



Chatham County Board of Commissioners  
124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

**News Release  
For Immediate Release**

**Chatham County Update of Hurricane Matthew**

Savannah, GA – (October 8, 2016) Storm surge related to Hurricane Matthew set a record, with measurements at Tybee Island showing 12.5 feet. The previous record was set in 1979 when Hurricane David pushed sea levels to 12.2 feet.

Highest measured sustained winds in Chatham County reached 48 mph on the coast. Highest measured gusts reached 80 mph at 2:43 a.m. Saturday on Tybee Island.

Georgia Power reports 133,755 customers without power in Chatham County.

Storm response will now shift to rendering the area safe for follow-on first responders conducting life safety operations.

The first people to re-enter the storm-affected area will be first responders and private sector utility providers such as power companies. Other entities responding in Phase I include:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Services
- Search and Rescue Resources
- Emergency Medical Services
- Government Officials

Law enforcement officers will be staged at entry points to ensure those who enter the storm-affected area are properly credentialed.

**Storm track**

According to the National Weather Service, the eye of Hurricane Matthew is now 20 miles off the coast of Hilton Head, S.C.

The storm is moving toward the north-northeast near 12 mph, and this general motion is expected to continue this morning. A turn toward the northeast is expected by this afternoon.

On the forecast track, the center of Matthew will move near or over the coast of South Carolina this morning, and be near the coast of southern North Carolina by tonight.

Reports from the reconnaissance aircraft indicate that maximum sustained winds remain near 105 mph with higher gusts. Although the hurricane is forecast to weaken during the next 48 hours, Matthew is expected to remain a hurricane while the center is near the coasts of South Carolina and North Carolina.

Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 45 miles from the center, and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 185 miles. Hurricane-force wind gusts are now occurring along the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina from Tybee Island, Ga., to Pritchards Island, S.C.

Chatham County Residents are strongly advised to continue to shelter in place until officials advise that it is safe to go outdoors.

Gov. Nathan Deal's mandatory evacuation order remains in effect.

American Red Cross shelters remain open and continue to accept evacuees. More information about shelter occupancy is available at <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery/find-an-open-shelter>

As always, for the most up-to-date information, check [www.chathamemergency.org](http://www.chathamemergency.org), [www.chathamcounty.org](http://www.chathamcounty.org), [www.savannahga.gov](http://www.savannahga.gov)

###

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Kristin Fulford**

**PIO**

**912-201-4500 (Office)**

**912-429-1908 (Cell)**