



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

CHATHAM COUNTY EXPANDS EVACUATION ORDER

SAVANNAH, GA (October 6, 2016) - Effective immediately, Chatham County has expanded the evacuation order. There is now a mandatory evacuation order for all areas east of the Wilmington River and other low lying areas throughout the County including Skidaway Island and all areas in and about rivers or tributaries. There is now an evacuation order in place for ALL OF CHATHAM COUNTY. Residents are urged to evacuate to an area where you will be safe.

At 6 a.m., Chatham Emergency Management Agency moved into OPCON 2. OPCON 2 includes 24 hour operations. Chatham County is now in the evacuation phase.

Chatham County is currently under a Hurricane Watch. The forecast track remains a threat to Chatham County. Hurricane Matthew is traveling north at 12 MPH. Tropical storm winds are approximately 490 miles from Chatham County.

Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 40 miles from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 160 miles.

Significant coastal flooding is possible mid to late week. High surf, large breaking waves are also possible.

Tybee Island has a mandatory evacuation in place as of 3:00 pm Wednesday, October 5.

The American Red Cross has opened a number of shelters across Georgia including the following:

- Bibb County: Hephzibah Children's Home, 6601 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA 31220
- Bibb County: North Macon Park, 815 North Macon Park Drive, Macon, GA 31220 (opening at 10 a.m.)
- Colquitt County: First Baptist Church, 400 Main St, Moultrie, GA 31768
- Emanuel County: Swainsboro Rec. Dept., 632 McLeod Bridge Rd, Swainsboro, GA 30401
- Lowndes County: Park Avenue Methodist Church, 100 E. Park Ave., Valdosta, GA 31602
- Peach County: Peach County Fire Station 6, 1770 US Hwy 341, Fort Valley, GA 31030
- Richmond County: Trinity on the Hill United Methodist Church, 1330 Monte Sano Ave, Augusta, GA 30904

If someone is going to a shelter, they should bring any prescription medications, extra clothing, pillows, blankets, hygiene supplies, important documents and other comfort items. They should also include any special items for children such as diapers, formula and toys, and items needed by family members with unique needs.

Any person that elects not to evacuate should be prepared to ride out the storm in a secure area with three days' non-perishable provisions and adequate drinking water, given the potential for loss of power for 72 hours or greater.

Citizens with functional medical needs (FMN) should call the Chatham County Public Health Department at 912-691-7443 for help with finding resources.

Georgia Power has activated their emergency center. They are closely monitoring the storm and power grid. They have initialized preparedness efforts and are ready to respond to any power outages when safe to do so.

For the most up-to-date information, check www.chathamemergency.org and www.chathamcounty.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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