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Date: 10/5/2015 2:04:54 PM

Subject: Presser Highlights

WE ARE MOVING FROM RESPONSE INTO ASSESSMENT AND RECOVERY MODES. IT WILL BE A LONG PROCESS.

WE STILL ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO STAY HOME; THIS EVENT IS NOT OVER AND IT IS A DANGEROUS SITUATION.

WE WILL SEE ADDITIONAL ROAD CLOSURES. MANY ROADS ARE UNSAFE EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY LOOK OK. SOME 550 ROADS AND BRIDGES ARE CLOSED. STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENTS WILL TAKE TIME.

CHALLENGES INCLUDE FOLLOWING THE WATER AS IT MOVES DOWN STATE AND CLEANUP IN THE FLOODING AFTERMATH.

THERE HAVE BEEN NINE WEATHER-RELATED DEATHS. FOUR FROM TRAFFIC CRASHES AND FIVE PEOPLE DROWNED IN VEHICLES.

40,000 PEOPLE ARE WITHOUT WATER AND SOME 31,000 ARE WITHOUT POWER.

932 PEOPLE ARE IN 25 SHELTERS ACROSS THE STATE.

IN THE MIDLANDS, PET-FRIENDLY SHELTERS ARE LOCATED AT SEVEN OAKS PARK, 200 LEISURE LANE IN IRMO AND AT THE LEISURE CENTER IN LEXINGTON AT 108 PARK ROAD. PETS SHOULD BE VACCINATED AND PREFERABLY IN CRATES.

1,300 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN ARE ON DUTY; 7,000 ARE ON ALERT. GUARDSMEN HAVE MADE 25 AERIAL RESCUES.

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HAVE MADE OVER 150 WATER RESCUES.

NO HOSPITALS WILL HAVE TO EVACUATE DUE TO WATER ISSUES. COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT DESERVES MUCH CREDIT FOR THEIR EFFORTS.

WE WILL BE SETTING UP WATER DISTRIBUTION SITES, FOUR IN RICHLAND COUNTY TODAY AT LOWER RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL AND RICHLAND MALL. SIX OTHER SITES IN THE COUNTY ARE EXPECTED TO OPEN TOMORROW.

DON'T GO OUT TO TAKE PICTURES OR PLAY IN THE WATER. THE WATER MAY BE CONTAMINATED DUE TO SEWAGE OVERFLOWS.

WE HAVE RECEIVED A CALL FROM PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA. THEY WERE VERY GRACIOUS AND PROMISED WHATEVER RESOURCES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL ARE READY TO HELP SOUTH CAROLINA.

WE HAVE MADE A VERBAL REQUEST FOR A MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION IN 11 COUNTIES FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC.

THE STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER HAS RESPONDED TO 175 REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE OR RESROUCES FROM COUNTIES AROUND THE STATE.

CALL 911 FOR LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES.

MONITOR MEDIA AND TRUSTED WEBSITES.

EXPECT CLEANUP AND RECOVERY EFFORTS TO TAKE WEEKS.

IF YOUR HOME HAS BEEN AFFECTED, START MAKING A LIST OF ALL DAMAGES. IT WILL TAKE TIME BUT OUR FEDERAL PARTNER AGENCIES WILL BE SETTING UP LOCATIONS TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC.

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