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MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

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City of Charleston Hurricane Matthew AM Update

Charleston, S.C.—Hurricane Matthew will approach the SC coast late Friday night/Saturday morning. It is expected to be a category 2 or 3 hurricane at that time. Officials are expecting an inundation of water from a 4 to 8 foot storm surge, high speed winds and 8 to 14 inches of heavy rain associated with the storm.

Governor Nikki Haley spoke at a press conference this morning urging citizens to evacuate.

Mayor Tecklenburg echoed that warning, “It’s not in our nature to be inhospitable, but now is the time to leave Charleston. We are facing the threat of severe flooding caused by storm surge, high tide and potentially over a foot of rain hitting us all at once, and for that reason we are urging everyone to evacuate while there is still time.”

Governor Haley reported that as of 6 a.m. on Thursday, 175,000 people had already evacuated.

The lane reversal on I-26 is running smoothly. The average travel time to Columbia from Charleston on the reversed lanes is about an hour and a half.

The City of Charleston Municipal Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) moved to OPCON 1 at 3 p.m. yesterday in coordination with Governor Nikki Haley’s evacuation order. This status fully staffs the MEOC with members of the City’s Emergency Management Team. This 24 hour staffing will continue until the threat from Hurricane Matthew has passed.

The City of Charleston Citizen’s Information Line is active: (843) 973-7219.

After distributing 15,500 sandbags—a record number of sandbags for a single event—at four separate locations, the city discontinued sandbag operations. To purchase sandbags, citizens should contact a local home hardware store.

City garbage and trash collections have been suspended. Collections will resume on Monday, October 10.

City of Charleston offices are closed. City offices will remain closed on Thursday and Friday. The early release on Wednesday and closure on Thursday and Friday does not apply to public safety employees or other personnel needed to provide essential City services.

City of Charleston Municipal Court hearings scheduled through Friday, October 7 have been cancelled and will be rescheduled. Notice of the rescheduled hearing times will be sent to the affected parties when the times have been set.

City of Charleston Recreation Department activities scheduled through Sunday, October 9 have been cancelled.

Board, Commission and Committee meetings scheduled through Friday, October 7 are postponed. All items that were scheduled for public hearing will appear in updated agendas in their original order. Amended agendas and board dates will be set next week.

The Charleston Farmers Market in Marion Square on October 8 is cancelled.

[Charleston County Government](#) announced that the following shelters are now open:

- North Charleston High School, 1087 E Montague Ave, North Charleston, SC 29405
- Stall High School, 3625 Ashley Phosphate Rd, North Charleston, SC 29418
- A.C. Corcoran Elementary, 8585 Vistavia Rd, North Charleston, SC 29406
- Midland Park Primary, 2415 Midland Park Road, North Charleston, SC 29406
- Ladson Elementary, 3321 Ladson Rd, Ladson, SC 29456
- Edmund A. Burns Elementary, 3750 Dorchester Road, North Charleston, SC 29405 (Pet / Pet Owner Shelter)

Coastal Evacuation Routes can be read here: <http://bit.ly/2dphirh>

CARTA is assisting in transporting citizens from [downtown emergency pickup locations](#) (blue hurricane signs) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Those requesting a ride from downtown Charleston are asked to call (843) 724-7420. Transportation will be provided to an available Charleston County hurricane shelter.

Charleston County will provide pickups at all non-downtown locations and those sites can be found in the Charleston County Hurricane Guide: <http://bit.ly/22prNZK>

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