

**From:** Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov>  
**To:** Haley, Nikki <govhaley@gov.sc.gov>  
Haley, Michael <MichaelHaley@gov.sc.gov>  
Patel, Swati <SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov>  
**CC:** Pisarik, Holly <HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov>  
Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>  
Priester, Nicole <NicolePriester@gov.sc.gov>  
**Date:** 10/1/2015 6:57:38 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Weather Alert - Hurricane Joaquin

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Governor – At this time, we have identified at least two decision points for you to consider tomorrow.

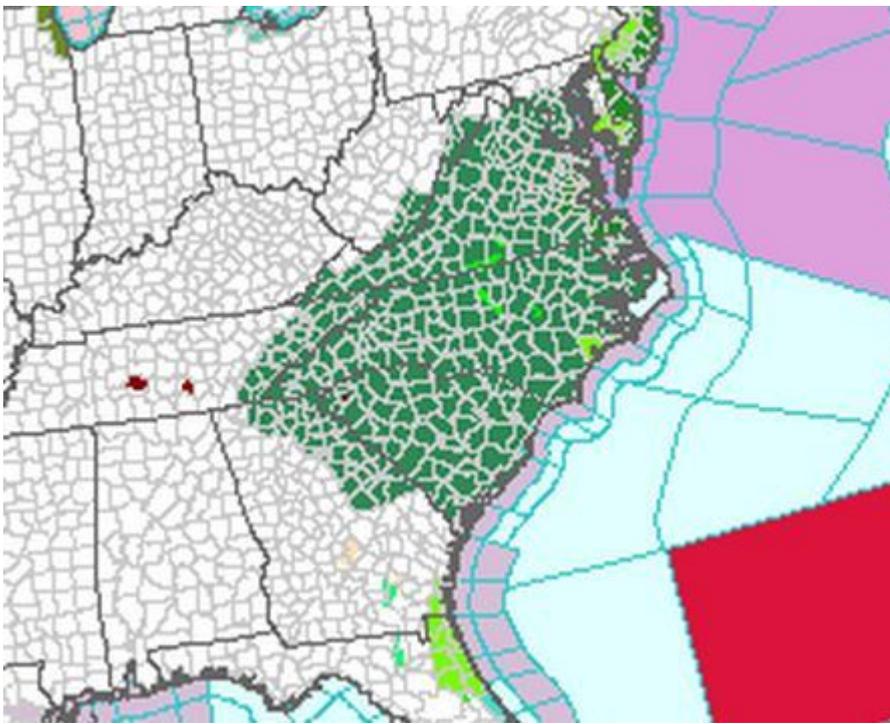
- (1) Order for NC? State law requires us to suspend federal hours-of-service regulations for commercial truck drivers when one of our neighboring states does. We've been sent a copy of NC's order suspending these regulations for their emergency response, so we would like your authorization to issue the complementary order and stamp your signature. (Note that we have done this approximately three times during your administration thus far.)
- (2) Executive Group Call? Before everyone goes home for the weekend, EMD recommends that we have an Executive Group call sometime tomorrow to ensure all agencies are prepared and on the same page. A projected statewide event for a threat of flooding is unusual, so they would like the extra communication. If you would like, Nicole confirmed that you could do a call between 12:30-3:00 p.m. tomorrow. Please let us know what you would like to do. (EMD will need a few hours in advance to send out the call notice.)

Below are additional weather updates.

**Rainfall** – The National Weather Service has the entire state under a Flood Watch from 8:00 p.m. tonight through Sunday evening. Tropical moisture from Joaquin is expected to mix with the current low pressure system hovering over the southeast to make flooding likely throughout the weekend.

**Joaquin** – The hurricane is currently a Cat 4 and is expected to intensify over the next 12 hours. The National Hurricane Center is now optimistic that the Carolinas will avoid direct effects of the hurricane.

Below is a weather alert map from the NWS. Dark green shows the Flood Watch zone. Red is hurricane warning. Lilac is gale warning.



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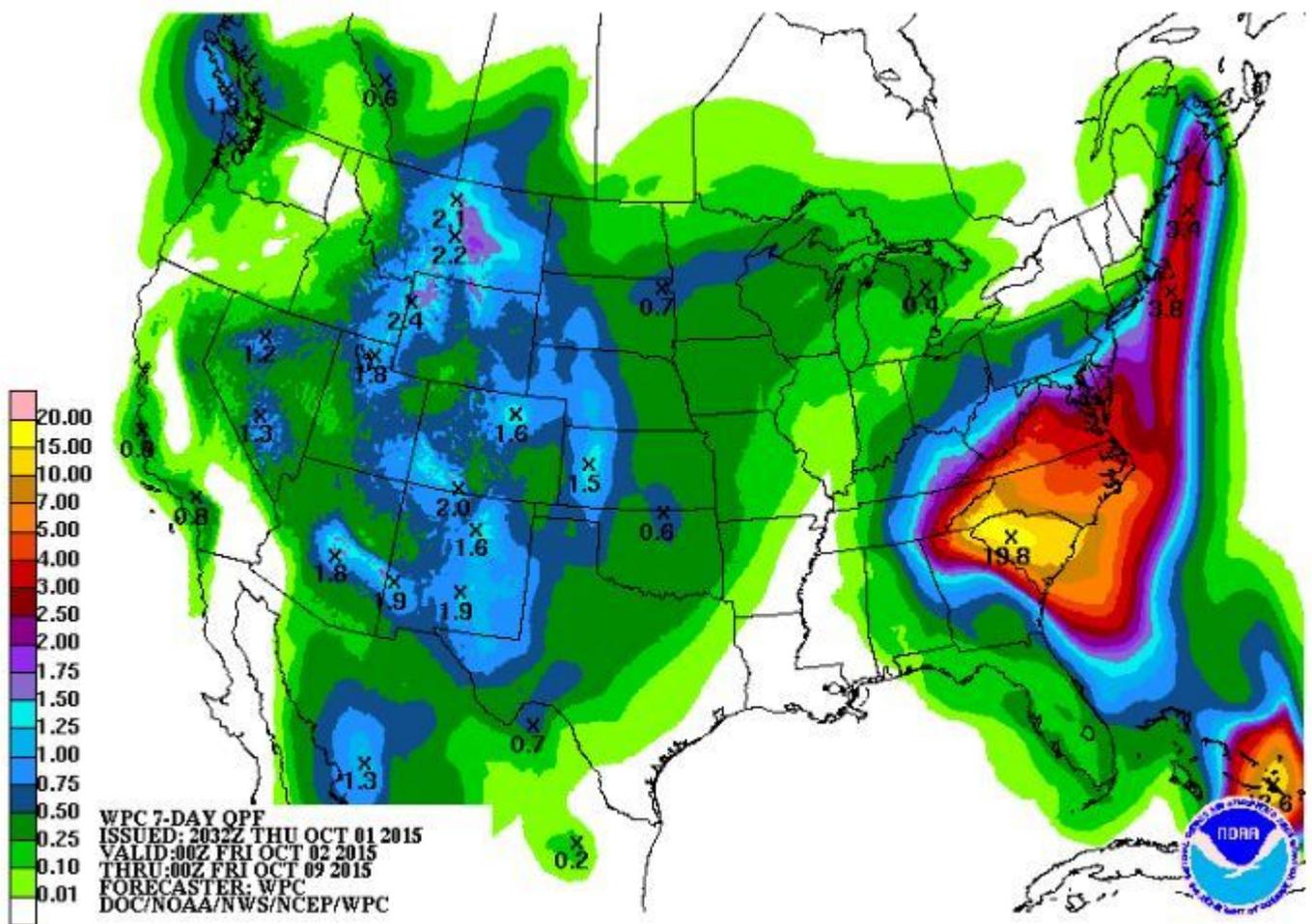
From: Schimsa, Rebecca  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 6:19 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki ([govhaley@gov.sc.gov](mailto:govhaley@gov.sc.gov)); Haley, Michael; Patel, Swati ([swatipatel@gov.sc.gov](mailto:swatipatel@gov.sc.gov))  
Cc: Pisarik, Holly; [robgodfrey@gov.sc.gov](mailto:robgodfrey@gov.sc.gov); Priester, Nicole  
Subject: RE: Weather Alert - Hurricane Joaquin

[Attached is a copy of the order, which has also been sent to EMD.](#)

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From: Schimsa, Rebecca  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 5:29 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki ([govhaley@gov.sc.gov](mailto:govhaley@gov.sc.gov)); Haley, Michael; Patel, Swati ([swatipatel@gov.sc.gov](mailto:swatipatel@gov.sc.gov))  
Cc: Pisarik, Holly; [robgodfrey@gov.sc.gov](mailto:robgodfrey@gov.sc.gov); Priester, Nicole  
Subject: RE: Weather Alert - Hurricane Joaquin

[Below is an image showing specific rainfall amounts:](#)



From: Schimsa, Rebecca  
 Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 5:24 PM  
 To: Haley, Nikki ([govhaley@gov.sc.gov](mailto:govhaley@gov.sc.gov)); Haley, Michael; Patel, Swati ([swatipatel@gov.sc.gov](mailto:swatipatel@gov.sc.gov))  
 Cc: Pisarik, Holly; [robgodfrey@gov.sc.gov](mailto:robgodfrey@gov.sc.gov); Priester, Nicole  
 Subject: RE: Weather Alert - Hurricane Joaquin

Forecast: The conservative forecast calls for 8-10 inches of rain statewide (all 46 counties) over a 24-48 period due to a current low pressure system that is over the southeast, which is bringing in rain from the Gulf and from the north. The moisture of Hurricane Joaquin may converge with the low pressure system that would bring more moisture and rain to our area.

EMD's Recommendation: Because of this significant rain event – separate and apart from the hurricane, EMD is recommending a State of Emergency. This is an unusual event for SC, because flash flooding usually occurs in a localized area (one or two counties only). However, this is expected to affect the entire state.

Below is an image showing the satellite coverage over both storm systems (low pressure and hurricane). Below that is the 5:00 p.m. tracking image.



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From: Schimsa, Rebecca  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 1:29 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki ([govhaley@gov.sc.gov](mailto:govhaley@gov.sc.gov)); Haley, Michael; Patel, Swati ([swatipatel@gov.sc.gov](mailto:swatipatel@gov.sc.gov))  
Cc: Pisarik, Holly; [robgodfrey@gov.sc.gov](mailto:robgodfrey@gov.sc.gov); Priester, Nicole  
Subject: RE: Weather Alert - Hurricane Joaquin

Local Actions: Horry and Georgetown Counties moved to OPCON 4 this morning. Coastal counties are cautiously optimistic that this will just be a storm with effects like coastal erosion and some flooding. However, they understand that time is getting away as far as being able to conduct an evacuation.

State Actions: To mirror county status, EMD moved to OPCON 4 at noon today, which is a heightened state of readiness where no additional staffing or resources are needed. At 3:00 p.m. today, EMD will lead a statewide county call to talk about flooding.

Flooding Effects on SC: Flash flooding should be starting sometime on Friday and would last through the weekend. Dangerous conditions occur at night when it's harder to see washed out roads. Residents in low-lying areas near rivers are also at risk.

- Public Safety – DPS and DOT would be lead agencies for closing roads for safety and prevention.
- Individual Safety – Local fire departments and first response are key for rescue operations. The lead agencies are LLR and Swift Water Rescue Teams with DNR and the National Guard as a fallback options for boats and helicopters, respectively.

EMD's Contingency Planning based on Moving Forecasts:

- WORST CASE – SC LANDFALL: After the 5pm call today, if the storm ticks back west towards SC, then it would be possible for an evacuation to be called later tonight or early tomorrow morning. To clear all zones in Horry and Georgetown, it takes 26 hours; to clear just the immediate coastal zone, it takes 13 hours.
- NEXT WORST CASE – SC FLOODING: The latest rain estimations are anywhere between 2-17 inches over 5 days in various parts of the state.

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From: Schimsa, Rebecca  
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:43 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki ([govhaley@gov.sc.gov](mailto:govhaley@gov.sc.gov)); Haley, Michael; Patel, Swati ([swatipatel@gov.sc.gov](mailto:swatipatel@gov.sc.gov))  
Cc: Pisarik, Holly; [robgodfrey@gov.sc.gov](mailto:robgodfrey@gov.sc.gov); Priester, Nicole  
Subject: RE: Weather Alert - Hurricane Joaquin

Late today, Joaquin's tracking models have significantly shifted more towards SC than originally forecasted. This means that it MIGHT be possible for SC to be in the cone of error for Hurricane Joaquin.

Forecast: A southwestward motion is expected over the next 36 hours followed by a turn north. Joaquin is also expected to increase to a Cat 3 within 48 hours. However, it is too early to make decisions of this data.

Effects on SC: EMD will receive two more reports overnight (11pm, 5am) that will help us decide whether we need to take action. If so, a county call will be held at 9am with a state agency call at 9:30am. At this time, the absolute worst case scenario would be calling for an evacuation of Horry and Georgetown late Thursday or early Friday. Again, that is worst case.

Expect the next update early tomorrow morning. Tracking image below.



From: Schimsa, Rebecca  
 Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 2:22 PM  
 To: Haley, Nikki ([govhaley@gov.sc.gov](mailto:govhaley@gov.sc.gov)); Haley, Michael; Patel, Swati ([swatipatel@gov.sc.gov](mailto:swatipatel@gov.sc.gov))  
 Subject: RE: Weather Alert - Hurricane Joaquin

Counties: EMD conducted a conference call with our coastal counties and SERT primaries at 1:00 pm. All counties indicated they will remain at OPCON 5 and continue to monitor the storm. No unmet needs reported. Another county call is scheduled for tomorrow.

Effects on SC: Because NC and VA could receive as much as 9-10 inches of rain, we may see river flooding early next week. Many of our coastal counties have already experienced flooding from the rain/high tide cycle. EMD will also be prepared to send support staff to our northern neighbors if needed via mutual assistance compacts.

From: Schimsa, Rebecca  
 Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 7:50 AM  
 To: Haley, Nikki ([govhaley@gov.sc.gov](mailto:govhaley@gov.sc.gov)); Haley, Michael; Patel, Swati ([swatipatel@gov.sc.gov](mailto:swatipatel@gov.sc.gov))  
 Subject: Weather Alert - Hurricane Joaquin

Hurricane Joaquin formed this morning (yesterday, a TD then a TS). Since the storm is strengthening, EMD will most likely conduct a coastal county call today. However, the track is forecasted to stay out at sea and then make landfall near the mid-Atlantic. Additional updates expected as EMD continues to monitor the storm. See tracking image below.

Note: The cone contains the probable path of the storm center but does not show the size of the storm. Hazardous conditions can occur outside of the cone.



<p><b>Hurricane Joaquin</b>          Wednesday September 30, 2015          8 AM EDT Intermediate Advisory 10A          NWS National Hurricane Center</p>	<p><b>Current Information:</b> ●          Center Location 24.9 N 72.2 W          Max Sustained Wind 75 mph          Movement SW at 6 mph</p>	<p><b>Forecast Positions:</b>          ● Tropical Cyclone ○ Post-Tropical          Sustained Winds: D &lt; 39 mph          S 39-73 mph H 74-110 mph M &gt; 110mph</p>
<p><b>Potential Track Area:</b>   Day 1-3  Day 4-5</p>	<p><b>Watches:</b>   Hurricane  Trop.Storm</p>	<p><b>Warnings:</b>   Hurricane  Trop.Storm</p>