

ANNEX A TO HURRICANE PLAN  
EVACUATION DECISION AND RESPONSE TIMELINE

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**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 72 hours prior to an evacuation. For situations with less than 72 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.

## II. EVACUATION OPERATIONS

- A. 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.
- B. 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.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Governor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sign Governor’s State of Emergency Declaration to support disaster operations and activate South Carolina National Guard.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>SCEMD:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activate the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and SEOC.</li> <li>• Notify ESFs and State agencies to initiate ESF Annex and SOP activities and staff the SEOC as required.</li> <li>• Notify ESFs 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 16, and 19 to begin preparations for a potential evacuation.</li> <li>• Activate the Disaster Intelligence Group.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Coordinate with FEMA for remote sensing and initiate imagery collection event with USGS.</li> <li>• Notify contingency contracts of possible activation.</li> <li>• Coordinate with coastal counties and ESFs 1 and 16 to determine potential critical transportation needs requirements. (See Annex B)</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>ESF-6:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Initiate Cot Distribution Plan if required.</b></li> <li>• Begin the shelter selection process in accordance with Annex H of the State Hurricane Plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<b>2</b>	<b>E-72 Hours/ 3 Days, cont'd.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>ESF-8:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Initiate ambulance contract for Mandatory Medical Evacuation, if required.</b></li> <li>• Mobilize and monitor Emergency Medical Services transport.</li> <li>• Maintain accountability for instate EMS resources to ensure appropriate utilization, activation, and deactivation.</li> <li>• Monitor status of federal ambulance contract, if request.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>ESF-10:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare the SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES)'s Disaster Coordination Center (DCC) for activation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>ESF-14:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate with FEMA Region 4 regarding the potential for emergency declaration request.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>ESF-16:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Issue warning order to SC Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) troopers.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>ESF-19:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Initiate the National Guard Hurricane Contingency Operations Plan to begin a phased activation of National Guard Support.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If there is insufficient time to issue orders or activate support, SCNG may need to source units through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).</li> <li>▪ Consider recommending National Guard request for Title 32 funding support.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<b>2</b>	<b>E-60 Hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Governor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Critical Transportation Needs Plan.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>SCEMD:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit Governor's request for emergency declaration to President via FEMA Region 4 Regional Administrator.</li> <li>• Confirm critical transportation needs requirements with transportation contractor, ESF-1, and coastal counties.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>ESF-1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify the Department of Education of possible support requirements for Critical Transportation Needs Plan.</li> <li>• Coordinate with SCEMD and coastal counties to confirm critical needs transportation requirements.</li> <li>• Contact portable toilet and bottled water vendors to support set-up of comfort stations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>Counties:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider Point of Distribution (POD) locations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>E-48 Hours/ 2 Days</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Governor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mandatory Medical Evacuation (sign Mandatory Medical Evacuation Order w/ exceptions).</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>SCEMD/ESF-1/16:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate criteria for lane reversal actions (see Base Plan).</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>SCEMD/ESF-6:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with counties to confirm Evacuation Support Shelter locations (see Annex H).</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>ESF-8:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate emergency radio communications tests among hospitals and public health departments.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>ESF-16:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preposition all Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) equipment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>ESF-19:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify routes for deployment and support.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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-36 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Governor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Draft Executive Order for General Population Evacuation.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SCEMD:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with counties on a recommendation regarding zone evacuations.</li> <li>• Coordinate with pre-identified counties and partners to support Vehicle Staging Areas and Collection Points in support of critical transportation needs operations (See Annex B).</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-9:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate EMAC discussions.</li> <li>• Coordinate interagency communication regarding search and rescue</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-13:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources to support evacuation.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>ESF-16:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Based on the storm's path and intensity this action may occur up to 12 hours (E-48) in advance of the current timeline.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-19:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources.</li> <li>• Initiate/receive/start military Logistics Staging Area (LSA) operations for civilian support and troop support.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1	E-24 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Governor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Go/No-Go decision on Evacuation (sign Evacuation Order).</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SCEMD:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify Public Information Phone System (PIPS) staffing Point of Contact that PIPS operations will begin at specified time.</li> <li>• Collaborate with ESF-1, ESF-16, and counties on a recommendation regarding lane reversals.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-4:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize staging of staff and equipment.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-6:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify resources and prepare shelter teams for deployment.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-8           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If signed, execute Mandatory Medical Evacuation Operations (MMEO).</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-10:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activate the SCDES Disaster Coordination Center and contact the first shift personnel with time to report to the center.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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-24 Hours, cont'd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-13: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deploy security resources to staging areas.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-16: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-position SCDPS TCP personnel into the area(s) as appropriate.</b></li> <li>• Activate Evacuation Messaging on DOT messaging boards (with ESF-1).</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-position military TCP and LSA personnel as appropriate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1	E-12 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Governor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Go/No-Go on lane reversals.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Critical Transportation Needs Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Equipment and personnel in place at Embarkation/Debarcation points.</b></li> <li>• <b>Vehicles are in place at Vehicle Staging Areas.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Critical Transportation Needs Plan is activated, have a mass care liaison present at Collection Points to route buses to designated shelters.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-15: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue news releases delineating evacuation zones.</li> <li>• <b>Initiate Public Information program to announce Critical Transportation Needs Plan.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1	E-6 to E-3 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Governor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Announce evacuation.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Critical Transportation Needs vehicles move to Forward Staging Areas.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vehicles begin moving evacuees to designated shelters. Process is permitted to continue until two hours prior to the arrival of tropical storm-force winds.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SCEMD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activate PIPS and announce telephone number.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-15: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus public information campaign specifically on evacuation information.</li> <li>• Re-issue releases delineating evacuation zones.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ESF-16: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage resources in preparation for lane reversals and implement reversals if ordered.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline		
OPCON Level	Time Prior to Evacuation	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)
<b>1</b>	<b>E-Hour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ ESF-6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open designated Evacuation Support Shelters</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ ESF-13: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operate security missions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ ESF-13/ESF-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TCPs staffed and prepared to control traffic in support of ESF-16.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### III. REENTRY OPERATIONS

- A. Once the Governor rescinds an evacuation order, reentry operations may begin. Reentry is the transition phase to recovery operations. The SEOC remains at OPGON 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.
- B. Any recovery operations will be conducted in relation to the Base Plan, Hurricane Response Operational Phase IV.

<b>Reentry and Recovery Operations</b>	
<b>Agency/ESF</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>SCEMD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate with the Governor's Office on an executive order rescinding evacuation order. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate with affected counties to determine areas suitable for reentry.
<b>ESF-1 Transportation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for equipment/personnel requests from counties affected by the storm. <input type="checkbox"/> Position signage (variable message boards, road markers) to facilitate reentry as required.
<b>ESF-2 Communications</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate with counties and SERT agencies to address any unmet communications needs
<b>ESF-3 Public Works and Engineering</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide information regarding water and sewer system disruption and re-establishment. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide information regarding damage to public infrastructure and repair of public infrastructure to include critical facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for equipment and personnel requests from utilities impacted.
<b>ESF-4 Firefighting</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct aerial damage assessments of timber and reentry routes.
<b>ESF-6 Mass Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> DSS to implement closing and consolidation procedures in coordination with Red Cross and counties (see Multi-Agency Shelter Transition Plan, Annex 6, Attachment 1)
<b>ESF-10 Environmental and Hazardous Materials Operations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Assess hazardous material threats and environmental impacts in affected areas.

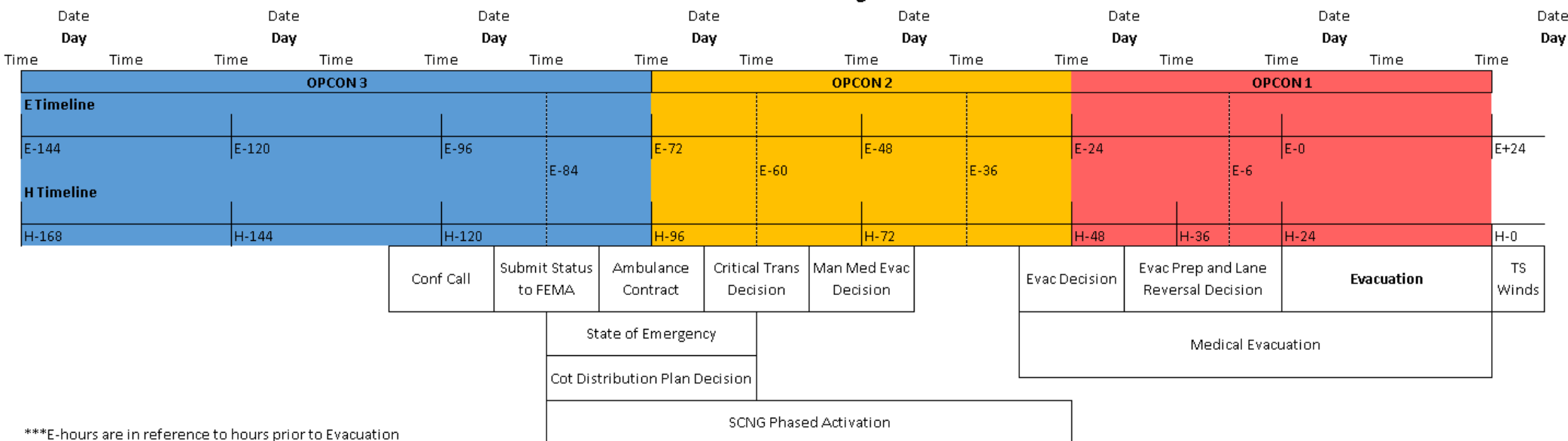


<b>ESF-11 Food Services</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Assess and acquire food stocks as required.
<b>ESF-14 Initial Recovery and Mitigation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Engage counties in identifying temporary housing sites, developing temporary housing plans, and implementing federal housing assistance programs if needed. <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate information sharing with VOADs and Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) to address unmet needs of survivors.
<b>ESF-17 Agriculture &amp; Animals</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Assist with dissemination of information regarding reentry for critical food supply chains and agribusinesses. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate available resources to support recovery of agribusiness and animal issues. <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct food/agriculture/animal needs assessments.
<b>ESF-19 Military Support</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare to execute SCNG recovery operations plan.
<b>ESF-24 Business and Industry</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Process business reentry requests via the South Carolina Business Reentry Program <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate company contact programs to provide status assessment and provide assistance where available.

#### 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.

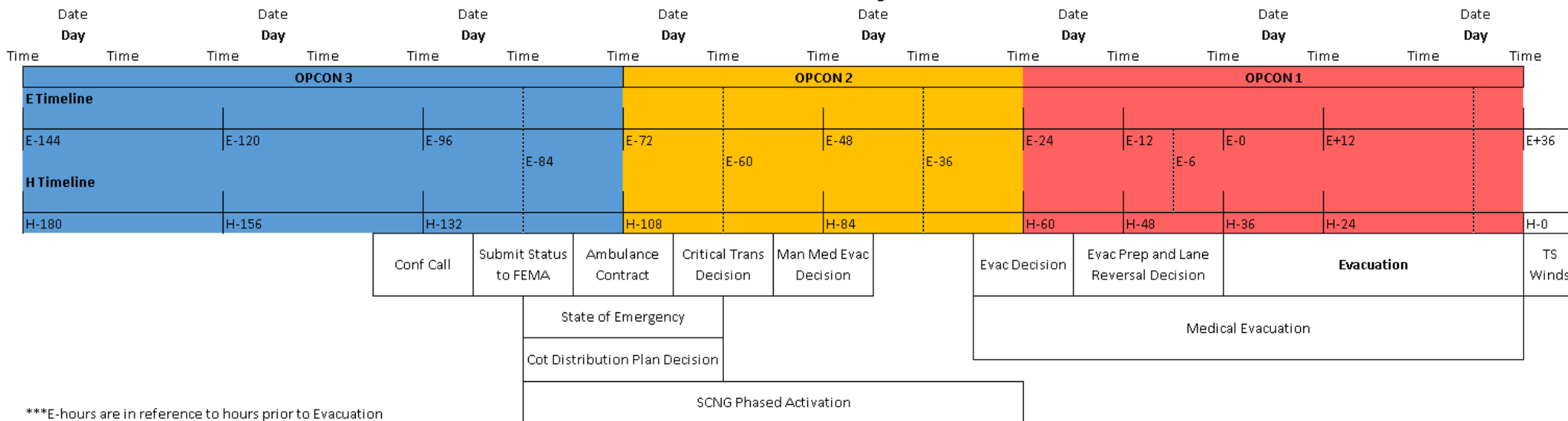
### 24-hour Evacuation Planning Timeline



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

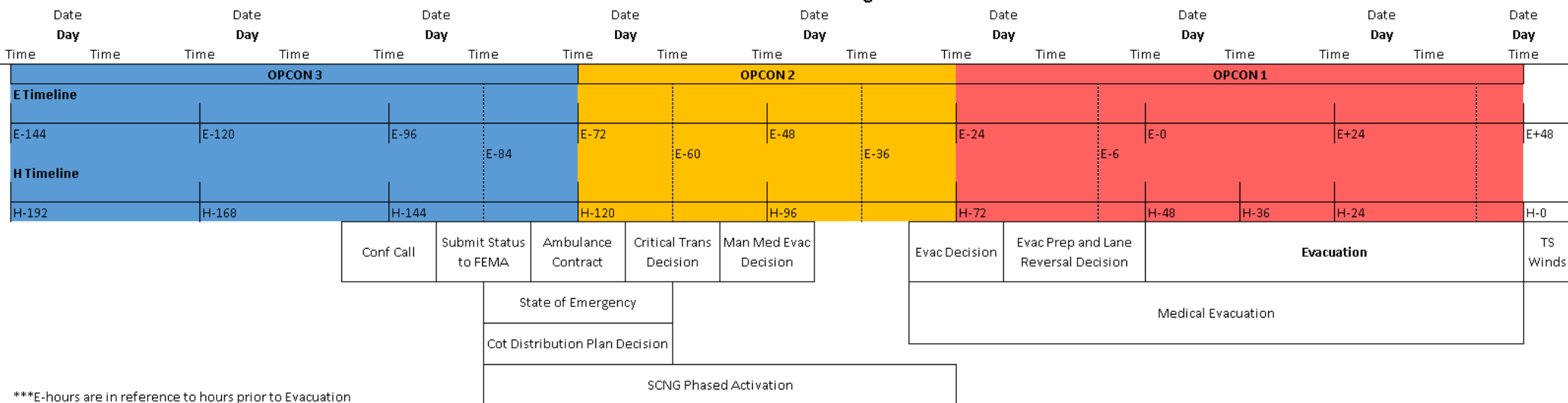
\*\*\*H-hours are in reference to hours prior to the arrival of Tropical Storm force winds

### 36-hour 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

### 48-hour Evacuation Planning Timeline



### Compressed Evacuation Planning Timeline

Date Day Time		Date Day Time		Date Day Time		Date Day Time		Date Day Time	
	Time		Time		Time		Time		Time
OPCON 1									
E Timeline									
E-18	E-12	E-6	E	E+6	E+12	E+18	E+24	E+30	
H Timeline									
H-48	H-42	H-36	H-30	H-24	H-18	H-12	H-6	H-0	
State of Emergency	Evacuation Decision	Medical Evacuation Preparation		Medical Evacuation Execution					
Mandatory Medical Evac Decision	Activate NG	Evacuation Preparation and Lane Reversal Decision		Evacuation					
Critical Transportation Decision	Ambulance Coordination								
	Evacuation Shelter Plan								
									TS Winds
									(After onset of TS winds)

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