

**APPENDIX 1**  
**(SOUTH CAROLINA HURRICANE PLAN)**  
**TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. As required by state and federal law, South Carolina's policy is to be prepared for any emergency or disaster, including tropical cyclones.
- B. South Carolina State Regulations 58-1 and 58-101 require contingency plans and implementing procedures for major hazards, such as tropical cyclones, coordinated by the State with Counties that have the a potential of being impacted.
- C. The South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan (SCEOP), augmented by the South Carolina Hurricane Plan and the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), meets the requirements of the State regulations.

**II. PURPOSE**

- A. Prevent or minimize injury to people, damage to property and the environment resulting from a tropical cyclone.
- B. Plan and coordinate State and local resources in warning, evacuating, and sheltering South Carolina citizens and visitors who are in harm's way.

**III. SCOPE**

- A. Establishes specific tasks and responsibilities for the State and Counties when preparing for and responding to the threat of a tropical cyclone approaching South Carolina, and immediately after impact.
- B. Addresses post-landfall operations in coordination with the SCEOP, Appendix 9 (South Carolina Catastrophic Incident Plan) of the SCEOP, and Appendix 6 (South Carolina Emergency Recovery Plan) of the SCEOP.
- C. Covers the threat, operations, and sheltering terminology; the utilization of the Hurricane Evacuation Study as a basis for hurricane preparedness and planning; evacuation decision/response timeline; evacuation decisions; and lane reversal indicators.

**IV. FACTS**

- A. There have been 28 recorded South Carolina hurricane landfalls since 1893. These tropical cyclones ranged from Category 1 to Category 4, the two largest being Hazel in 1954 and Hugo in 1989. The State has also had many near misses by hurricanes and tropical storms.

- B. The location of the State on the U.S.'s southeastern seaboard, historical records, governmental scientific modeling, and traditional weather patterns ensure tropical cyclones remain a high threat or risk to South Carolina.
- C. The State has six (6) coastal Counties bordering the Atlantic Ocean with more than 200 miles of general coastline. The SC Coastal Counties are:
- Beaufort
  - Charleston
  - Colleton
  - Georgetown
  - Horry
  - Jasper

## **V. ASSUMPTIONS**

- A. South Carolina will generally receive several days of early warning of impending tropical cyclone activity through the National Hurricane Center (NHC), the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Weather Service (NWS).
- B. There is potential for response to a storm with less than normal warning time, 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.
- C. The State and threatened Counties will use this warning time to prepare using plans, protocols, and procedures predefined and coordinated in this and other plans. State agencies, County and municipal governments and other entities will support preparations for possible landfall of a tropical cyclone and the following response.
- D. Mutual Aid Compacts and agreements will enable assistance in areas of shortfall of personnel, equipment, and logistics; state-to-state, county-to-county, and municipality-to-municipality. Federal support may be available pre-storm and will be available during recovery.
- E. Declarations announcing States of Emergency and support will be available.
- F. A tropical cyclone may result in large numbers of casualties and/or displaced persons that can quickly overwhelm local and State capabilities.
- G. A tropical cyclone may trigger a State response with or without a Federal response. Regardless, Federal resources are not likely to provide significant lifesaving or life-sustaining capabilities until after the event.

- H. Large-scale evacuations, organized or self-initiated, may occur based upon the details of the tropical cyclone.
- I. Large numbers of people may be left temporarily or permanently homeless and will require prolonged housing assistance.
- J. The response capabilities of local jurisdictions are likely to be quickly overwhelmed. Local first responders may be among those affected, impacting their ability to perform their duties.
- K. There may be significant issues regarding environmental health as the result of damage in the aftermath of a tropical cyclone event.
- L. A significant tropical cyclone may degrade and/or destroy initial local emergency response management, medical, and public health capabilities.
- M. A tropical cyclone affecting South Carolina may have significant interstate dimensions including potential impacts on evacuations, housing, transit, search and rescue, law enforcement coordination, and other areas.
- N. When a tropical cyclone event occurs, the response will follow a prescribed process.
  - 1. The local jurisdiction will establish an initial response utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS) to control and direct the first response.
  - 2. The State will coordinate support when local and regional resources are insufficient to meet requirements.

## **VI. SITUATION**

- A. Hurricane Vulnerability Analysis
  - 1. The State of South Carolina completed a hazard vulnerability analysis in 2009 using computer modeling, weather trends, and historical records, and determined there is “Medium” to “High” probability of tropical cyclone activity impacting South Carolina.
  - 2. This analysis reflects not only coastal county vulnerability but potential hurricane effects well into the South Carolina Midlands and Upstate.
  - 3. South Carolina is susceptible to all levels of tropical cyclones, from tropical depressions to Category 5 hurricanes. Hurricane category is based solely on sustained wind speed. The National Hurricane Center uses the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale to categorize hurricane intensity utilizing sustained wind speed. Categories of Hurricanes are:
    - Category 1: Very dangerous winds, Winds: 74-95 mph

- Category 2: Extremely dangerous winds, Winds: 96-110 mph
  - Category 3: Devastating Damage, Winds: 111-129 mph
  - Category 4: Catastrophic Damage, Winds: 130-156 mph
  - Category 5: Catastrophic Damage, Winds: Greater than 156 mph
4. The NHC and NOAA no longer associate surge predictions, flooding measurements, or barometric pressure with Category of hurricanes. This is a result of historical studies that indicate a tropical storm has and is capable of producing the same amount of storm surge as a major hurricane. For clarity, tropical cyclone is a generic term for tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes. For reference, historical coastal surges associated with the categories of hurricanes were:
- Category 1: Surges of up to 4 to 5 feet possible
  - Category 2: Surges of up to 6 to 8 feet possible
  - Category 3: Surges of up to 9 to 12 feet possible
  - Category 4: Surges of up to 13 to 18 feet possible
  - Category 5: Surges higher than 18 feet possible
5. Tropical cyclones produce four (4) major hazards:
- a. Storm Surge
- (1) Along the immediate coast, storm surge is statistically and historically the greatest threat to life in a tropical cyclone event.
  - (2) Storm surge is a large dome of water, potentially exceeding 100 miles wide, that sweeps across the coastline near where a tropical cyclone makes landfall.
  - (3) Though not inherently linked and modeled separately for hurricane events, historically the stronger the hurricane, the greater and farther inland the surge threat will be. Surge can be a threat in tropical cyclones and must be monitored closely.
  - (4) The level of surge is also determined by the slope of the continental shelf (shoaling factor). A shallow slope off the coast will allow a greater surge which may inundate coastal communities. However, this can change with each storm as a result of many factors including: size, direction, forward speed, and wind intensity.

- (5) Communities with a steeper continental shelf historically see less surge inundation, although large breaking waves can still present major problems. Storm tides, waves, and currents in confined harbors may severely damage ships, marinas, and pleasure craft.
- (6) South Carolina has a shallow off-shore continental shelf and therefore is at greater potential risk due to storm surge.
- (7) Storm surge is not the Total Water Level influencing coastal and adjacent inland areas of SC. Astronomical tides (see daily tide tables) add to surge to produce “Storm Tide.” Wave action atop storm tide further increase detrimental effects stemming from the ocean. In addition, basin backflow from rivers, streams and lakes, as well as heavy rains all combine to increase experienced water levels – levels not incorporated into surge forecasts and models. The NHC will provide surge projections on a test basis for the 2015 seasons accompanying watches/warnings. These projections will be made in height above ground level. No agency is capable of providing Total Water Level information before or during an event – it is only available in a historical context following an event through gauge readings.

b. Rainfall-induced Flooding

- (1) Widespread torrential rains can produce destructive and even deadly floods. According to NOAA, Water from the ocean, coupled with inland flooding, account for nearly 85% of all fatalities associated to hurricanes across the US.
- (2) Hurricanes can generate immense amounts of rain before and after the arrival and departure of tropical storm force winds.

c. High Winds

- (1) High winds are the greatest cause of inland damage from a tropical cyclone.
- (2) Hurricane winds can destroy buildings, mobile homes, and other property. Windblown debris, such as signs, roofing material, siding, and other items, can kill people and damage property.
- (3) Within SC, more than 17% of the State’s populace, significantly higher than the national average, reside—in

mobile homes. In many counties this percentage is ~~even~~ higher. Sustained tropical storm force winds, or higher, pose a potentially lethal threat to these citizens. This threat requires active messaging and local measures to enable informed individual decision making and actions preceding these events.

d. Tornadoes

- (1) While the threat exists for tornadoes to develop in all storm quadrants, they primarily develop in the northeast quadrant of the storm.
- (2) Hurricanes can produce tornadoes as much as 200-400 miles from the storm's center of circulation.
- (3) Tornadoes can potentially cause extensive damage to buildings and loss of life.

B. Hazard Summary

1. The State is a "Medium" to "High" risk from tropical cyclone activity based on statistical historical information and modeling utilizing Hazards United States (Hazes), and studies from NOAA and the NHC.
2. All of the State's inland Counties may be directly affected by tropically induced hazards such as high winds, tornadoes and inland flooding associated with heavy rainfall.
3. A densely populated coastal region, especially during peak tourist seasons, coupled with generally low coastal elevations, significantly increases the State's vulnerability.
4. The greatest threat to life and property to the coastal counties associated with tropical cyclones is flooding caused by storm surge.
5. Two (2) inland counties, Dorchester and Berkeley, are also threatened due to potential up-river surge along the Ashley and Cooper Rivers.

## **VII. HURRICANE EVACUATION STUDY**

- A. The 2014 South Carolina Hurricane Evacuation Studies (HES) was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). While other studies, vulnerability analyses and tools exist, the HES is the principle reference tool/study used by state agencies and policy makers within the State and by other hurricane threatened states. It includes five components:

1. Hurricane hazards analysis
  2. Vulnerability of the population
  3. Public response and expected behaviors to evacuation advisories, timing of evacuations
  4. Transportation analysis of routes, expected traffic flow and timing
  5. Public shelter assessments and projected requirements for the general population
- B. The USACE managed the project with input and coordination from federal, state, and local agencies. These analyses, all or in part, have significant impact on the South Carolina Hurricane Plan.
- C. The HES provides tools for use by Emergency Managers in preparing for and initiating hurricane evacuation operations. Two key components are the hurricane evacuation zones and estimated evacuation clearance times.
1. Hurricane Evacuation Zones
    - a. These are areas vulnerable to storm surge inundation.
    - b. These Zones are a product of the HES and developed in conjunction with local Emergency Management. In most instances, the zones meet all of the following objectives:
      - Describable over radio/TV media to the public
      - Based upon easily identifiable roadway or natural features for boundary identification
      - Relates to storm surge limits based on the most recent SLOSH models
      - Allows coastal county residents to determine if their home is in a storm surge vulnerable evacuation area
      - Useable for the HES transportation modeling
      - Related to census/traffic analysis zone boundaries for population and dwelling unit tabulations and calculation of vulnerable populations
    - c. For a detailed description of the hurricane evacuation zones see Appendix C (Evacuation Zones and Clearance Timing).
  2. Estimated Evacuation Clearance Times. See Appendix C (Evacuation Zones and Clearance Timing)

- D. The major analyses areas in the HES are: Hazards, Vulnerability, Behavioral, Shelter (reviewed existing plans only), and Transportation Analysis.
1. Hazards Analysis
    - a. The hazards analysis determines the timing and magnitude of wind and storm surge hazards that can be expected from hurricanes of various categories, tracks and forward speeds.
    - b. The Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) numerical models were used to compute surge heights.
  2. Vulnerability Analysis.
    - a. Using the results of the hazards analysis, the vulnerability analysis identified those areas, populations and facilities vulnerable to specific hazards under a variety of hurricane threats. Inundation maps were produced and evacuation scenarios were developed.
    - b. The evacuation scenarios are based on the category of storm and associated surge threat. For each scenario, the study delineated evacuation zones.
    - c. The analysis used population data to determine the vulnerable population within each evacuation zone. In areas of potential inundation, the study identified critical facilities.
  3. Behavioral Analysis
    - a. In 2011, the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute of the University of South Carolina conducted a behavioral analysis to quantify data on mass behavior during hurricane threats.
    - b. The study gathered and analyzed information from South Carolina coastal residents on their past and potential evacuation behavior in response to a hurricane.
    - c. The responses from the surveys provided insight on the knowledge and understanding of the threat, likelihood to seek and use information, and willingness to evacuate when asked by proper governmental authority.
    - d. Key Findings:
      - (1) As many as 35% of the vulnerable population do not know if they live in an evacuation zone.

- (2) As many as 79% of vulnerable populations may not evacuate for a Category 1-2 hurricane without a governmental order. Up to 30% may not evacuate for a major hurricane (Category 3 and above).
- (3) Shadow evacuations (persons who evacuate, but do not live in evacuation zones) may be high and will increase traffic congestion and shelter occupancy.
- (4) Citing a single most influencing factor in a decision to evacuate, citizens focus most heavily on hurricane category (wind speed). Few focus on the effects of storm surge, the primary killer in hurricanes.
- (5) When making a decision to evacuate, expectations on ability to return to homes is a major influence. Statewide, 74% of citizens evacuate if they believe they will be able to return to their homes within 3 days. This falls dramatically to 55% if expected return is one week; and drops even further to 45% if the expected return is two weeks.
- (6) Compliance increases by 25% when the term “mandatory” is included in evacuation orders compared to the term “recommended.”
- (7) Many people underestimate the destructive force of hurricane winds.
- (8) Many people have not planned or prepared for hurricane season.
- (9) While 90% of the survey indicated they require no special assistance for evacuations, the HES indicates this is a difficult area to assess. Of the 10% requiring assistance, 43% cite special care and 36% transportation as their primary need.
- (10) Tourists will pose a problem due to lack of awareness about hurricanes, inattentiveness to government and media warnings, and lack of knowledge about evacuation routes.
- (11) Pets are a concern with regard to both influences on decision making and limited accommodations for them within the sheltering process. This is subject for further research within the HES process. With limited study in the current HES, the only data now available is that few (4.7%) respondents would not evacuate their pets.

4. Transportation Analysis. See Annex C (Evacuation Timing) for evacuation discussion and clearance tables.

## **VIII. STATE HURRICANE OPERATIONS**

### **A. General**

1. Hurricane preparedness and mitigation efforts occur on a year-round basis, and are driven by the threat posed to the State from tropical cyclones.
2. The significant impact a tropical cyclone may have on the State requires that the Counties, State, and Federal entities utilize a unified approach.
3. SCEMD is the primary agency for the coordination of all response efforts to a tropical cyclone.

### **B. National Incident Management System**

1. The operations for the response and management of the catastrophic effects resulting from a hurricane impacting South Carolina as outlined in the SCEOP and described in this Appendix conform to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS).

### **C. Plan Activation**

1. Activation of this Appendix may be tied to the OPCON level of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).
2. Upon determination that a hurricane may threaten the coastal region; the SCEMD Director will elevate the OPCON of the SEOC above OPCON 5.
3. Once the OPCON level is raised to at least OPCON 3, the SCEOP, along with this Appendix, will be activated.

### **D. Operational Area Model**

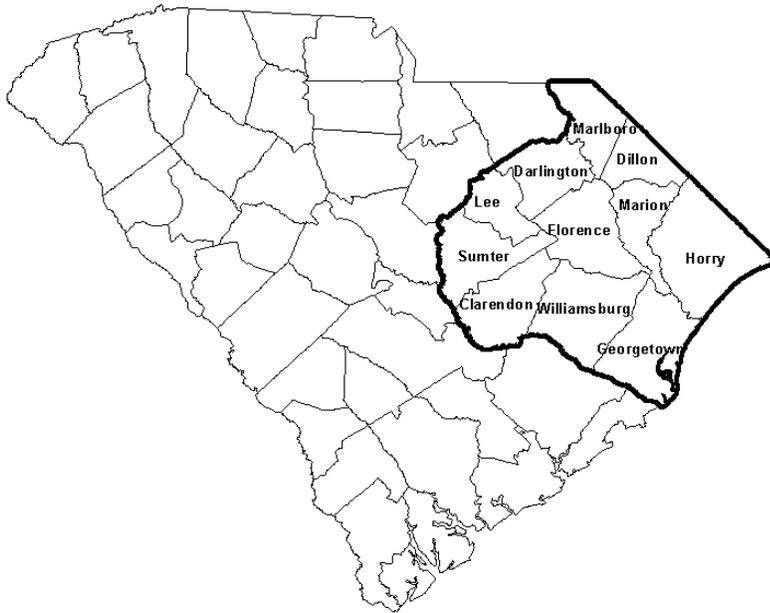
1. As hurricanes impact the State, the damage may result in conditions that isolate communities within the County from one another as well as from the rest of the State. The resulting damage will make movement of human and material resources to the affected areas difficult, resulting in the need to target specific areas with a significant response effort.
2. To mitigate the effects of a disaster of any size and type, SCEMD, in coordination with each County, developed Operational Areas within their respective areas of responsibility.
3. The Operational Area Model within Attachment A (Operations Area Concept) to Appendix 9 (South Carolina Catastrophic Incident Response

Plan) of the SCEOP and Attachment H (Operations Areas & Operational Area Planning Factors) to this Plan provide detail into the State's Operational Area concept of operations.

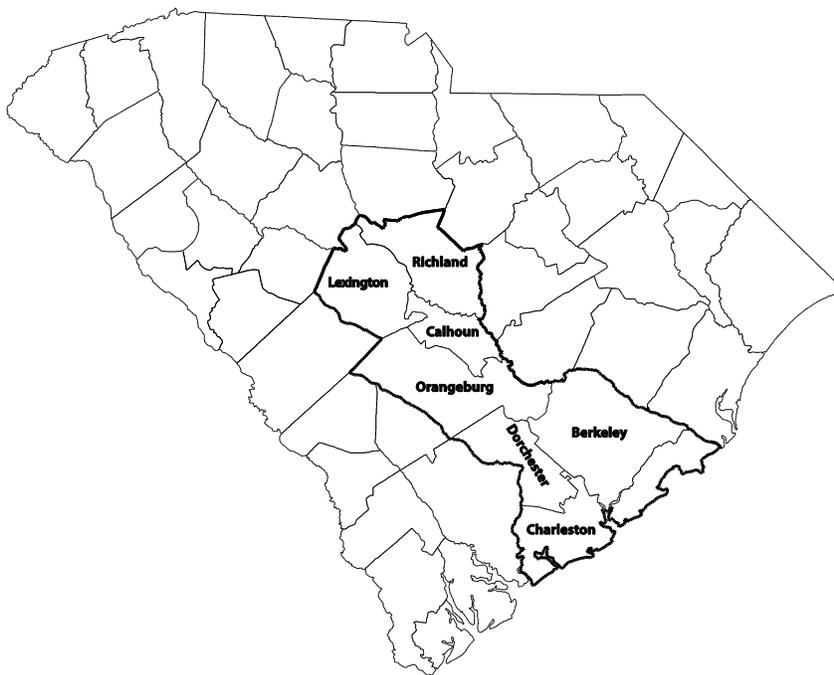
E. Conglomerate Concept

1. At a minimum, a major hurricane will impact a significant portion of the State's coastal counties. In order to better prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects from a hurricane, the State and Counties adopted a unified approach.
2. This approach divides the State into four (4) conglomerates - Northern, Central, Southern and Western. Each County within a Conglomerate relies on the other Counties in the Conglomerate in assisting it in protecting, evacuating, sheltering, and returning its citizens from hurricane evacuations.
3. Conglomerate Lead Counties
  - a. Within each coastal Conglomerate, one County has been designated as the Lead County. This designation is based on the County with the longest evacuation time within each Conglomerate.
  - b. During hurricane operations, the Lead County should inform all other Conglomerate Counties and the SEOC of their current status. If this notification is not feasible, the Conglomerate County EOCs should refer to SEOC situation reports and Palmetto (formerly WebEOC/EM-COP) for county status.
  - c. The SEOC will consider providing a Liaison Officer to each Conglomerate Lead County EOC to assist in disseminating information among the Conglomerate Counties and to serve as a Conglomerate point of contact to the SEOC.

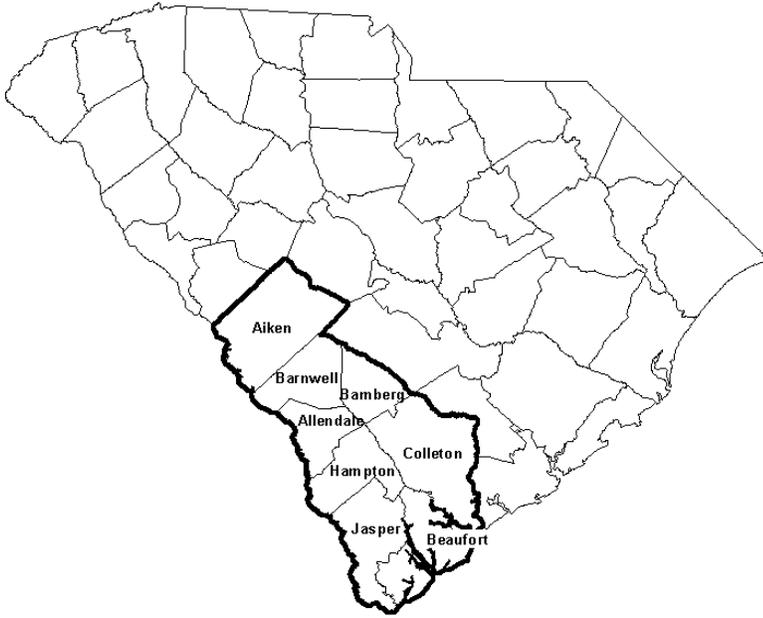
4. The four (4) Conglomerates are:



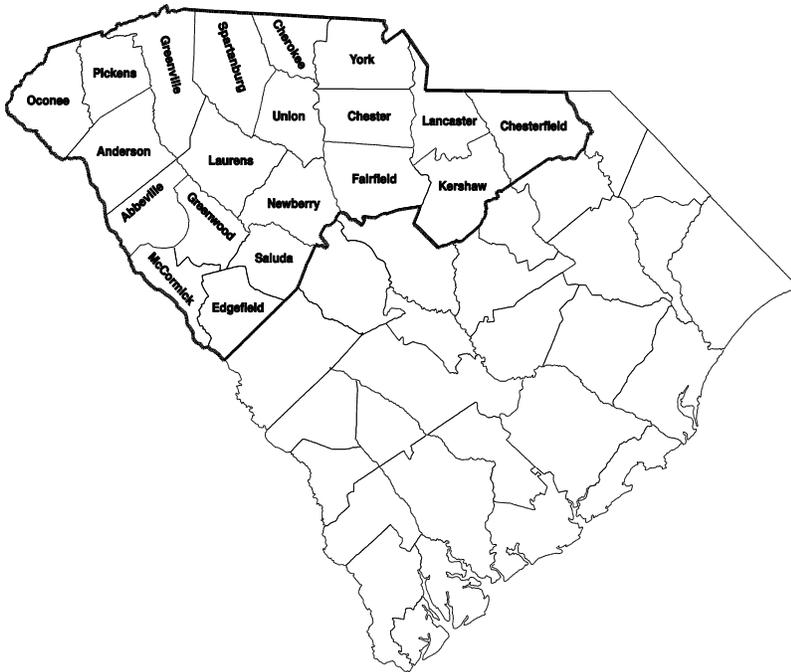
Northern Conglomerate
Horry (Lead County)
Georgetown
Williamsburg
Marion
Florence
Dillon
Clarendon
Sumter
Darlington
Lee
Marlboro



Central Conglomerate
Charleston (Lead County)
Berkeley
Dorchester
Orangeburg
Calhoun
Richland
Lexington



Southern Conglomerate
Beaufort (Lead County)
Jasper
Colleton
Hampton
Allendale
Bamberg
Barnwell
Aiken



Western Conglomerate
Abbeville
Anderson
Cherokee
Chester
Chesterfield
Edgefield
Fairfield
Greenwood
Greenville
Kershaw
Lancaster
Laurens
McCormick
Newberry
Oconee
Pickens
Saluda
Spartanburg
Union
York

5. Operating Condition (OPCON) Levels
  - a. The Counties within each Conglomerate will function as a team. When one member County moves to a higher OPCON, all Counties within the Conglomerate will consider moving to the higher level.
  - b. The SEOC will assess the situation and consider moving to a higher OPCON level if a County's level changes. The SEOC and County EOCs are not required to remain at the same OPCON.
  - c. Operational considerations inherent in State-level evacuation preparations often require the State to move to a higher OPCON level earlier than County EOCs.
6. Conglomerate Evacuations
  - a. If the Governor determines the situation requires an evacuation, the SCEMD Director will recommend the order be based on Conglomerates, not on individual Counties. The SCEMD Director will recommend the Governor order the evacuation of one, two or all Coastal Conglomerates.
  - b. All Conglomerate Counties agree to participate in their conglomerate evacuation if it is ordered. This agreement is critical to the successful development and implementation of the South Carolina Hurricane Plan.
7. Executive-Level Decision Briefings
  - a. After analyzing and interpreting the impacts of the NHC's forecast and the local NWS statements, the SCEMD Director or SEOC Chief of Plans will brief the Governor's Office.
  - b. Briefings will be held as requested by the Governor.
  - c. The formal briefing format is:
    - (1) The NWS, NHC, or NOAA representative will discuss the forecast, and the State Climatologist's Office will provide input.
    - (2) The SCEMD Director or SEOC Chief of Plans will review issues to be addressed, and the Chief of Operations will provide a SEOC status update.
    - (3) The State Agency Directors will provide status of agency operations.

- (4) The SCEMD Director or SEOC Chief of Plans makes recommendations to the Governor with concurrence from State agency directors.
  - (5) Decision will be made based on the recommendations presented
  - (6) The SEOC will conduct further coordination with county EOCs prior to press conferences or press releases.
8. Regional Coordination
- a. SEOC Operations will coordinate with SEOCs in neighboring States to include Georgia and North Carolina.
  - b. In coordination with FEMA's Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) in Atlanta, Georgia, the SEOC will monitor the regional traffic flow.
  - c. Whenever a major hurricane, potentially requiring a large multi-state evacuation, threatens the United States, the federally coordinated Evacuation Liaison Team (ELT) will operate from the RRCC on a 24-hour basis until the threat has passed.
    - (1) The ELT supports regional hurricane response efforts by facilitating rapid, efficient, and safe evacuation of threatened populations. The ELT will accomplish this support by providing Federal and State emergency management officials with timely and accurate traffic/evacuation related information during multi-state hurricane threats.
    - (2) The ELT assembles the needed information through communication with appropriate SEOCs, other RRCC locations, the FEMA Emergency Support Team (EST), and the Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT) at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida.
  - d. SEOC Operations will collect traffic and evacuation related information from ESF-16 (Emergency Traffic Management) and ESF-1 (Transportation) and, with the approval of the SEOC Chief of Operations, release the information to the FEMA liaisons for forwarding to the appropriate location.
  - e. Evacuation
    - (1) The size and intensity of a tropical cyclone may necessitate the use of an evacuation of threatened areas. The evacuation recommendation to the Governor may include those areas

deemed appropriate based on the current forecast and other operational factors.

- (2) Although the default will be to reversing lanes to facilitate a more rapid movement of personnel from threatened areas, the Evacuation Phase may be conducted with or without a lane reversal along specific evacuation routes based on the current situation and the lane reversal decision factors.
- (3) Evacuation activities will be a joint effort of State and local agencies communicating/coordinating through emergency operations centers. Emergency Traffic Management Emergency Support Function ESF-16 located in the SEOC will provide overall coordination, monitor evacuation status, and prepare recommendations for actions regarding evacuation.

f. The SEOC Plans section maintains and disseminates weather information via coordination with the NHC, HLT, four servicing NWS offices (Columbia, Greenville, Charleston and Wilmington) and the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Climatology.

## **IX. DISASTER INTELLIGENCE AND COMMUNICATION**

- A. See the SCEOP, Section VI (Disaster Intelligence and Communications) which describes the processes the State uses to acquire, coordinate and disseminate disaster information.
- B. See Annex D (Public Information) which describes the processes the State uses to plan for, collect, coordinate and disseminate hurricane specific information.
- C. Conference Calls
  1. During OPGON 4 and higher, the SEOC will schedule conference calls with the Coastal County EOCs.
  2. Minimally, the conference calls will include Jasper, Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Georgetown, and Horry County EOCs.
  3. Format for calls
    - a. The NWS and SC DNR Climatologist will review the latest hurricane forecast.

- b. Under critical circumstances and/or closer to the tropical cyclone impacting the coastline, the National Hurricane Center may provide input and assessment.
  - c. SEOC Chief of Operations will report SEOC status.
  - d. County Directors will report local operational status and raise concerns/issues regarding hurricane operations
  - e. The Director will discuss executive-level evacuation decision or reentry status.
4. Once the area to be evacuated is determined, the SEOC will schedule a Conglomerate conference call to discuss evacuation operations.

## **X. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITES**

- A. See the SCEOP, Section VII (Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities) for the general roles and responsibilities of County, State, and Federal agencies in preparation, response, and recovery from a disaster impacting the State.
- B. General
  1. SCEMD is the primary agency for the coordination of all response efforts to a major hurricane.
  2. Due to the continuing tropical cyclone threat, plans are updated annually.
  3. The primary pre-landfall responsibility of all levels of government will be to minimize the loss of life and to safeguard property.
  4. The primary post-landfall responsibilities will be ensuring the safety of its citizens, recovery efforts, and restoration of infrastructure damaged by the storm.
  5. As recovery preparations are made and adequate infrastructure reestablished, the focus is the return evacuees to their homes and businesses.
- C. County
  1. Preparedness
    - a. Establish a Hurricane Annex in the County EOP.
    - b. Develop plans to address potential needs and requirements as the result of a hurricane up to and including a Category 5.
    - c. Develop plans to mitigate identified short falls. These shortfalls can be met through mutual aid or by requesting support from the State.

- d. Shelters.
  - (1) Develop and maintain procedures to receive and shelter persons evacuating within and from outside their County with assistance from the State.
  - (2) Coordinate with schools and other community agencies within their jurisdiction to identify and coordinate for facilities for use as shelters.
  - (3) Coordinate with support volunteer agencies and ESF-6 representatives to fulfill manning, feeding and logistical requirements.
- e. Ensure debris plans are up-to-date, and any temporary debris storage/reduction sites are identified and appropriately permitted.
- f. Identify locations for Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) and Volunteer Reception Centers (VRC).

2. Response

- a. Develop and implement protocols and activities to protect lives and property.
- b. Conduct emergency operations with support from within the jurisdiction and municipalities and, if needed, the State.

3. Recovery

- a. Inform the State which DRC and VRC locations are viable post-impact.
- b. Identify potential locations for disaster housing sites along with any permitting requirements, other site-specific restrictions or other requirements.

4. Mitigation

Develop a hazard mitigation plan, establishing a mitigation strategy, identifying mitigation projects, and implementing mitigation actions. County mitigation actions are short and long-term, specific measures taken to reduce the loss of life and property.

**D. State****1. Preparedness**

- a. Develop plans, policies, and procedures designed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a catastrophic weather event.
- b. Organize the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) to provide a viable response, and manage recovery resources and assets.
- c. Prepare to assist the Counties based on the identified needs through the use of State assets and by intra- and inter-state mutual aid agreements, in addition to assistance from FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- d. Retain direction and control of State response and recovery exercises involving participation of private and voluntary relief organizations.
- e. Develop and implement programs or initiatives designed to avoid, reduce, and mitigate the effects of hazards through the development and enforcement of policies, standards, and regulations.
- f. Conduct comprehensive assessments of the threats to the State and updating existing emergency operations plans.
- g. Promote awareness, education, and preparedness programs designed to reach all citizens through outreach, public information and training.
- h. Maintain nationwide mutual aid agreements at SCEMD. Supporting agencies will be identified. SC State Agencies will maintain a listing of resources available for response.

**2. Response**

- a. Respond to the effects of a hurricane by implementing plans and procedures to provide assistance to the Counties through coordination, information flow and resource allocation and apportionment.
- b. Establish an Emergency Operation Center to coordinate the State response among State agencies and to provide information and advice to the elected leadership.
- c. Coordinate with Federal authorities and adjoining States for support.

**3. Recovery**

- a. Facilitate the recovery from the impact of a hurricane by requesting FEMA perform a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) as soon as practical after impact.
- b. Facilitate the process for requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration.
- c. After a Presidential Disaster Declaration, integrate efforts with FEMA's Joint Field Office (JFO).
- d. Plan and conduct Applicants' Briefings in all affected Counties to inform potential applicants of available Federal funding, and how to apply for and use Federal funds for recovery.
- e. Be the conduit for Federal funds.
- f. Conduct final inspections on small projects, and provide assistance in conducting final inspections on large projects as well as technical assistance, when requested, regarding Individual and Public Assistance programs.

**4. Mitigation**

Develop a mitigation strategy comprised of a list of goals, objectives, and actions to be taken, including loss prevention, property protection, natural resource protection, structural projects, emergency services, and public information and education.

**E. Federal****1. Preparedness**

- a. Implement plans to provide Federal resources to States in the wake of a catastrophic tropical weather event.

**2. Response**

- a. Provide Federal assistance through FEMA and DHS, as directed by the President of the United States in accordance with Federal emergency plans.
- b. Identify and coordinate assistance under other Federal statutory authorities.

**3. Recovery**

- a. Conduct, upon request, a joint PDA with the State.

- b. When the results of the PDA meet or exceed the State's Individual and Public Assistance thresholds, assist the State in developing the Governor's request for a Presidential Disaster declaration.
  - c. Facilitate the process of presenting the Governor's request to the President along with their recommendation, and, following a decision, communicate the decision to the State.
  - d. Coordinate the selection, set up, and management of the JFO.
  - e. Determine how long a JFO will remain open.
4. Mitigation
- a. Assist the State in developing a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan to mitigate the effects of hurricanes.
  - b. Provide pre-disaster mitigation grant funding in the form of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) Program, and the Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) Program.
  - c. Provide post-disaster mitigation funding in the form of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the Recovery phase of a disaster.
  - d. Assist the State in updating The State Hazard Mitigation Plan on a 3-year cycle.

#### **XI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT (COG)**

See the SCEOP Basic Plan, Section VI, paragraph K (Continuity of Government).

#### **XII. CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS (COOP)**

See the SCEOP Basic Plan, Section VI, paragraph L (Continuity of Operations).

#### **XIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

- A. This Plan is the principal source of documentation concerning the State's hurricane emergency activities.
- B. Departments and agencies of State and local governments, and the American Red Cross (ARC) have assisted in the development of this Plan.
- C. The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) and County Emergency Management Agencies should begin the annual review of this Plan at the end of

each hurricane season (30 November) and forward recommended changes, to the SCEMD Hurricane Program Manager.

- D. The SCEMD Hurricane Program Manager will coordinate the efforts of all responsible departments and agencies for plan development and timely update/revision.
- E. At a minimum, SCEMD will review this Plan on an annual basis and update/revise the plan as necessary throughout the period. SCEMD will complete the annual review prior to 1 June each year.

#### **XIV. ADMINISTRATION, LOGISTICS AND FINANCE**

- A. See the SCEOP Basic Plan, Section IX (Administration, Logistics And Finance).
- B. See SCEOP Basic Plan, Attachment A (SC Logistics Plan).

#### **XV. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES**

See the SCEOP Basic Plan, Attachment C (Authorities and References).

#### **XVI. ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY**

See SCEOP Base Plan, Attachment B (Acronyms and Glossary).