



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Voluntary Evacuation Extended to Include Portions of Charleston County

Columbia, S.C. – September 12, 2005 10:00 P.M.– Governor Mark Sanford has extended the areas under voluntary evacuation to include a portion of Charleston County as Ophelia threatens coastal areas.

Earlier today, the governor issued a voluntary evacuation for parts of Horry and Georgetown counties. The storm continues on a path that potentially may bring tropical storm-force winds, possible tornadoes, storm surge, the potential for severe localized flooding and heavy rains to parts of the South Carolina coast and beyond.

“People on barrier islands, oceanfront property, property in low-lying areas, property along rivers and streams, and people in mobile homes and at campgrounds are especially at risk,” the governor said. “It is urgent that they give extremely careful consideration to moving inland.”

Gov. Sanford’s voluntary evacuation includes within Charleston, Horry and Georgetown counties as specified by local officials:

In Charleston County, the evacuation includes the East Cooper area from Highway 41 at the intersection of Highway 17, north to the Georgetown County Line.

In Horry County, the evacuation includes all areas on and east of Business U.S. 17 in the southern Grand Strand and on and east of U.S. 17 in the Northern Grand Strand, mobile homes in all areas of the county, and areas in the county prone to flooding.

In Georgetown County, the evacuation includes all areas on and east of U.S. 17 and U.S. 17 Bypass in the northern portion of the county, mobile homes in all areas of the county, and areas in the county prone to flooding.



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The governor also reiterated that the potential for severe weather is not limited to the coast. “Again, I want people to know that this is a serious storm that’s got the potential to do a lot of damage and put lives in jeopardy if we don’t take it seriously.”

State assets are ready for an evacuation. Gov. Sanford asked the public to continue to monitor the storm, especially people in low-lying areas along the entire South Carolina coast.

The American Red Cross and local officials have opened open the following shelters. Others will be opened if needed.

Shelters For Charleston County Evacuees:

S.C. National Guard Armory
245 Mathis Ferry Road (one block north of Johnnie Dodds Boulevard)
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
843-884-2831 or 843-884-2832

Shelters for Horry County Evacuees:

Conway High School
2301 Church Street
Conway, S.C.

Loris Elementary School
901 East Highway 9 Business
Loris, S.C.

Shelter for Georgetown County Evacuees:

Pleasant Hill Elementary School
127 Schoolhouse Drive
Hemingway, S.C.

The shelter at Hemingway will also accommodate people with special medical needs.



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The American Red Cross will announce additional shelter availability if it is needed. People in manufactured housing should be particularly cautious, and people in all other South Carolina counties (particularly those near the coast) should monitor their local media for possible instructions from local officials.

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