I. INTRODUCTION

A. General

- 1. The following Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline describes the major activities from initiation of response through post reentry. Prior to a storm, times are expressed in "E-Hour" format, which is the number of hours prior to beginning evacuation operations. "H-Hour" is defined as arrival of tropical storm force winds. The exact correlation between E-Hour and H-Hour timing may differ by hurricane region.
- 2. The SERT is expected to complete procedures outlined in their respective ESF SOP and the SCEOP.

B. Purpose

- 1. The timeline below provides a general outline of the timely actions that need to be completed prior to an evacuation and immediately after impacts. This is not an exhaustive list of the activities an agency is completing leading up to tropical cyclone impacts, but rather a checklist of the crucial preparations and decisions that need to be made.
- 2. This timeline begins 96 hours prior to an evacuation. For situations with less than 96 hours of lead time before an evacuation order, the actions below will be compressed into the time available.
- C. Scope

Items in **BOLD** are time sensitive events/decisions whose delay will have a negative effect on successful execution of an evacuation.

Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline						
OPCON	Time Prior	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)				
Level	to					
	Evacuation					
3	E-96 Hours/ 4 Days	 SCEMD: Continue updating SCEMD staff, SERT, and counties with each forecast cycle during business hours. ESF-6: SC Department of Social Services (DSS) coordinates with Red Cross on sheltering planning and possible staffing/resources needs. ESF-8: Notify licensed healthcare facilities of potential evacuation timing. Recommend census reduction measures and stop admission of non-emergent patient procedures for hospitals statewide. Recommend licensed healthcare facilities contact transportation providers for potential evacuation planning. Conduct initial coordination with FEMA regarding potential resource requests. ESF-10: Conduct initial coordination on possible activations of the Disaster Coordination Team (DCT). 				
2	E-72 Hours/ 3 Days	 Governor: Sign Governor's State of Emergency Declaration to support disaster operations and activate State National Guard. SCEMD: Activate the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Notify ESFs and State agencies to initiate ESF Annex and SOP activities and staff the SEOC as required. Notify ESFs 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 16, and 19 to begin preparations for a potential evacuation. Activate the Disaster Intelligence Group. Prepare and submit request for letter for a Presidential emergency declaration, direct federal assistance, and category B protective measures to the Governor's Office for review and signature. Coordinate with FEMA for remote sensing and initiate imagery collection event with USGS. Create a new State incident in Palmetto. Notify contingency contracts of possible activation. Coordinate with coastal counties and ESFs 1 and 16 to determine potential mass transportation requirements. (See Annex B) ESF-2: Fuel equipment and communications generators. ESF-6: Initiate Cot Distribution Plan if required. 				

	Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline					
OPCON Level	Time Prior to Evacuation	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)				
2	E-72 Hours/ 3 Days cont'd.	 ESF-6, cont'd: Begin the shelter selection process in accordance with Annex H of the State Hurricane Plan. ESF-8: Initiate ambulance contract for Mandatory Medical Evacuation, if required. Mobilize and monitor Emergency Medical Services transport. Maintain accountability for instate EMS resources to ensure appropriate utilization, activation, and deactivation. Monitor status of federal ambulance contract, if requested. ESF-10: Prepare Department of Environmental Services (DES)'s Disaster Coordination Center (DCC). Reserve the DCC facility and verify telephone lines are functional. ESF-14: Communicate with FEMA Region 4 regarding the potential for emergency declaration request. ESF-15: Enhance public awareness campaign. ESF-16: Issue warning order to SC Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) troopers. If insufficient time to issue Warning Order, SCDPS may have to warn and deploy forces as trooper shift work dictates, and phase augmenting troopers to prioritized Traffic Control Points (TCP). May request representatives from ESF-13 and SCNG to assist with TCPs. ESF-19: Initiate National Guard Hurricane Contingency Operations Plan to begin a phased activation of National Guard Support. If there is insufficient time to issue order or activate support, may need to source units through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Consider recommending National Guard request for Title 32 funding support.				

Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline						
OPCON Level	Time Prior to Evacuation	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)				
2	E-60 Hours	 Governor: Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mass Transportation Plan. SCEMD: Submit Governor's request for emergency declaration to President via FEMA Region 4 regional administrator. Confirm mass transportation requirements with transportation contractor, ESF-1, and coastal counties. ESF-1: Notify the Department of Education of possible support requirements for Mass Transportation Plan. Coordinate with SCEMD and coastal counties to confirm mass transportation requirements. Contact portable toilet and bottled water vendors to support set-up of comfort stations. ESF-17: Conduct food/agriculture/animal pre-assessments. Verify Point of Distribution (POD) locations. 				
2	E-48 Hours/ 2 Days	 Governor: Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mandatory Medical Evacuation (sign Mandatory Medical Evacuation Order w/ exceptions). SCEMD/ESF-1/16: Evaluate criteria for lane reversal actions (see Base Plan). SCEMD/ESF-6: Coordinate with counties to confirm evacuation support shelter locations (see Annex H). ESF-8: Initiate emergency radio communications tests among hospitals and public health departments. ESF-16: Preposition all Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) equipment. ESF-19: Identify routes for deployment and support. 				

	Evacı	ation Decision and Response Timeline
OPCON	PCON Time Prior to Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Wind	
Level	Evacuation	(timings are situation dependent)
2	E-36 Hours	 Governor: Draft Executive Order for General Population Evacuation. SCEMD: Coordinate with counties on a recommendation regarding zone evacuations. Coordinate with pre-identified counties and partners to support Vehicle Staging Areas and Collection Points in support of mass transportation operations (See Annex B). ESF-2: Prepare state cache equipment and assign talk-groups/frequency channels. ESF-9: Initiate Search and Rescue (SAR) Planning Cell. Initiate EMAC discussions.

	Evacı	ation Decision and Response Timeline				
OPCON	Time Prior to Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Wind					
Level	Evacuation	(timings are situation dependent)				
1	E-24 Hours	 Governor: Go/No-Go decision on Evacuation (sign Evacuation Order). SCEMD: Notify Public Information Phone System (PIPS) staffing Point of Contact that PIPS operations will begin at specified time. Collaborate with ESF-1, ESF-16, and counties on a recommendation regarding lane reversals. ESF-4: Finalize staging of staff and equipment. ESF-6: Identify resources and prepare shelter teams for deployment. Update status of shelters and staffing resource gaps. ESF-8 If signed, execute Mandatory Medical Evacuation Operations (MMEO). ESF-9: Finalize staging of staff and equipment. ESF-9: Finalize staging of staff and equipment. ESF-9: Finalize staging of staff and equipment. ESF-9: Finalize staging of staff and equipment. ESF-10: Activate the DES Disaster Coordination Center and contact the first shift personnel with time to report to the center. ESF-16: Pre-position SCDPS TCP personnel into the area(s) as appropriate. Activate Evacuation Messaging on DOT messaging boards (with ESF-1). ESF-19:				

Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline						
OPCON Level	Time Prior to Evacuation	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)				
1	E-12 Hours	 Governor: Go/No-Go on lane reversals. Mass Transportation Plan Equipment and personnel in place at Embarkation/Debarkation points. Vehicles are in place at Vehicle Staging Areas. ESF-6: If Mass Transportation Plan is activated, have a mass care liaison present at Collection Points to route buses to designated shelters. ESF-15: Issue news releases delineating evacuation zones. Initiate Public Information program to announce Mass Transportation Plan. 				
1	E-6 to E-3 Hours	 Governor: Announce evacuation. Mass Transportation vehicles move to Forward Staging Areas. Vehicles begin moving evacuees to designated shelters. Process is permitted to continue until two hours prior to the arrival of tropical storm-force winds. SCEMD: Activate PIPS and announce telephone number. Prepare to compile damage assessment information and coordinate damage assessment operations. ESF-15: Focus public information campaign specifically on evacuation information. Re-issue releases delineating evacuation zones. ESF-16: Stage resources in preparation for lane reversals and implement reversals if ordered. ESF-19: Civil Support Team deploys as required. 				

Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline							
OPCON Level	Time Prior to Evacuation	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)					
1	E-Hour	 ESF-6: Open designated Evacuation Support Shelters ESF-13: Operate security missions If National Guard is not activated for traffic reversal TCPs, Law Enforcement Personnel working security missions will be utilized on TCPs. Once reversal is complete, these officers will return to security missions. ESF-13/ESF-19: TCPs staffed and prepared to control traffic in support of ESF-16. ESF-15: Coordinate and issue Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Messages (IPAWS) as requested or directed. Estended Coordinate and issue Security Security Coordinate and Security Secur					

Evacuation can take 48 hours or more and will be followed by a period of time awaiting storm arrival which will be used by all individuals and organizations for final preparation. Force protection is a primary focus.

A continuous effort to remain in contact with affected areas by all means available, as well as monitoring the status of shelters, development of known logistical or resource requirements, and maintenance of communication during the event is essential. Efforts will focus on the preservation of life and property, as well as the potential needs in the post-storm environment. Through coordination with affected counties, the SEOC will coordinate public information and required resources for reentry based on county decision and priorities.

II. POST-IMPACT RESPONSE TIMELINE

A. Introduction

The activities in this timeline reflect only specific items. ESFs will refer to the SCEOP and their internal SOPs to address all specific topics and tasks.

Priorities for immediate post-landfall activities will focus on:

- Search and rescue
- Rapid damage assessment
- Re-establishing communications

Post-Impact Response Timeline				
OPCON	Time	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window		
Level	Post-Impact	(timings are situation dependent)		
1	Departure of Tropical Storm Force Winds +0-6 Hours	 SCEMD: Re-establish communications to critical facilities (e.g. – Emergency Operations Centers (EOC), hospitals, shelters, etc.). Assemble information for and prepare a draft request for a Presidential major disaster declaration as required. Coordinate with counties on resource needs for the response and recovery phase. ESF-1: Determine status of road network. ESF-2: Determine status of communications networks; re-establish communications to all affected areas, determine needs and requirements. Prepare communications plan to support disaster areas. Deploy emergency communications support teams and assets as needed. ESF-10: Assess state regulated dams in affected areas. 		

III. REENTRY AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS

Once the Governor rescinds an evacuation order, reentry operations may begin. Reentry is the transition phase to recovery operations. The SEOC remains at OPCON 1 during reentry. Reentry is a local decision. At a minimum, the following areas/ESFs should consider and accomplish the listed items in the table below.

Reentry and Recovery Operations		
Agency/ESF	Actions	
SCEMD	 Coordinate with the Governor's Office on an executive order rescinding evacuation order. Coordinate with affected counties to determine areas suitable for reentry. 	
ESF-1 Transportation	 Prepare for equipment/personnel requests from counties affected by the storm. Position signage (variable message boards, road markers) to facilitate reentry as required. 	
ESF-3 Public Works and Engineering	 Provide information regarding water and sewer system disruption and re-establishment. Provide information regarding damage to public infrastructure and repair of public infrastructure to include critical facilities. 	
ESF-4 Firefighting	Conduct aerial damage assessments of timber and reentry routes.	
ESF-6 Mass Care	 DSS to implement closing and consolidation procedures in coordination with Red Cross and counties (see Multi-Agency Shelter Transition Plan, Annex 6, Attachment 1) 	
ESF-10 Environmental and Hazardous Materials Operations	Assess hazardous material threats in affected areas.	
ESF-11 Food Services	Assess and acquire food stocks as required.	

ESF-14 Initial Recovery and Mitigation	d h D F	Engage counties in identifying temporary housing sites, developing temporary housing plans, and implementing federal nousing assistance programs if needed. Facilitate information sharing with VOADs and Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) to address unmet needs of survivors.
ESF-17 Agriculture & Animals	c D C a	Assist with dissemination of information regarding reentry for critical food supply chains and agribusinesses. Coordinate available resources to support recovery of agribusiness and animal issues. Conduct food/agriculture/animal needs assessments.
ESF-19 Military Support	• P	Prepare to execute SCNG recovery operations plan.

IV. EVACUATION TIMELINES

Featured on the following pages are four evacuation timelines: 24-hour, 36-hour, 48-hour, and compressed. The evacuation timelines serve as an outline of the state's actions leading up to tropical cyclone impacts, and the timeline selection is determined by the amount of time necessary or available to complete an effective evacuation.





36-hour Evacuation Planning Timeline

***H-hours are in reference to hours prior to the arrival of Tropical Storm force winds



***H-hours are in reference to hours prior to the arrival of Tropical Storm force winds

Compressed Evacuation Planning Timeline



***E-hours are in reference to hours prior to Evacuation

***H-hours are in reference to hours prior to the arrival of Tropical Storm force winds