

COMPRESSED TIMELINE CONTINGENCY PLAN

I. PURPOSE

- A. Address planned response priority actions by the state for a short notice hurricane event.
- B. Provide posture to respond to local resource gaps and requirements in the event that an evacuation or sheltering operation is needed.
- C. Reduce and mitigate risks to the public through active coordination with public and private partners.
- D. Provide baseline guidance for a short notice hurricane event, with the understanding that a compressed timeline may only allow for priority actions to be executed and partially completed.
- E. This contingency plan will be incorporated into the standing SC Hurricane Plan (Appendix A to the SCEOP).

II. MISSION

Maximize preparedness and operational response in the event of a short notice hurricane in order to protect life and property, prioritizing core actions as time may not allow for all respective agency responsibilities to be executed.

III. ASSUMPTIONS

- A. South Carolina will generally receive several days' notice of impending tropical cyclone activity through the National Hurricane Center (NHC), the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Weather Service (NWS). However, there is the potential for tropical cyclones to form with much less notice, such as 2004 when Hurricane Gaston generated 140 miles off the South Carolina coast, growing from a Tropical Depression to a Category 1 hurricane in 48 hours.
- B. A short notice hurricane event is a reasonable worst-case scenario for South Carolina.
- C. A tropical storm strengthening to a hurricane in as little as 2-3 days would result in the decision point on the evacuation timeline (to successfully conduct a full coastal evacuation), being exceeded, and prior to any evacuation initial actions.
- D. A short notice hurricane may bring with it a significant rainfall event.
- E. State agencies will have to assume a level of risk when determining what priority actions can be safely completed in time and those that cannot.

- F. The compressed timeline for a short notice hurricane event may not allow enough time to order or pre-stage evacuation resources and assets.
- G. Hurricane intensity and track will determine the number of evacuees.
- H. Traffic density may be increased due to compressed timeframe.
- I. Federal resources are not likely to provide significant lifesaving or life-sustaining capabilities until after the event.
- J. The response capabilities of local jurisdictions may be overwhelmed. Local first responders may be among those affected, impacting their ability to perform their duties.
- K. A tropical cyclone affecting South Carolina may have significant interstate impacts including potential impacts on evacuations, housing, transit, search and rescue, law enforcement coordination, and other areas.
- L. Evacuations may be on-going after the onset of tropical storm force winds.

IV. SITUATION

- A. South Carolina as an Atlantic state, coupled with its extensive 187-mile coastline, makes it highly vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes moving across the Atlantic Ocean. South Carolina is susceptible to all levels of tropical cyclones, from tropical depressions to Category 5 hurricanes. Inland counties may be directly affected by tropical hazards such as high winds, flooding, and tornadoes.
- B. A densely populated coastal region, especially during peak tourist seasons, coupled with generally low coastal elevations, significantly increases the state's vulnerability.
- C. Tropical cyclones produce four (4) major hazards:
 - 1. Storm Surge
 - 2. Rainfall Induced Flooding
 - 3. High Winds
 - 4. Tornadoes
- D. A short notice event, requiring an evacuation impacting multiple counties will pose a severe strain on the limited pool of local and state governmental resources. These resources may include but are not limited to sheltering, staffing at evacuee support sites, and transportation assets.

- E. Authorized state and local officials may not have time to implement all or portions of their respective Critical Transportation Need evacuation plans.
- F. Refer to the SC Hurricane Plan (Appendix A to the SCEOP), for further information.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. The Compressed Timeline CONOP requires evacuation and sheltering decisions to be executed inside our normal decision arc. All actions may not be completed to the same fidelity and in depth as would occur with a storm that develops farther out in time and space. Response focus is the evacuation and sheltering of the most exposed residents and critical facilities to reduce the threat to personnel and property.
- B. The Compressed Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline assumes that the onset of tropical storm force winds occurs 48 hours after the development of a tropical cyclone and describes the priority actions that must take place prior to and during and evacuation.
- C. The timeline may be expanded or compressed depending on the length of time between the development of a tropical cyclone and the onset of tropical storm force winds. There may be a transition point in time in which the regular timeline is not executable and this contingency plan goes into effect if required.
- D. E Hour is defined as the number of hours prior to beginning evacuation operations. These times are different than “H Hour” times shown in many plans and the post storm timeline of this plan. H Hour is defined as arrival of tropical storm force winds.
- E. Actions listed within the compressed timeline are based on pre-evacuation decision deadline, priority actions only. These priority actions are not listed in numerical order of execution. The comprehensive list of key actions and events by ESF is located in Annex A to the SC Hurricane Plan.

| Compressed Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline | |
|---|--|
| Time Prior to an Evacuation | Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent) |
| OPCON 1 | |
| E-18 to E-12 hours (H-48 to H-42 hours) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Governor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign Governor’s State of Emergency Declaration to support disaster operations. • Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mass Transportation Plan. • Initiate Mandatory Medical Evacuation (sign Mandatory Medical Evacuation Order with exemptions). • Call the National Guard to State Active Duty. • Go/No-Go decision on Evacuation (sign Evacuation Order). • Announce Evacuation. <input type="checkbox"/> ESF-6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execute Evacuation Shelter Plan for designated zones. <input type="checkbox"/> ESF-8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate medical transportation. |
| E-12 to E Hour (H-42 to H-30) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ESF-8: Provide situational awareness of facility preparation activities due to the Mandatory Medical Evacuation order. <input type="checkbox"/> ESF-13/ESF-19: Staff TCPs and prepare to control traffic. <input type="checkbox"/> ESF-16: Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources. |
| Evacuation (H-30 to H Hour) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ESF-8: Coordinate Mandatory Medical Evacuation. <input type="checkbox"/> ESF-16: Initiate and execute Evacuation. |

Compressed Evacuation Planning Timeline

| Date Day Time | Time | Date Day Time | Time | Date Day Time | Time | Date Day Time | Time |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|------|------------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| OPCON 1 | | | | | | | |
| E Timeline | | | | | | | |
| E-18 | E-12 | E-6 | E | E+6 | E+12 | E+18 | E+24 |
| H Timeline | | | | | | | |
| H-48 | H-42 | H-36 | H-30 | H-24 | H-18 | H-12 | H-6 |
| State of Emergency | Medical Evacuation Preparation | | | Medical Evacuation Execution | | | |
| Mandatory Medical Evac Decision | Evacuation Decision | | | Evacuation | | | |
| Mass Transportation Decision | Activate NG Ambulance Coordination | | | | | | |
| | Evacuation Transportation Shelter Plan | | | | | | |
| TS Winds (After onset of TS winds) | | | | | | | |

***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

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General

SCEMD is the primary agency for the coordination of all short notice hurricane response efforts.

1. The primary pre-landfall responsibility of all levels of government will be to minimize the loss of life and to safeguard property, while assuming a level of risk due to the nature of operating within a compressed timeline.
2. Responsibilities listed within this section are based on, pre evacuation decision deadline priority actions only, operating within a compressed hurricane timeline for a short notice hurricane event.
3. For a comprehensive list of duties and responsibilities by ESF, see Annex A to the SC Hurricane Plan.

B. Governor's Office (Within 6 hours)

1. Sign Governor's State of Emergency Declaration to support disaster operations.
2. Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mass Transportation Plan and evacuation (sign Evacuation Order).
3. Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mandatory Medical Evacuation (sign Mandatory Medical Evacuation Order).
4. Call the National Guard to State Active Duty.
5. Announce evacuation. (Within 6 hours)

C. South Carolina Emergency Management Division (Within 6 hours)

1. Provide the SERT with projected E-Hour and Evacuation Zones
2. Increase SEOC activation level/staffing as needed based on current threat/timeline.
3. Activate the Emergency Operations Plans (EOP).
4. Notify ESFs and State agencies to initiate ESF SOP activities.
5. Advise key personnel and ESFs to begin preparation for possible short notice mass evacuation.

6. Initiate disaster intelligence cycle.
 7. Coordinate with FEMA Region IV Threat Assessment Unit, Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT) and Evacuation Liaison Team (ELT).
 8. 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.
 9. Conduct county and executive conference calls to discuss advisories, Governor's guidance, evacuation decisions and future priority actions.
 10. Assess storm forecast and potential state/regional impact using hurricane-tracking tools. Update potential storm scenarios in conjunction with the NWS offices and the State Climatology Office to brief during conference calls
 11. Prepare draft Executive Order for Evacuation. (Within 3 hours)
 12. Notify ESF-6 to execute Evacuation Shelter Plan. (Within 6 hours)
 13. Activate contingency contracts. (Within 6 hours)
 14. Activate PIPS and announce telephone number. (Within 6 hours)
 15. Prepare to compile damage assessment information and coordinate damage assessment operations. (Within 6 hours)
- D. ESF-1 (Transportation) (Within 6 hours)
1. Integrate traffic management provider to support evacuation.
 2. Verify mass transportation needs with counties
 3. Notify Department of Education of possible support requirements for Mass Transportation Plan.
 4. Coordinate with rapid transit agencies to support evacuation operations within available time.
- E. ESF-2 (Transportation) (Within 12 hours)
1. Fueling of equipment and priority communications generators.

2. Execute pre-planned prioritized distribution scheme for radio/airborne repeater equipment in support of ESF-16 activities.
 3. Assign talk groups/frequency channels.
- F. ESF-6 (Mass Care) (Within 6 hours)
1. Notify shelter partners, to include CULPH, of pending shelter activations.
 2. Execute Evacuation Shelter Plan for designated evacuation zones.
 3. Provide status of open shelters to include staffing/resource levels.
- G. ESF-8 (Health and Medical) (Within 6 hours)
1. Monitor and report critical information from licensed health care facilities.
 2. Coordinate Emergency Medical Services transport. (Within 6 hours)
 3. Coordinate with DPH to determine facility exemptions from proposed evacuation order on a case-by-case basis.
 4. Monitor census reduction and movement of critical care patients from hospitals in projected evacuation zones.
- H. ESF-9 (Search and Rescue) (Within 12 hours)
- Initiate Search and Rescue (SAR) Planning Cell..
- I. ESF-12 (Energy) (Within 12 hours)
- Activate and coordinate implementation of Evacuation Fuel Plan.
- J. ESF-13 (Law Enforcement) (Within 12 hours)
1. Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources to support evacuation.
 2. Deploy law enforcement and/or security resources.
- K. ESF-15 (Public Information) (Within 6 hours)
1. Execute public awareness campaign.
 2. Issue news releases delineating evacuation zones.

3. Initiate Public Information program to announce Mass Transportation Plan.
 4. Focus public information campaign specifically on evacuation and shelter in place information.
- L. ESF-16 (Emergency Traffic Management) (Within 12 hours)
1. Alert and deploy forces as trooper shift work dictates. Phase augmenting troopers to prioritized Traffic Control Points (TCP). May request State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) or SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) assist with TCPs as required with resources in place.
 2. Evaluate criteria for lane reversal actions.
 3. Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources.
 4. Activate evacuation messaging on DOT messaging boards.
 5. Occupy TCPs for traffic control.
 6. Initiate Lane Reversal Clearance (if lane reversal ordered).
- A. ESF-17 (Agriculture and Animal Emergency Response) (Within 12 hours)
1. Notify in-state and out-of-state response partners.
 2. Disseminate storm preparedness guidance to livestock owners and agricultural businesses.
 3. Disseminate information, including emergency stable options, to horse owners considering evacuation.
 4. Coordinate resources to support agriculture and animal emergency response.
- B. ESF-19 (Military Support) (Within 12 hours)
1. Source units from locations closer to evacuating areas and phase forces in as they are activated by National Guard Warning Order. (Within 12 hours)
 2. Recommend National Guard request for Title 32 funding support.
 3. Identify routes for deployment and support.

4. Initiate/receive/start military LSA operations for troop support.
5. LNOs forward deploy to select County EOCs if timeline allows.
6. Position military TCP and LSA personnel as appropriate.
7. Civil Support Team deploys as required.
8. Provide temperature screening at passenger pick up sites if needed.
9. Provide staffing support to congregate shelters as designated.
10. Provide drivers and support to the Department of Education as part of the Mass Transportation Contingency Plan.

VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- A. This contingency plan is a supplemental document to the SC Hurricane Plan, supporting all areas concerning the State’s hurricane emergency activities.
- B. Departments and agencies of State and local governments have assisted in the development of this contingency plan.
- C. Key State Emergency Response Team (SERT) members will review this Contingency Plan as part of the annual update and review of the SC Hurricane Plan.
- D. At a minimum, SCEMD will review this Contingency Plan on an annual basis and update/revise the plan as necessary throughout the period, or based on exercise/incident after action reports.