

From: Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov>
To: Haley, Nikki <govhaley@gov.sc.gov>
Patel, Swati <SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov>
Pisarik, Holly <HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov>
Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 2/24/2016 11:10:14 AM
Subject: RE: Weather Alert - Severe Thunderstorms on Wed.

Dillon and Marion Counties have chosen to dismiss their county offices early today. Pursuant to protocol, state offices will close in those counties as well.

From: Schimsa, Rebecca
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:04 AM
To: Haley, Nikki; Patel, Swati; Pisarik, Holly; Godfrey, Rob
Subject: RE: Weather Alert - Severe Thunderstorms on Wed.

NWS Advisories:

- Tornado Watch (could occur) is in effect for Allendale this morning.
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning (occurring or about to occur) in effect for Aiken and Allendale all day.
- Flash Flood Watch (could occur) in effect for Upstate counties.

Forecast Effects: The additional quick-falling, torrential rainfall will hit grounds that are saturated and have not dried out since October. The high wind gusts are expected to bring down trees and cause power outages.

School Early Dismissals: Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg, Dorchester, and Florence will have early dismissals today due to the weather. Charleston already has pre-scheduled half-day today, which was not weather related.

County Actions: No county offices are closed. Three counties have moved to OPCON 4 in support of observing today's weather conditions: Horry, Georgetown, and Marion. The EOCs will not be activated, but staff will be ready to support any storm response efforts.

State Action: EMD will continue to observe conditions and stand ready to assist counties if needed.

From: Schimsa, Rebecca
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:25 PM
To: Haley, Nikki; Patel, Swati; Pisarik, Holly; Godfrey, Rob
Subject: Re: Weather Alert - Severe Thunderstorms on Wed.

Feedback from Randy and Sam:

The rationale to dismiss early is due to concerns with the height of the school buses in the high wind, possibly tipping over or swerving on the road. The counties do not plan to close offices early, and therefore we do not expect state offices to close early either.

Expect a general update tomorrow afternoon/evening if there are requests for state assistance or significant damages.

On Feb 23, 2016, at 9:19 PM, Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

The Horry and Georgetown schools have decided to dismiss early tomorrow due to the tornado threat, severe thunderstorms, and 45 mph wind gusts forecast for tomorrow afternoon. This seems unusual, because the forecast does not appear to warrant closures. Accordingly, Kim Stenson is touching base with the county emergency managers (Randy Webster in Horry, and Sam Hodge in Georgetown).

Expect another update later tonight or early in the morning.

On Feb 23, 2016, at 9:30 AM, Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

Tomorrow, severe thunderstorms are forecast, producing heavy rains particularly in the Upstate where a fast 1-2 inches are expected to fall. Lightning and strong 60-70 mph winds gives a chance for tornadoes as well.

<image002.jpg>