditions will return suddenly. The safety of the department personnel will remain the primary consideration during these operations.

### **Personnel Recall Procedure**

1. In the event of an approaching storm, all Fire/EMS department employees and volunteer members should monitor media reports on the status of weather conditions. If severe weather conditions appear to be headed toward the Georgetown County area, preparations for the safety and well-being of all family members, pets, and property should be handled early in the event that all employees/members are activated for duty.
2. Once the department reaches the Opcon 3 level the Fire/EMS Chief will make the decision of necessary staffing needs. Once staffing needs are determined the Fire/EMS Chief will determine at what point personnel will be recalled if not on duty. Once this has been determined the Battalion Chiefs will notify their shift personnel of time to report to work and station assignments. Volunteers will be notified as needed.

## 2015 Hurricane Names

Ana  
Bill  
Claudette  
Danny  
Erika  
Fred  
Grace  
Henri  
Ida  
Joaquin  
Kate  
Larry  
Mindy  
Nicholas  
Odette  
Peter  
Rose  
Sam  
Teresa  
Victor  
Wanda



Choppee Facility  
11-2007

# Staging Area

