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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Governor Extends Voluntary Evacuation To Include Entire S.C. Coast

COLUMBIA, S.C. (October 16, 1999, 6 p.m.) - Governor Jim Hodges Saturday evening extended his call for a voluntary evacuation to include people in vulnerable areas along the entire South Carolina coast.

"The forecast for Hurricane Irene now indicates that it could cause significant rainfall, flooding and gusting high winds anywhere along South Carolina's coast," Hodges said . He again advised people in vulnerable areas to take appropriate precautions and consider moving inland.

People on barrier islands or ocean-front property and those living in low-lying areas or along rivers and streams are especially vulnerable, as are people in mobile homes.

The Governor also advised residents along the entire coast to heed warnings issued by local officials and National Weather Service offices.

American Red Cross shelters in Berkeley, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Marion and Williamsburg counties were open at 4 p.m. Additional shelters will be open in Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper counties by 8 p.m.

One-hundred-eighty-three state law enforcement officers have been called to duty and dispatched to the coast to help local law enforcement personnel with the evacuation.

At 1 p.m. today, Hodges called for voluntary evacuation of the coast from Edisto Beach to Little River Inlet; he has now extended that area to include the entire coast.

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