

**I. PURPOSE**

- A. Address planned additional response priority actions by the state for a hurricane response during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- B. 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 coordination with public and private partners.
- D. Provide baseline guidance for a hurricane response during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the understanding that an extended timeline may be needed to allow priority actions to be executed, potentially forcing decisions to be made earlier than during normal hurricane response operations.

**II. MISSION**

Maximize preparedness and operational response in the event of a hurricane during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect life and property.

**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).
- B. For the purposes of this contingency plan, certain planning assumptions have been made in order to produce mission procedures and requirements, reflecting a most likely hurricane scenario for South Carolina.
  - 1. Low end Category 3 coastal runner with landfall in SC (shift 2019 Hurricane Dorian’s track 50 miles west)
  - 2. Recommended evacuation zones (at risk zones only)
    - a. Beaufort zone A, Colleton zones A + B, Jasper zone A, Charleston zones A + B + C, Dorchester zone D, Berkeley zones B + G, Georgetown zone A, and Horry zone A
    - b. Total potential population to be evacuated: 807,167
  - 3. Total potential pre-landfall evacuation shelter numbers: This scenario will exceed the baseline commitment of 22 Red Cross managed shelters and additional shelter support will be requested.

- a. Congregate shelter options will be utilized for as short a period as possible.
  - b. Staffing assistance will be needed at shelters due to limitations within the COVID-19 environment. A layered staffing approach with multiple options and partners will be needed.
4. Based on social survey results conducted in May 2020, 96% of evacuees will not require transportation support.
- a. Total Critical Transportation Needs (CTN) potential population requiring transportation: 3,000 (based on scenario and completed CTN compliance spreadsheet for at risk zones)
  - b. Motor coaches required: 125 (taking into account social distancing recommendations, COVID-19 screenings, and decontamination procedures)
  - c. State transportation contractor to be used – management and small coach package
  - d. SCNG drivers/state bus secondary option may be utilized to supplement motor coach fleet, dependent on time constraints
- C. Shift in the hurricane timeline – potentially up to 24 hours to the left for key decisions.
- D. Mandatory medical evacuation mission may take longer due to COVID-19 considerations.
- E. Supply chain disruptions and the high demand from COVID-19 will strain public and private services and resources.
- F. A three-day supply of shelter PPE for Group 1 shelters, provided by SCEMD, is pre-staged at county determined locations.
- G. A planning number of 1.3% of the total CTN evacuating population is used to determine how many citizens are likely to have an elevated body temperature when moving through a collection point (based on CDC guidance for the average number of citizens displaying flu like symptoms for this specific time of year). This number is multiplied by 3 for the average accompanying household number, to determine the total planning number of citizens that need to be moved through the isolation area of a collection point, and potentially on to an isolation area at a general population shelter.

- H. COVID-19 testing services will be available at select general population shelters.
- I. With an increasing threat or a lack of time and resources to complete the COVID-related tasks in a mass transportation evacuation operation, government officials may be compelled to expedite the evacuation process and accept a greater level of risk in order to save immediate life.

**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. The coronavirus threat and the need for social distancing poses widespread issues related to hurricane response operations. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the novel coronavirus that causes coronavirus disease (COVID-19) spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period of time. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs. It is also possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes. Studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms likely also play a role in the spread of COVID-19.
- E. Isolation and quarantine are referenced in American Red Cross doctrine; individuals in general population shelters that go into an observation area are not under isolation by DHEC.

- F. A hurricane event during a COVID-19 outbreak requiring an evacuation affecting multiple counties may pose a 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.

**V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. The COVID-19 Hurricane Response Contingency Plan requires some evacuation and sheltering decisions to be executed outside the normal decision arc. Not all actions may be completed to the same fidelity and depth as would occur with a storm that develops within a normal, non-COVID-19 climate. 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 timeline may be expanded depending on the length of time between the development of a tropical cyclone and the onset of tropical storm force winds, in conjunction with extended decision windows due to required COVID-19 actions. There may be a transition point in time in which the regular timeline is not executable and this contingency plan is activated due to COVID-19 required actions.
- C. E-Hour is defined as the number of hours prior to beginning evacuation operations. These times are different from “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.
- D. Actions listed within the COVID-19 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.
- E. There are two main areas in which a COVID-19 hurricane response may differ from a traditional hurricane response are mass care and mass transportation.
  - 1. Mass Care
    - a. Traditional congregate facilities will be the primary means of sheltering for the 2021 hurricane season, with the priority being Group 1 shelters, as identified in Annex H to the SC Hurricane Plan.
      - (1) Red Cross will operate/manage a baseline of 22 group 1 shelters. Additional shelters may be opened as requested.

- (2) Group 1 shelters should be opened strategically based on need.
- (3) Congregate shelters will have COVID-19 screening areas at their entry locations.
- (4) Congregate shelters will allow for social distancing at 110 sq. ft. per person (if utilizing cots, 60 sq. ft. if cots are not being used) and be of short duration for evacuation, no longer than 7 days.
- (5) The number of cots intended to go to each pre-identified coastal county group 1 shelter will be 100% of the maximum occupancy of that shelter at 110 sq. ft. Additional available cots will be sent to shelters at the greatest need due to storm scenario. The Red Cross will deliver cots to non-coastal Group 1 shelters as required. For additional information, please see Annex H, Attachment 2 of the Hurricane Plan.

**Cot Distribution Totals – 110 Square Feet (COVID Environment)**

<b>SCNG/SCEMD (4,200 cots) (100% of max capacity) (7 coastal counties: Group 1 Shelters - Horry, Georgetown, Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, Colleton, Jasper)</b>
Georgetown: 284
Horry: 408
Berkeley: 618
Charleston: 536
Dorchester: 638
Colleton: 236
Jasper: 642
Grand Total: 3,362
<b>SCNG/SCEMD break down</b>
Georgetown/3 shelters/284 cots/142boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD
Horry/5 shelters/408 cots/204 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD
Berkeley/6 shelters/618 cots/309 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD
Charleston/ 6 shelters/536 cots/ 268 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD
Dorchester/ 5 shelters/ 638 cots/319 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD
Colleton/ 1 shelter/ 236 cots/118 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD
Jasper/1 shelter/642 cots/321 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD
SCNG-SCEMD will have some supplies left to support surge at coastal group one shelters.

Coastal County Group 1 Shelter Cots Breakdown in a COVID-19 Environment

Group	County	Facility	# of Cots at Max Capacity	Cots for Isolation Areas	Capacity @ 110 sq
N1	Georgetown	Andrews Elementary School	132	20	132
N1	Georgetown	Pleasant Hill Elementary	96	20	96
N1	Georgetown	Carvers Bay Middle School	56	10	56
N1	Horry	Loris High School	106	20	106
N1	Horry	North Myrtle Beach High School	54	20	53
N1	Horry	Aynor Middle School	76	20	76
N1	Horry	Conway High School	106	20	105
N1 (CTN)	Horry	Ocean Bay Middle School	66	20	65
C1	Berkeley	Berkeley High School	114	20	113
C1	Berkeley	Cane Bay High School (pet friendly)	206	20	206
C1	Berkeley	Cross High School	58	10	58
C1	Berkeley	Goose Creek High School	144	20	144
C1	Berkeley	St. Stephen Elementary School	42	10	42
C1	Berkeley	Westview Middle School	54	10	54
C1	Charleston	Stall High School	208	20	208
C1	Charleston	Dunston Elementary School	66	10	65
C1	Charleston	Zucker Middle School	52	10	52

C1	Charleston	North Charleston Creative Arts	64	10	63
C1	Charleston	Military Magnet	66	10	66
C1	Charleston	Charleston School of the Arts	80	20	80
C1	Dorchester	Summerville High School	190	20	190
C1	Dorchester	Dubose Middle School	70	10	70
C1	Dorchester	St. George Middle School	44	10	44
C1	Dorchester	Fort Dorchester High School	282	56	281
C1	Dorchester (Charleston Support)	Summerville Elementary School	52	10	52
S1	Colleton	Colleton County High School	236	20	236
S1	Jasper	Ridgeland School Complex (Junior/Middle)	642	60	641
<b>Group 1 (27)</b>			<b>3,362</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>3,354</b>

(6) Congregate shelters will have an isolation area for citizens with elevated body temperatures and adhere to social distancing with 110 sq. ft. per person.

(a) Red Cross and DSS, supplemented where required by SC National and State Guard personnel, county staff, and medical professional volunteers will provide congregate shelter staffing.

b. PPE (to include thermometers for screening) will be provided by the local jurisdiction for the shelter occupants and staff, and the resource request process will be used to fill any identified resource gaps in PPE.

c. For all additional information on mass care, refer to the SCEOP, Annex 6 (Mass Care).

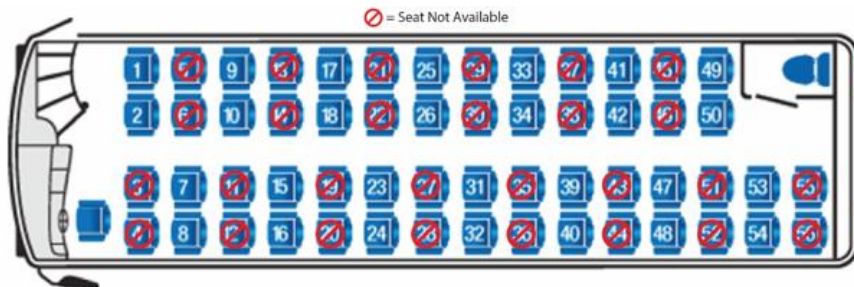
2. CTN (Critical Transportation Needs) Mass Transportation

- a. The very nature of a CTN evacuation causes large numbers of people to congregate in relatively small areas. In the event of a CTN evacuation in the COVID-19 environment, the priority will be to take proactive measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus while safely evacuating the at-risk population.
- b. Collection Point Operations
  - (1) Citizens with elevated body temperatures (EBT)
    - (a) Weather permitting, collection point staff will create an area outside of the collection point where evacuees will initially line up for temperature screenings.
    - (b) A staff member located at a state-run collection point will take the temperatures of all evacuees boarding transportation. Although an EBT is not a diagnosis for COVID-19, it does provide a mechanism for identifying evacuees who could have COVID-19 and mitigates the possible spread of infection to others.
    - (c) Any evacuee that tests negative for EBT enters the normal evacuation process established at the collection point; however, any evacuee that tests positive for EBT shall inform the staff member of any household family member or friends currently accompanying them and be placed into the observation area of the collection point.
    - (d) Family members of an individual that has tested positive for an EBT may be asked to travel in a separate vehicle to a designated shelter, if there is no space available on the designated method of transport for the individual with an EBT.
    - (e) The EBT evacuee and accompanying household family members/friends are then directed to a pre-designated observation area.



- (f) Multiple types of transportation resources, (each displaying a yellow placard), provided by the County or by the designated transportation provider, must be pre-staged near the collection point observation area in order to transport citizens to a congregate shelter’s isolation area.
- (g) In order to respond to an increasing threat or a lack of time and resources to complete the COVID-related tasks in a collection point evacuation operation, a color-coded status method may be implemented to expedite the evacuation process and accept a greater level of risk in order to save immediate life.

Green	Red
<p><u>At the collection point:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take evacuee temperatures.</li> <li>Ensure evacuees wear facemasks at all times.</li> <li>Socially distanced loading on motor coaches.</li> </ul>	<p><u>At the collection point:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suspend taking evacuee temperatures.</li> <li>Expedite the queuing, manifesting, and boarding process.</li> <li>Suspend social distancing on motor coaches.</li> <li>Suspend cleaning and disinfecting vehicles.</li> </ul>



**Figure 2: Option 2 Seating (staggered pattern)**

Note 1: Motor coaches with a lift will lose a minimum of 4 seats.  
 Note 2: The passenger planning factor for a Non-COVID evacuation is 45 passengers per motor coach.\*  
 Note 3: The passenger planning factor for a COVID evacuation is 25 passengers per motor coach.\*  
 Note 4: State Public Health will provide guidance on passenger use of on-board restrooms during COVID evacuations.

\*Actual number will vary based on the actual size of the motor coach.

(2) Observation Area

- (a) An observation area will be established at any collection point prior to the commencement of the evacuation. This area will be strategically located to allow for privacy and security of all individuals within the quarantine area. The goal is to hold EBT evacuees and their household family members and/or friends in the observation area for only the time it takes to arrange for transportation.
- (b) The size of the observation area will be based on the overall anticipated number of CTN evacuees and the estimated number of CTN evacuees with EBTs. It is likely that the number of CTN evacuees with EBTs will be a small fraction of the overall number of CTNs. All observation areas shall adhere to the 6-foot CDC guidance on social distancing.

(3) Staffing

- (a) The state transportation emergency contractor, with support from an Incident Management Team, (IMT), SC National Guard or SC State Guard support, will provide staffing at the collection point.
- (b) Local DSS staff will be made available to assist if local shelters are not opened due to the size and strength of the any approaching storm.
- (c) Local governments will be responsible for local pickups, (transferring of citizens to the collection point), a collection point manager or liaison and security at the collection point.

c. Transportation

A ready fleet of small transportation vehicles (provided by the State's emergency transportation contractor) will be pre-staged at select Collection

Points and the main State Vehicle Staging Area in Orangeburg, in order to respond to, and provide transportation support, if needed, for movement of citizens with EBT and COVID-19.

d. Disinfection

- (1) If there is sufficient time and resources during the evacuation, all motor coaches will be disinfected before they can be re-used. However, at a minimum, all vehicles that transport citizens with EBT or that are COVID-19 positive, will be required to go through a disinfection process before they can be re-used. Guidance provided by the State's emergency transportation contractor will be followed for this process. This guidance takes into account the current CDC recommendations.
- (2) A central location for disinfection will be located at the Vehicle Staging Area in Orangeburg. Additional disinfection mobile teams may be located and utilized in select areas of the State, in order to reduce vehicle transit times and stress on the mass transportation mission.

e. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All required PPE, as part of a state-led mass transportation mission, will be provided by SCEMD through the normal resource request process.

f. COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Services

- (1) In coordination with DSS, DHEC contractors will provide testing services upon reception at general population and medical needs shelters. COVID-19 testing will not be required for entry into shelters.
- (2) Post-storm vaccination services will be offered at general population and medical needs shelters, as required.

South Carolina Collection Point Typing, Functions, and Staffing Guidance			
	Type III	Type II	Type I
CTN throughput Per Hour	25	50	100
Number of Motor Coaches Required Per Hour	1 (every two hours)	1	2
Number of Motor Coaches Required Per Hour (Pandemic)	1	2	4
CTN throughput over a 30-hour operational timeframe	750	1500	3000
Total Number of Motor Coaches Required	17	33	67
Total Number of Motor Coaches Required (Pandemic)	30	60	120
Collection Point Function/Position	Number of Recommended Staff		
CP Manager*	1	1	1
CP Assistant Manager*	0	0	1
Security*	1	2	3
Guides at Arrival Area†	1	1	2
Information Assistance and Sorting†	1	1	2
Guides at Internal Processing Area†	0	1	2
Medical Station* (‡)	1	1	2
Queuing/Manifesting†	1	1	2
Guides Leading to Vehicle Departure Area†	0	1	2
Vehicle Departure Area**	2	2	2
Pandemic Care Line Triage†	1	1	1
Pandemic EBT Screening†	1	1	2
Pandemic Quarantine Area (Medical)* (‡)	1	1	2
Pandemic Quarantine Area (Non-Medical)†	1	1	2
Pandemic Vehicle Departure Area**	0	0	2
Total (per shift):	8 (12 for Pandemic)	11 (15 for Pandemic)	19 (28 for Pandemic)

- \* Local-Provided Staff
- \*\* Transportation Management Services Staff
- † State-Provided Staff
- (‡) These positions may be consolidated

**Planning Considerations:**

- CTN evacuation operation occurs during daylight hours only.
- CTN evacuation timeframe is 30 hours.
- Motor coach capacity is 45 passengers.
- Motor coach capacity in pandemic environment is 25 passengers.
- TMS will staff the Forward Staging Area (FSA) associated with the Collection Point.

3. COVID-19 Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline

COVID-19 Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline	
Time Prior Evacuation	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)
E-84 Hours	<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.</b></li> <li>• <b>Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mass Transportation Plan.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ ESF-1: Notify Department of Education of possible support requirements for Mass Transportation Plan.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify Mass Transportation needs with counties.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>ESF-19:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Issue National Guard Warning Order for State activation.</b> ** If insufficient time to issue Warning Order, may need to source units from locations closer to evacuation area and phase forces in as they are activated.</li> <li>• Consider recommending National Guard request for Title 32 funding support.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
E-72 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>ESF-6:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Execute Cot Distribution Plan.</b></li> <li>• Verify possible shelter and staffing levels in coordination with Red Cross.</li> </ul> </li> <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>• Monitor to ensure healthcare facilities contact transportation providers.</li> <li>• Monitor status of ambulance contract, if requested.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ <b>ESF-16: Issue warning order to SC Highway Patrol (SCHP).</b></li> </ul>
E-60 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ ESF-8:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor ongoing census reduction of health care facilities.</li> <li>• Consider requests for facility exemptions from proposed evacuation order on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

COVID-19 Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline	
Time Prior Evacuation	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)
E-48 Hours	<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> <li>• <b>Call the National Guard to State Active Duty.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>□ <b>ESF-8:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Initiate emergency radio communications tests among hospitals and public health departments.</b></li> <li>• <b>Monitor census reduction and movement of patients from licensed healthcare facilities in projected surge zones.</b></li> <li>• <b>Continue healthcare facility coordination.</b></li> <li>• <b>Suspend routine testing and vaccination services. Routine services will resume post-landfall.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>□ <b>ESF-19: Activate selected National Guard units to support evacuation, sheltering, and mass transportation.</b></li> </ul>
E-36 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ <b>ESF-16: Emergency Traffic Management - mobilizes evacuation support personnel and resources. <i>*Based on the storm's path and intensity as well as evacuation response patterns from coastal South Carolina and nearby states-particularly Florida and Georgia- ESF 16 may initiate mobilization, deployment, and implementation for evacuation operations-to include lane reversals- up to 12 hours (E-48) in advance of the current timeline. These early actions are especially important for ensuring access to evacuation routes for South Carolina evacuees and for mitigating likely congestion along the evacuation routes.</i></b></li> </ul>
E-24 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ <b>Governor: Go/No-Go decision on Evacuation (sign Evacuation Order).</b></li> <li>□ <b>SCEMD:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Advise counties and SERT of Governor's evacuation decisions and TCPs as determined by ESF-16.</b></li> <li>• <b>Notify ESF-6 to execute Evacuation Shelter Plan.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>□ <b>ESF-6:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Execute Evacuation Shelter Plan for designated zones.</b></li> <li>• <b>Update status of shelters and staffing resource gaps.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>□ <b>ESF-16: Pre-position SCHP TCP personnel into the areas(s) as appropriate.</b></li> </ul>

<b>COVID-19 Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline</b>	
<b>Time Prior Evacuation</b>	<b>Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)</b>
<b>E-12 Hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mass Transportation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Equipment and personnel in place at Embarkation/Debarkation points.</b></li> <li>• <b>Vehicles are in place at Vehicle Staging Areas.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>ESF-15:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Issue news releases delineating evacuation zones.</b></li> <li>• <b>Initiate Public Information program to announce Mass Transportation Plan, with a focus on COVID-19 precautions.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>E-6 Hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Governor: Announce evacuation.</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mass Transportation: Vehicles move to Motor Coach Forward Staging Areas.</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>SCEMD: First Evacuee bus departs; process continues until last bus departs or -2 hours to onset of tropical force winds.</b></li> </ul>
<b>E Hour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>ESF-13/ESF-19: TCPs staffed and prepared to control traffic.</b></li> </ul>





**36-hour Evacuation Timeline \*\*\*These are for planning purposes only\*\*\***

Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date
Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day
Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time
<b>OPCON 3</b>									
<b>E Timeline</b>									
E-144	E-120	E-96	E-72	E-48	E-24	E-0	E-24	E-0	E-36
<b>H Timeline</b>									
H-180	H-156	H-132	H-108	H-84	H-60	H-36	H-12	H-12	H-0
	Conf Call	Conf Call	State of Emergency	Man Med Evac Decision	Mand Med Evac	Evacuation Lane Reversal			TS Winds
			Mass Trans Decision	Activate MG					
			Submit Status to FEMA						
			Cot Distro Plan Decision						



**VI. RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. General

SCEMD is the primary agency for the coordination of all 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 COVID-19 environment.
2. Responsibilities listed within this section are based on pre-evacuation decision deadline priority actions only, operating within a COVID-19 environment for a 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

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 of Mandatory Medical Evacuation (sign Mandatory Medical Evacuation Order).

C. South Carolina Emergency Management Division

1. Increase SEOC activation level/staffing as needed based on current threat and timeline with deference to social distancing requirements.
2. Activate the Emergency Operations Plans (EOP).
3. Notify ESFs and State agencies to initiate ESF SOP activities with deference to social distancing requirements.
4. Conduct county and executive conference calls to discuss National Hurricane Center advisories, Governor's guidance, evacuation decisions, COVID-19 specific response actions and future priority actions.
5. Notify ESF-6 to execute COVID-19 specific Evacuation Shelter Plan.

D. ESF-6 (Mass Care)

1. Execute COVID-19 Evacuation Shelter Plan for designated evacuation zones.
2. Execute shelter plan, utilizing congregate facilities for general population shelters.
3. Arrange for any needed additional personal protective equipment (PPE) for both staff and clients at COVID-19 and elevated body temperature shelters.
4. Execute expedited shelter transition post storm to facilitate closure of pre-landfall evacuation shelters.

E. ESF-8 (Health and Medical)

1. Monitor and report critical information from licensed health care facilities.
2. Coordinate with DHEC to determine health care facility mandatory medical needs exemptions, as required.
3. Monitor census reduction and movement of patients from hospitals in projected evacuation zones.
4. Provide consultation for infection control measures in evacuation shelters.
5. Continue to perform COVID-19 surveillance.

F. ESF-13 (Law Enforcement)

Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources to support evacuation and COVID-19 response operations.

G. ESF-14 (Recovery and Mitigation)

1. Share updates regarding federal COVID-19 recovery assistance program eligibility policy and practices.
2. Coordinate with federal agencies to implement available COVID-19 federal assistance programs.

- H. ESF-15 (Public Information)
  - 1. Activate the state joint information system and center with staff in person and teleworking.
  - 2. Share resources among all agency public information personnel to deliver a cohesive, coordinated, unified messaging strategy from a centralized source that is easily accessible virtually.
  - 3. Initiate Public Information program to announce Mass Transportation Plan, with a focus on COVID-19 precautions.
  - 4. Initiate public information campaign specifically for general population shelters, with a focus on COVID-19 precautions.
  - 5. Focus public information campaign specifically on evacuation and “stay where you are” information, with a focus on COVID-19 precautions.
  
- I. ESF-17 (Animal/Agriculture Emergency Response)
  - Disseminate storm preparedness as well as relevant COVID-19 guidance to animal owners and agricultural businesses.
  
- J. ESF-19 (Military Support)
  - 1. Provide temperature screening at passenger pick up sites if needed.
  - 2. Provide staffing support to congregate shelters as designated.

**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 review of the SC Hurricane Plan.
- D. At a minimum, SCEMD will review this Contingency Plan at the end of the 2021 hurricane season and will update/revise the plan as necessary throughout the period or based on exercise/incident after action reports.

<b>Record of Changes</b>				
<b>Change Number</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Date of Change</b>	<b>Date Entered</b>	<b>Change Made by</b>
4	Mass transportation color-coded risk status added. Isolation language clarification and changes	08/03/2020	08/03/2020	R. Burton
5	Mass transportation updated with COVID protocols	05/19/2021	05/19/2021	R. Burton
6	Removed references to non-congregate general population shelters in mass care section	05/19/2021	05/19/2021	Phillips/ESF-6
7	ESF-8, Mass Transportation updates incorporated. Removal of all references to non-congregate sheltering	6/14/2021	6/14/2021	Burton/Phillips/ESF-8
8	Adjusted assumptions and mass care section to reflect baseline commitment of 22 Red Cross managed shelters	6/24/2021	6/24/2021	Phillips/Burton
9	Updated Cot Distribution table to reflect the most recent shelter capacity and available cots.	6/24/2021	6/24/2021	Phillips