2026 HURRICANE SEASON – MASS CARE OPERATIONS
COT DISTRIBUTION PLAN

I. PURPOSE

A. Address planned preparedness actions by agency for distributing cots pre-storm to pre-identified shelters during the 2026 hurricane season.

B. Provide baseline guidance for cot coordination operations.

C. This concept of operations (CONOP) will only be executed with the coordination of State partner assets.

II. PURPOSE

Distribution of approximately 4,000 cots to Evacuation Support Shelters in the coastal counties of the state pre-storm.

III. ASSUMPTIONS

A. The storm-specific evacuation planning timeline will determine the timeline for cot distribution from storage to the pre-identified Evacuation Support Shelters.

B. Cots may be distributed to a Local Support Shelter if an Evacuation Support Shelter is not in use, provided it is identified in a timely manner.

IV. SITUATION

A. If the Governor of South Carolina orders an evacuation, pre-identified shelters must be immediately accessible and under the purview of government authority to open, operate, and close.

B. There are 28 Evacuation Support Shelters in South Carolina with a total capacity of 22,735 at 20 sq ft. The shelters are listed in Attachment 1.

C. The number of cots intended to go to each pre-identified Evacuation Support Shelter will be 10% of the maximum occupancy of that shelter.

1. In the event of a full coastal evacuation with high compliance, a 17% planning factor was also considered.

2. Any cots reserved for shelters that are not activated may be divided up to send to shelters with greatest need due to storm scenario as required.

D. Several counties have accepted Mission Ready Packages containing cots from the American Red Cross. In the event of an evacuation, it is not assumed that the MRPs will fully cover the need for cots, so more cots may need to be delivered.

E. The American Red Cross retains ownership and accountability of the cots during transfer and delivery.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Shelters to receive additional cots as part of this mission will be pre-identified as the situation dictates based on anticipated impacts.

B. A list of pre-identified Evacuation Support Shelters will be issued by ESF-6 to the South Carolina National Guard, via resource request, between E-48 and E-24, to safely deliver the required cots before the onset of Tropical Storm force winds. The shelters on this list may change as the circumstances, hazards, impacts and timeline change.

1. Shelters located in evacuation zones will not open if the zone is part of the evacuation order.

2. A typical planning timeline is referenced below in Figure 1. The timeline may change if the storm speeds up or stalls.

C. The list of pre-identified shelters must include shelter name, address, number of cots being delivered to that shelter, and a point of contact for each shelter. The point of contact (POC) for each shelter is listed in the Shelter Facility Owner Pre-Survey Form.

D. ESF-6 will submit one resource request with the pre-identified shelter list attached. Once the list of shelters planning to open is identified, county resource requests are not required for execution of this plan.

E. The American Red Cross may request cots from one of their national Disaster Field Supply Centers to be staged at identified drop off locations in Ridgeland and/or Myrtle Beach.

1. The Ridgeland drop off is located at 233 Grays Hwy, Ridgeland, SC 29936

2. The Myrtle Beach drop off is 3531 Pampas Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

F. The South Carolina National Guard will transport the cots from the drop off locations to pre-identified Evacuation Support Shelters in the counties across the northern, central, and southern hurricane regions pre-storm.

1. The South Carolina National Guard will continually communicate the status of their operations with ESF-6 to provide an accurate estimated time of arrival for counties.

2. If unable to make contact with POCs, cots may be stacked by the main entrance of the shelter, preferably under cover.

G. The South Carolina National Guard will download the cots at the shelter sites. The shelter staff will be responsible for assembling the cots.

H. The American Red Cross will collect cots post-storm.

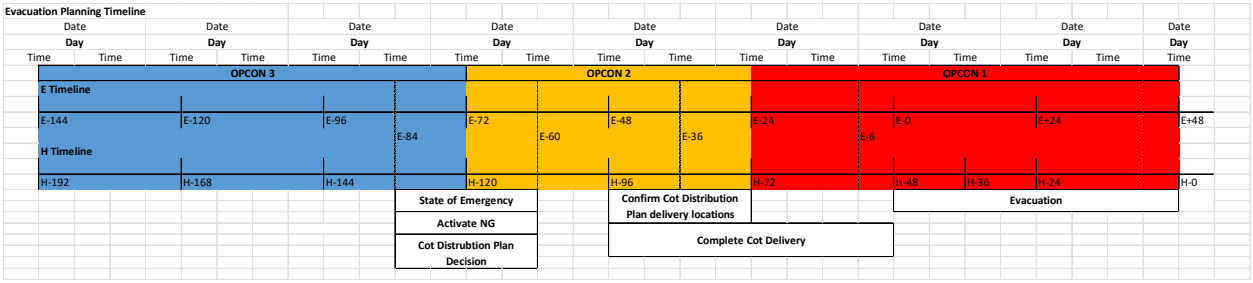


Figure 1: Planning Timeline

VI. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General

Prior to the activation of this plan, agencies with cot distribution responsibilities will coordinate resources and provide representation in the SEOC.

B. South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD)

1. Conduct mission analysis with supporting agencies to identify potential resource gaps.

2. Coordinate with other agencies as the hurricane evacuation timeline moves forward toward the need to open shelters. Share information that may assist with the cot distribution mission or shelter identification coordination.

C. South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS)

1. Coordinate with the Red Cross to identify Evacuation Support Shelters and points of contact per the local Emergency Manager in the event of an incident.

2. Communicate status updates, Estimated Time of Arrivals, unmet needs, and points of contact as needed via the county and SERT conference calls. If necessary, will lead a separate cot mission call.

3. Assemble the cots along with the other shelter staff.

D. American Red Cross

1. Coordinate with DSS to identify Evacuation Support Shelters and points of contact per the local Emergency Manager in the event of an incident.

2. Coordinate with the South Carolina National Guard and DSS for collection of pre-determined shelters listing and number of cots to be distributed to each pre-identified shelter, for awareness of assets distributed and in need of pick up at closure of shelters. This will be verified by the attachment on the resource request.

3. Assemble the cots along with the other shelter staff.

4. Coordinate the pickup, cleaning, and reconstituting of the cots post-storm from shelter locations

E. South Carolina National Guard (SCNG)

1. Conduct pickup of cots from storage at the Ridgeland and Myrtle Beach locations and transport to the designated Evacuation Support Shelters pre-storm.

2. Provide ESF-6 with status updates throughout the mission.

VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. SCEMD is the lead agency for the development, coordination, review and update of this contingency plan.

B. At a minimum, SCEMD will review and update this contingency plan on an annual basis. The review, maintenance and update will take into account any updates to the SCEOP, SC Hurricane Plan and SC Mass Care Strategy, in addition to, after-action reports (AAR) and other relevant State and Federal guidance.

Attachment 1

Evacuation Support Shelters by Hurricane Region

County	Rte	Facility	Address	Capacity @ 20 sq	Capacity @ 40 sq (post storm)	Cots @ 17 %	Cots @ 10 %
Florence	95	Wilson High School	1411 East Old Marion Highway, Florence, SC 29506	569	285	97	57
Florence	95	South Florence High School	3200 S Irby Street, Florence, SC 29505	407	204	69	41
Florence	378	Lake City High School	652 N Matthews Road, Lake City, SC 29560	385	193	65	39
Georgetown	521	Andrews Elementary School	13072 County Line Road, Andrews, SC 29510	725	363	123	73
Horry	501	Conway High School	2301 Church Street, Conway, SC 29526	579	230	98	58
Marion	501	Marion High School	1205 South Main Street, Marion, SC 29571	773	387	131	77
Marion	501	Johnakin Middle School	601 Gurley Street, Marion, SC 29571	314	156	53	31
Sumter	NA	Sumter High School	2580 McCray's Mill Road, Sumter, SC 29154	1,037	394	176	104
Northern			**8**	**4789**	**2211**	**814**	**479**

County	Rte	Facility	Address	Capacity @ 20 sq	Capacity @ 40 sq (post storm)	Cots @ 17 %	Cots @ 10 %
Berkeley	176	Cane Bay High School	1624 State Rd. Summerville, SC 29483	1,131	202	192	113
Berkeley	45/521	St. Stephen Elementary School	1053 Russellville Road St. Stephen, SC 29479	231	58	39	23
Berkeley	402	Macedonia Middle School	200 Macedonia Foxes Circle St. Stephen, SC 29479	407	237	69	41
Berkeley	52/176	Westview Middle School*	101 Westview Blvd. Goose Creek, SC 29445	295	147	50	30
Charleston	52	Military Magnet*	2950 Carner Avenue, North Charleston, SC 29405	759	621	129	76
Charleston	78	North Charleston CAES*	5200 Lackawanna Blvd, North Charleston, SC 29405	349	173	59	35
Charleston	26	Stall High School*	3625 Ashley Phosphate Road, North Charleston, SC 29418	1,423	317	242	142
Charleston	642	Zucker Middle School*	6401 Dorchester Road, North Charleston, SC 29418	261	133	44	26

County	Rte	Facility	Address	Capacity @ 20 sq	Capacity @ 40 sq (post storm)	Cots @ 17 %	Cots @ 10 %
Dorchester	642	Summerville High School	1101 Boone Hill Road, Summerville, SC 29483	1,047	376	178	105
Dorchester	642	Dubose Middle School	1005 Dubose School Road, Summerville, SC 29483	390	161	66	39
Dorchester	178	St. George Middle School	600 Minus Street, St. George, SC 29477	244	108	41	24
Dorchester	642	Fort Dorchester High School*	8500 Patriot Boulevard, N Charleston, SC 29420	1549	405	263	155
Orangeburg	26/178	Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School	601 Bruin Parkway, Orangeburg, SC 29115	1,250	241	213	125
Orangeburg	NA	Hunter-Kinard Tyler Public School	7066 Norway Road, Neeses, SC 29113	602	373	102	60
Orangeburg	61	Branchville High School	1349 Dorange Road, Branchville, SC 29432	369	250	63	37
Orangeburg	176	Lake Marion High School	3656 Tee Vee Road, Santee, SC 29142	1,356	678	231	136

County	Rte	Facility	Address	Capacity @ 20 sq	Capacity @ 40 sq (post storm)	Cots @ 17 %	Cots @ 10 %
Richland	NA	Ridge View High School	4801 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29229	937	341	159	94
Central			**18**	**12746**	**4876**	**2167**	**1275**
Aiken	20	South Aiken High School	232 East Pine Log Road, Aiken, SC 29803	521	184	89	52
Colleton	15	Colleton County High School	150 Cougar Nation Dr. Walterboro, SC 29488	1,300	325	221	130
Jasper	95	Ridgeland School Complex (Junior/Middle)	Ridgeland North Campus 250 Jaguar Trail, Ridgeland, SC 29936	3,525	286	599	353
Southern			**3**	**5,346**	**795**	**909**	**535**
TOTAL COASTAL			**28**	**22,735**	**7,827**	**3,865**	**2,274**

* Denotes a shelter located in an evacuation zone