

GREENWOOD COUNTY HURRICANE PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

A. General. The policy of the Greenwood County is to be prepared for any emergency or disaster. South Carolina State Regulations 58-1 and 58-101 require contingency plans and implementing procedures for major hazards, such as hurricanes, led by the state and coordinated with counties that have a potential of being impacted. The Greenwood County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) augmented by this hurricane plan, and the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), meet the requirements of the stated regulations.

B. This plan establishes specific policies and procedures to be followed by Greenwood County when responding to the threat of a tropical cyclone approaching South Carolina and immediately after impact. This Plan, addresses post-landfall operations if Greenwood County is impacted by a hurricane. The Greenwood County Hurricane Plan duplicates, in part, the State Plan and supplements actions necessary to be taken regarding tornadoes, flooding and high winds. These three possibilities are the threat to this county.

C. Review this annex and the EOP and develop Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for each task established by this appendix and the EOP. Each SOP will insure that the special needs community is factored in.

D. Annually review the State EOP & Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.

II. PURPOSE

This plan is focused on preventing or minimizing injury to people and damage to property or to the environment resulting from a tropical cyclone. This plan will insure proper planning and coordinating of resources to warning, evacuating, and sheltering. Greenwood County's threat analysis indicates our most common threat resulting from a coastal hurricane to be tornadoes, flooding, or high wind damage. Our supporting role for the coastal areas is that we provide shelters and/or relocating county resources to support their recovery.

III. THREAT

A. South Carolina is susceptible to all levels of tropical cyclones, from tropical depressions to severe category 5 hurricanes. These tropical cyclones produce four major hazards: the storm surge, high winds, rainfall-induced flooding, and tornadoes. Greenwood County is susceptible to high winds, rainfall-induced flooding and tornadoes.

1. 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. Wind is the greatest cause of property damage inland of the coast.

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2. Rainfall-induced Flooding. Widespread torrential rains, often in excess of 6 inches, can produce deadly and destructive floods. Long after the winds have subsided, hurricanes can generate immense amounts of rain. In 1999, Hurricane Floyd produced high rainfall totals that resulted in devastating floods in South and North Carolina.

3. Tornadoes. While the threat exists for tornadoes to develop in all storm quadrants, they primarily develop in the northeast quadrant of the storm, possibly as much as 200-400 miles from the storm's center of circulation. Tornadoes can potentially become very strong, causing extensive damage to buildings and loss of life. Greenwood County's primary threat is this residual effect of a hurricane.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Conglomerate Operations. For hurricane-related activities, South Carolina operates on a regional basis. These regions are called the Southern Coastal Conglomerate, the Central Coastal Conglomerate, the Northern Coastal Conglomerate, and the Western Hurricane Conglomerate. Greenwood County is part of the Western Conglomerate. Other counties within this group are: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union, and York.

One of the primary roles of the Western Conglomerate will be host evacuating families. We are a secondary element of coastal evacuation and therefore support will be focused on facilitating movement of vehicles to or through the county. In this regard a roadside assistance mission is the county's primary role and plans to support movement of families through the county or to shelters and/or accommodation will be developed in standard operating procedures publications. Public Works in coordination with the SCDOT will have the lead in developing plans and procedures for roadside assistance.

B. Hurricane evacuations are planned and conducted on a conglomerate basis, meaning that inland conglomerate counties support the coastal county evacuations through evacuation route traffic control and evacuation shelter operations. Evacuation routes have been developed which originate in coastal counties and flow generally east - west through inland counties of the same conglomerate. When executed, evacuations take place as a conglomerate, whereby all coastal counties within each conglomerate simultaneously conduct evacuation operations.

C. Evacuation Clearance Times are also calculated and employed on a conglomerate basis, whereby the most restrictive (longest) conglomerate clearance time for the given storm category and tourist occupancy percentage is used to plan the dates and times of recommended mandatory and voluntary evacuations. When more than one conglomerate will evacuate, the longest clearance time in any evacuating conglomerate will be used to plan evacuation start dates and times.

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D. Greenwood County adopts the evacuation terminology used in the State plan. Purpose is to prevent confusion and misunderstanding regarding evacuation issues. Affected County ESF primaries and supporting departments and/or agencies will become familiar with these terms:

1. Estimated Evacuation Clearance Times. Clearance time begins when the first evacuating vehicle enters the road network and ends when the last evacuating vehicle reaches an assumed point of safety.

2. Evacuation Zones. Areas in coastal counties vulnerable to storm surge inundation and rainfall-induced flooding.

3. Hurricane Tracking Tools. Several computer programs are used to track hurricanes during the life of a tropical storm. The primary program used in South Carolina is HURREVAC.

4. Voluntary Evacuation. In the event a hurricane begins to pose a threat to the coast, local officials or the Governor can recommend that those citizens who feel uncomfortable about the storm leave the area. This action is considered a voluntary evacuation. During a voluntary evacuation, voluntary evacuation shelters will be opened.

5. Mandatory Evacuation. The Governor is the only person legally authorized to order and compels evacuation in South Carolina. The SCEMD Director will recommend to the Governor that a mandatory evacuation be ordered, and will propose a timetable. During a mandatory evacuation, mandatory evacuation shelters will be opened in accordance with this plan.

6. Lane Reversal. Altering the flow of traffic in a manner that traffic on all available lanes is moving in the same direction. Based on the situation, information and recommendations provided by the Emergency Traffic Management, ESF-16, the SCEMD Director will assess the situation and in coordination with SCDPS and SCDOT, as well as the impacted counties, make a recommendation to the Governor regarding implementation of the reversal plan.

7. Counter Flow. Altering the flow of traffic in such a manner to allow for at least one lane of traffic to remain in the normal flow direction. On a four-lane highway, three lanes of traffic would move in one direction with one lane moving in the opposite direction.

8. Protective Relocation. Inland counties are not vulnerable to the storm surge; however, they are at risk to high winds and rain-induced flooding associated with hurricanes. In order to protect this population, it may be necessary to relocate those living in vulnerable structures or low-lying areas. The decision to issue a protective relocation order is the responsibility of each inland county's public officials based on local authority. The SEOC will assist and provide guidance and recommendations.

9. Reentry. Reentry is the transition from evacuation and landfall to the recovery phase. Once the threat of the hurricane has passed or the hurricane has made landfall and initial damage assessment reports are evaluated, the SCEMD Director will recommend that the Governor rescind the mandatory evacuation order and advise citizens to refer to local officials for direction on reentry. A recommendation to the Governor regarding reversing roadway

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lanes eastbound is based on initial damage assessments and guidance from the Emergency Traffic Management, ESF-16. Although the SEOC will immediately begin coordination of reentry operations, reentry is managed at the local level.

10. Voluntary Evacuation Shelter. In the event that the Governor recommends a voluntary evacuation, all voluntary evacuation shelters within the impacted conglomerate will be prepared to open within four hours.

11. Mandatory Evacuation Shelter. In the event a mandatory evacuation is ordered by the Governor, all mandatory evacuation shelters within the impacted conglomerate will be open within four hours of the mandatory evacuation decision. All voluntary shelters remain open.

12. Reserve Shelter. In the event that the demand for shelters exceeds the capacity of the voluntary and mandatory evacuation shelters, reserve shelters will be opened. This might occur because of a higher than anticipated shelter demand or because of a major hurricane (category 3-5). The State EOC will notify Greenwood County EOC of the need for opening our reserve shelters. Greenwood County has 3 reserve shelters identified. Refer to the standard operating procedures on Hurricanes for current guidance.

13. Shelter Emergency Capacity. This is the number of evacuees that a shelter can accommodate. During a hurricane landfall event, capacity is based on 20 square feet per person.

14. Sheltering Requirement. This is an estimate of the vulnerable population needing shelter within each conglomerate. This value is a planning tool for the population that can be accommodated by the shelter emergency capacity.

E. To ensure that all organizations within South Carolina have coordinated response activities, the following OPCONs are followed. Greenwood County adopts and complies with State OPCON guidance. State Plan is restated for County Planners information any additions are underlined.

1. OPCON 5: This OPCON indicates that the SEOC and County EOC are at normal day-to-day operations. Prior to hurricane season, all hurricane plans will be reviewed and points of contact/telephone numbers verified. During hurricane season, all storms are tracked and monitored at this level.

2. OPCON 4: Once it is determined that a storm poses a possible threat to SC, the SEOC and affected County EOCs will move to OPCON 4. The primary events that will occur at this level are the notification of key personnel of the hazard, and initiation of preparatory activities. EOCs will be under "Partial Activation," primarily staffed by emergency management personnel. Greenwood County EOC will monitor situation and the Emergency Service Director will make the determination if we move to higher state of readiness. The Emergency Management Coordinator will begin review of the County Recovery Plan and staffing of the EOC in accordance with guidance in the County's Operating Conducts Procedures contained in Tab A to Appendix 2 of the County Hurricane Plan.

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3. OPGON 3: Once public officials have sufficient information that a storm poses a significant threat to SC, the SEOC and affected County EOCs will move to OPGON 3. This decision will be based on each individual storm's characteristics. EOCs will be under "Limited Activation," staffed by emergency management personnel and key support agencies. The primary events that will occur in this stage include evacuation discussions (including voluntary evacuation and mandatory evacuation), holding pre-evacuation conferences and other preparatory activities. Greenwood County EOC will monitor situation and the Emergency Service Director will make the determination if we move to higher state of readiness. Emergency Management Coordinator will begin review of the County Recovery Plan and staffing of the EOC in accordance with guidance in the County's Operating Conducts Procedures contained in Tab A to Appendix 2 of the County Hurricane Plan.

4. OPGON 2: Once a state-level decision is made that a voluntary evacuation or mandatory evacuation order is imminent, the level automatically moves to OPGON 2. EOCs will be under "Full Activation" at this level. Greenwood County EOC will monitor situation and the Emergency Service Director will make the determination if we move to higher state of readiness. Emergency Management Coordinator will begin review of the County Recovery Plan and staffing of the EOC in accordance with guidance in the County's Operating Conducts Procedures contained in Tab A to Appendix 2 of the County Hurricane Plan.

5. OPGON 1: Once a voluntary evacuation recommendation or mandatory evacuation order is announced to the public, the level automatically moves to OPGON 1. At this level, the SEOC and County EOCs will coordinate the evacuation. EOCs will remain at OPGON 1 through storm landfall, reentry and into the response phase. Greenwood County EOC will monitor situation and the Emergency Service Director will make the determination if we move to higher state of readiness. Emergency Management Coordinator will begin review of the County Recovery Plan and staffing of the EOC in accordance with guidance in the County's Operating Conducts Procedures contained in Tab A to Appendix 2 of the County Hurricane Plan.

G. The Evacuation Decision Timeline describes the major activities leading to hurricane evacuation decisions. For further information on State Evacuation Decision Timeline refer to the State Hurricane Plan.

H. Procedural Agreements. (State Plan restated for County Planners for information only)

1. Conglomerate Evacuations. If the Governor determines the situation requires a mandatory evacuation, the SCEMD Director will recommend that the order be based on conglomerates, not on individual counties. The SCEMD Director will recommend that the Governor order the evacuation of one, two, or all coastal conglomerates. In addition, all conglomerate counties agree to participate in their conglomerate evacuation if it is ordered. This agreement is critical to the successful development and implementation of the South Carolina Hurricane Plan.

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2. Operating Condition Levels. The counties within each conglomerate will function as a team. When one member county moves to a higher OPCON, all counties within the conglomerate will consider moving to the higher level. The SEOC will assess the situation and consider moving to a higher OPCON level if a county moves to one. The SEOC and county EOCs are not required to remain at the same OPCON. Operational considerations inherent in state-level evacuation preparations often require the state to move to a higher OPCON level earlier than county EOCs.

3. Communications and Information. Within each conglomerate, one county has been designated as the lead county. This designation is based primarily on the county with the longest evacuation time within each conglomerate. During hurricane operations, the lead county should inform all other conglomerate counties and the SEOC of their current status. If this is not feasible, the conglomerate county EOCs should refer to SEOC situation reports in WebEOC for county status. The SEOC will consider providing a Liaison Officer to each conglomerate lead county EOC to assist in disseminating information among the conglomerate counties and to serve as a conglomerate point of contact to the SEOC.

4. During OPCON 4 and higher, the SEOC will schedule conference calls with the coastal county EOCs. County EOCs to be included are Jasper, Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Georgetown, and Horry. The format for these calls is first the latest hurricane forecast will be reported by the National Weather Service, SEOC Chief of Operations will report SEOC status, county directors will report local operational status and raise concerns/issues regarding hurricane operations, and the Director will discuss executive level evacuation decision or reentry status. Once the area to be evacuated is determined, the SEOC will schedule a conglomerate conference call to discuss evacuation operations.

5. Emergency Public Information. (State Plan restated for County Planners information only. Any County input will be underlined)

a. To prevent or minimize hurricane-related loss of life, damage to property, and harm to the environment in South Carolina, government on all levels will provide consistent, coordinated, accurate, and timely information to the at-risk public. The information flow will begin long before the existence of an imminent hurricane threat, it will intensify as a hurricane approaches, and it will continue in the storm's aftermath. This plan focuses on pre-landfall and reentry issues.

b. Prior to and during initial hurricane threats, the public will be made aware of potential ill effects and of actions necessary to safeguard lives and property. As a hurricane approaches, the public will be advised of prudent protective actions. After a storm departs, evacuees will be informed of when and on what routes they can return home.

c State government information of greatest public interest during evacuation and reentry includes, but is not limited to: voluntary and mandatory evacuation orders (primary source Governor's Office, SCEMD), road closures (primary source DOT), traffic management (primary source DPS), law enforcement (primary source SLED), shelter locations and availability (DSS, American Red Cross Hurricane Watch), school closures (DOE), water quality and nursing home issues (DHEC), bridge closures (DOT, DNR),

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boating restrictions (DNR), state office closings (Governor's Office), state park closures (PRT), insurance issues (DOI). Private sector information of great public interest includes that regarding employers' hours and days of operation; insurance coverage; power outages; telephone service; nursing home, hospital, and other health-care facilities; accommodations for pets; and motel availability. NOTE: Greenwood County EOC will be the focal point for obtaining necessary information regarding above identified responsible state agencies. The EOC Manager will insure he establishes contact with above agencies and keeps the Emergency Service Director informed on issues affecting Greenwood County.

d. In general, state government news releases will be issued to the media statewide and to national and international media as appropriate, with priority consideration given to the media most able to effectively communicate with the at-risk population. Example press releases and EAS messages can be found in Annex 1, State Operating Conditions. Refer to Tab A to Appendix 2 of the County Hurricane Plan for county guidance.

VI. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

General. This plan is the principal source of documentation concerning the Greenwood County's hurricane emergency activities. The American Red Cross has assisted in the development of this plan. The county Emergency Management Director will annually review this plan at the end of each hurricane season (November 30). At a minimum, this plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. Annual review and update/revision will be completed prior to June 1.