

ANNEX A TO HURRICANE PLAN
EVACUATION DECISION AND RESPONSE TIMELINES

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, 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 assumes at least 72 hours before initiating evacuation to allow affected state, county, and municipal agencies sufficient time to prepare. For situations with less than 72 hours of lead time before an evacuation order, the actions below will be compressed into the time available.
3. If it is determined that an evacuation will not be conducted, reference Annex A, Attachment 2. Decision and Response Timeline without Evacuation.

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	☐ Governor: • Sign Governor's State of Emergency Declaration to support disaster operations and activate South Carolina National Guard (SCNG). ☐ SCEMD: • Activate the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and SEOC. • Notify ESFs and state agencies to initiate ESF Annex and SOP activities and staff the SEOC as required. • Notify ESFs 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 16, and 19 to begin preparations for a potential evacuation. • Activate the Disaster Intelligence Group. • Coordinate with FEMA for remote sensing and initiate imagery collection event with USGS. • Notify contingency contracts of possible activation. • Notify and place Public Information Phone System (PIPS) operators on standby for the potential evacuation. • Coordinate with coastal counties and ESFs 1 to determine potential critical transportation needs requirements (See Annex B). ☐ ESF-6: • Initiate Cot Distribution Plan if required. • Begin the shelter selection process in accordance with Annex G of the Hurricane Plan. This includes planning for Evacuation Support Shelters, Local Support Shelters, and Medical Equipment Power Shelters.

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 (cont'd.)	☐ ESF-8: • Initiate federal ambulance contract for Mandatory Medical Evacuation and monitor status, if required. • Mobilize and monitor Emergency Medical Services transport. • Maintain accountability for instate EMS resources to ensure appropriate utilization, activation, and deactivation. ☐ ESF-10: • Prepare the SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES)'s Disaster Preparedness and Response Team (DPRT) for activation. ☐ ESF-14: • Communicate with FEMA Region 4 regarding the potential for an emergency declaration request. • Prepare and submit request for a federal-emergency declaration for direct federal assistance-, and category B protective measures to the Governor's Office for review and signature. ☐ ESF-16: • Issue warning order to SC Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) troopers. • 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 (TCPs). May request representatives from ESF-13 and SCNG to assist with TCPs. ☐ ESF-19: • Initiate the National Guard Hurricane Contingency Operations Plan to begin a phased activation of National Guard Support. • If there is insufficient time to issue orders or activate support, SCNG may need to source units through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). • Consider recommending the National Guard request for Title 32 funding support.

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-60 Hours	☐ SCEMD: • Submit Governor’s request for an emergency declaration to President via FEMA Region 4 Regional Administrator. • Confirm critical transportation needs requirements with transportation contractor, ESF-1, and coastal counties and initiate plan as required. ☐ ESF-1: • Notify the Department of Education of possible support requirements for Critical Transportation Needs Plan. • Coordinate with SCEMD and coastal counties to confirm critical transportation needs requirements. • Contract portable toilet and bottled water vendors to support set-up of comfort stations. ☐ Counties: • Consider Point of Distribution (POD) locations that can be used for post-storm operations.
2	E-48 Hours 2 Days	☐ Governor: • Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mandatory Medical Evacuation (sign Mandatory Medical Evacuation Order w/exceptions). ☐ SCEMD/ESF-1/ESF-16: • Evaluate criteria for lane reversal actions (See Base Plan). ☐ ESF-6: • Coordinate with counties to confirm Evacuation Support Shelter and Medical Equipment Power Shelter locations (See AnnexG). ☐ ESF-8: • Initiate emergency radio communications tests among hospitals and public health departments. ☐ ESF-16: • Preposition all Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) equipment. ☐ ESF-19: • Identify routes for deployment and support.

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	☐ Governor: • Draft Executive Order for General Population Evacuation. ☐ SCEMD: • Coordinate with counties regarding evacuation recommendations.. • 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). ☐ ESF-9: • Initiate EMAC discussions. • Coordinate interagency communication regarding search and rescue ☐ ESF-13: • Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources to support evacuation. ☐ ESF-16: • Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources. • <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> ☐ ESF-19: • Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources. • Initiate/receive/start military Logistics Staging Area (LSA) operations for civilian support and troop support.
1	E-24 Hours	☐ Governor: • Go/No-Go decision on Evacuation (sign Evacuation Order). ☐ SCEMD: • Notify PIPS staffing Point of Contact that PIPS operations will begin at specified time. • Collaborate with ESF-1, ESF-16, and counties on a recommendation regarding lane reversals. ☐ ESF-4/9: • Finalize staging of staff and equipment.

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)	☐ ESF-6: • Identify resources and prepare shelter teams for deployment. ☐ ESF-8: • If signed, execute Mandatory Medical Evacuation Order(MMEO). ☐ ESF-10: • Activate the SCDES Disaster Preparedness and Response Team and contact the first shift personnel to provide the time to report for shift. ☐ ESF-13: • Deploy security resources to staging areas. ☐ ESF-16: • Pre-position SCDPS TCP personnel into area(s) as appropriate. • Activate Evacuation Messaging on DOT messaging boards (with ESF-1). ☐ ESF-19: • Pre-position military TCP and LSA personnel as appropriate.
1	E-12 Hours	☐ Governor: • Go/No-Go decision for lane reversals. ☐ Critical Transportation Needs Plan • Equipment and personnel in place at Embarkation/Debarcation points. • Vehicles are in place at Vehicle Staging Areas. ☐ ESF-6: • If Critical Transportation Needs Plan is activated, have a mass care liaison present at Collection Points to route buses to designated shelters. ☐ ESF-15: • Initiate Public Information program to announce Critical Transportation Needs Plan. • Issue news releases delineating evacuation zones. • Coordinate potential Emergency Alert with evacuation information.

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-6 to E-3 Hours	☐ Governor: • Announce evacuation. ☐ Critical Transportation Needs vehicles move to Forward Staging Areas. • Vehicles begin moving evacuees to designated shelters. Process is permitted to continue until two hours prior to the arrival of tropical storm-force winds. ☐ SCEMD: • Forward Deploy REMs in county EOCs. ☐ ESF-15: • Activate PIPS and announce telephone number. • Focus public information campaign specifically on evacuation information. • Re-issue releases delineating evacuation zones. ☐ ESF-16: • Stage resources in preparation for lane reversals and implement reversals if ordered.
1	E-Hour	☐ ESF-6: • Open designated Evacuation Support Shelters and be prepared to open Medical Equipment Power Shelters. ☐ ESF-13: • Operate security missions. • If SCNG 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. ☐ ESF-13/ESF-19: • TCPs staffed and prepared to control traffic in support of ESF-16.
1	H-4 to H-0 Hours	☐ ESF-16/ESF-1: • Demobilize and shelter personnel and equipment prior to arrival of tropical storm force winds.

III. REENTRY AND RECOVERY 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 OPCODE 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.

Reentry and Recovery Operations	
Agency/ESF	Actions
SCEMD	☐ Coordinate with the Governor's Office on an executive order rescinding evacuation order. ☐ Coordinate with affected counties to determine areas suitable for reentry.
ESF-1 Transportation	☐ Prepare for equipment/personnel requests from counties affected by the storm. ☐ Position signage (variable message boards, road markers) to facilitate reentry as required.
ESF-2 Communications	☐ Coordinate with counties and SERT agencies to address any unmet communications needs
ESF-3 Public Works and Engineering	☐ Provide information regarding water and sewer system disruption and re-establishment. ☐ Provide information regarding damage to public infrastructure and repair of public infrastructure to include critical facilities. ☐ Prepare for equipment and personnel requests from impacted utilities.
ESF-4 Firefighting	☐ Conduct aerial damage assessments of timber and reentry routes.
ESF-6 Mass Care	☐ DSS to implement closing and consolidation procedures in coordination with American Red Cross and counties (See Multi-Agency Shelter Transition Plan, Annex 6, Attachment 1).
ESF-10 Environmental and Hazardous Materials Operations	☐ Assess hazardous material threats and environmental impacts in affected areas.
ESF-11 Food Services	☐ Collect and record USDA Foods utilized during specific event(s).
ESF-14 Initial Recovery and Mitigation	☐ Engage counties in identifying temporary housing sites, developing temporary housing plans, and implementing federal housing assistance programs if needed. ☐ Facilitate information sharing with VOADs and Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) to address unmet needs of survivors.
ESF-15 Public Information	☐ Coordinate public messaging for reentry throughout all media markets to ensure message consistency.
ESF-17 Agriculture and Animals	☐ Assist with dissemination of information regarding reentry for critical food supply chains and agribusinesses. ☐ Coordinate available resources to support recovery of agribusiness

	and animal issues. ☐ Conduct food/agriculture/animal needs assessments.
ESF-19 Military Support	☐ Prepare to execute SCNG recovery operations plans.
ESF-24 Business and Industry	☐ Process business reentry requests via the South Carolina Business Reentry Program. ☐ 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

Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day
Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time
OPCON 3				OPCON 2				OPCON 1				
E Timeline												
E-120	E-96		E-84	E-72	E-60	E-48	E-36	E-24	E-12	E-0		E+24
H Timeline												
H-144	H-120			H-96		H-72		H-48		H-24	\$	H-0
Conf Call		Submit Status to FEMA	Ambulance Contract	Critical Trans Decision	Man Med Evac Decision			Evac Decision	Evac Prep and Lane Reversal Decision	Evacuation		TS Winds
		State of Emergency						Medical Evacuation				
		Cot Distribution Plan Decision										Evacuation Support Shelters Open and MEPS Prepared to Open
		SCNG Phased Activation										

***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

§ Demobilization and shelter of personnel and equipment begins at H-4

36-hour Evacuation Planning Timeline

Date Day	Time	Date Day	Time	Date Day	Time	Date Day	Time	Date Day	Time	Date Day	Time	Date Day	Time
OPCON 3				OPCON 2				OPCON 1					
E Timeline													
E-120		E-96		E-84		E-72		E-60		E-48		E-36	
H Timeline													
H-156		H-132				H-108				H-84			
		Conf Call		Submit Status to FEMA		Ambulance Contract		Critical Trans Decision		Man Med Evac Decision			
				State of Emergency						Evac Decision		Lane Reversal Decision	
				Cot Distribution Plan Decision						Medical Evacuation			
				SCNG Phased Activation						Evacuation Support Shelters Open and MEPS Prepared to Open			
													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

§ Demobilization and shelter of personnel and equipment begins at H-4

48-hour Evacuation Planning Timeline

Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day	Date Day
Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time
OPCON 3				OPCON 2				OPCON 1							
E Timeline															
E-120	E-96	E-84	E-72	E-60	E-48	E-36	E-24	E-12	E-0	E+12	E+24	E+36	E+48		
H Timeline															
H-168	H-144		H-120		H-96		H-60		H-36		H-24	\$	H-0		
Conf Call		Submit Status to FEMA	Ambulance Contract	Critical Trans Decision	Man Med Evac Decision			Evac Decision	Evac Prep and Lane Reversal Decision	Evacuation				TS Wind	
		State of Emergency		Medical Evacuation											
		Cot Distribution Plan Decision													
SCNG Phased Activation								Evacuation Support Shelters Open and MEPS Prepared to Open							

***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

§ Demobilization and shelter of personnel and equipment begins at H-4

Compressed Evacuation Planning Timeline

Date Day Time	Time	Date Day Time	Time	Time	Time	Date Day Time	Time	Time		
OPCON 1										
E Timeline										
E-18	E-12	E-6	E-0	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						TS Winds	
		Evacuation Preparation and Lane Reversal Decision	Evacuation							
Mandatory Medical Evac Decision	Activate NG		Evacuation Support Shelters Open and MEPS Prepared to Open							(After onset of TS winds)
Critical Transportation Decision	Ambulance Coordination									
	Evacuation Shelter Plan									

***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

§ Demobilization and shelter of personnel and equipment begins at H-4