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**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:** 10/2/2015 12:22:42 PM  
**Subject:** RE: EMD Update - Flooding Operations

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Addition: EMD stood up the SEOC and moved to OPCON 3 today (means an emergency situation is likely and the SEOC is staffed).

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From: Schimsa, Rebecca  
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 12:21 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki; Haley, Michael; Patel, Swati  
Cc: Pisarik, Holly; Godfrey, Rob; Priester, Nicole  
Subject: RE: EMD Update - Flooding Operations

#### **Afternoon Decision Points:**

We will present you with two documents for your signature, both of which should be familiar concepts:

- Request letter for direct federal assistance to the President/FEMA. This is not for reimbursement or public or individual assistance. This is for generators, sandbags, search-and-rescue, additional military help, etc.
- Executive Order to suspend federal regulations for truckers carrying emergency supplies, debris, fuel, etc. We have had requests from the Retail Association, Trucking Association, and Forestry Association. (Due to these requests and our own State of Emergency, we recommend issuing this comprehensive order rather than the narrow order for NC.)

#### **Update on Friday Morning's Efforts:**

- Status of Coastal Shelters – Becca called and checked with Horry, Charleston, and Beaufort to get a direct update on shelters. All are prepared to stand up shelters if the need arises. No shelters are currently open. They do not expect this to be a large sheltering event but may have small, isolated needs. In addition, all have no unmet needs. Below are some background points on shelters specific to this flooding event.
- DOT & National Guard Coordination – Per Secretary Hall's request, our office set up a conference call with DOT, National Guard, and EMD. Discussion focused on DOT's needs and how Guard assets could fill those needs for operations related to sandbags, temporary bridges,
- HR Policy for State Office Closings – Our office directed Director Adams to contact all state agency HR directors to employ the winter weather policy for state office closings, where the state offices will follow the county offices. Thus far, the following counties have closed, except for essential personnel: Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester (noon). Public servants can check here for closings: <http://www.scemd.org/closings>
- Info to General Assembly – Today, our office sent out some information to legislators with tips for constituents about flooding and a reminder about the protocol for legislators to contact their county emergency managers for local issues, not EMD. Becca's contact information was also included in case a

legislator has additional questions.

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### **Background on Shelter Process:**

- SC DSS will activate ESF-6 Mass Care at 1200 Friday. DSS is the lead agency. ESF-6 includes DSS, ARC, the Salvation Army, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief and others should operations expand. ESF-6 will coordinate the state mass care response, but it will be planned, organized and executed locally.
- Counties specify shelters to open. These are not necessarily the same locations used in catastrophic planning. Unlike hurricane evacuations, many of these locations may be in smaller capacity facilities such as Churches or Community Centers. We encourage counties to use larger capacity schools, but cannot direct use.
- Staffing requirements base on demand. Generally, a shelter requires a minimum 5 person staff to operate 24/7 regardless of capacity. As occupancy increases, staff requirements grow by 1 per 50 occupants, rounded up. So with 51 occupants, think a minimum staff of 6.
- Food and beverage support is coordinated and provided locally when possible. State ESF-6 will coordinate and supplement identified needs, and will synchronize volunteer efforts.

### Talking Points on Shelters:

- SC DSS and the American Red Cross in conjunction with volunteer and other state and local agency partners will provide public shelter based on local needs for those effected by rain and flood events.
- Information on open shelters is available through County Emergency Management, County SC DSS offices, and local Red Cross chapters.
- If possible, it may be best to stay with friends or use hotels as shelters themselves lack many amenities.
- Persons seeking shelter should bring hygiene items, dietary items, medical prescriptions and pillows and blankets with them when reporting to shelters.
- Shelters do not include provisions for pet care. Please make other arrangements for your pets before reporting to a shelter. County Emergency Management may be able to assist with local recommendations or referrals to local animal control.

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From: Schimsa, Rebecca  
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 5:43 AM  
To: Haley, Nikki; Haley, Michael; Patel, Swati  
Cc: Pisarik, Holly; Godfrey, Rob; Priester, Nicole  
Subject: Re: EMD Update - Flooding Operations

### Following the 5:00 a.m. Advisory:

**Forecast:** Joaquin is now farther east at sea and should not threaten the east coast. Rainfall is forecast to increase in the Upstate and now stands at up to 18-19 inches statewide (this will probably continue to fluctuate). The first wave of heavy rain should hit this evening.

**Effects Today:** Road closures may already be happening in coastal areas where we should expect to see the first signs of flooding due to lower elevation levels. Charleston County offices have decided to close, and others may do so as well.

## **This Morning's Priorities:**

(1) EMD will send over a draft federal assistance request letter for the Governor to sign and send to the President/FEMA. The request letter does not obligate us, but if approved, it opens up options for federal resources if needed. **Do we have authorization to stamp sign this letter?**

(2) Identify county unmet needs this morning. EMD is hosting two county calls (coastal; then midlands/upstate) at 9am and 9:45am, respectively. I will try to listen in on those calls.

(3) EMD is concerned that - because Joaquin is no longer a threat - the public will go back to business as usual. They would like our press offices to coordinate messaging this morning regarding staying off the roads and seeking shelter if needed.

*Note - EMD is also concerned about the home Clemson and Carolina games and the amount of traffic and accidents they will cause. These decisions are local as decided by the universities.*

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 2, 2015, at 12:02 AM, Schimsa, Rebecca <[RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov](mailto:RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov)> wrote:

Following tonight's 11pm advisory:

**FORECAST:** Joaquin is now not forecasted to make landfall on the east coast. However:

**Rainfall level forecasts have increased** and are expected to be heaviest in a line from Charleston to Columbia to Greenville, which equates up to 23" in the Midlands. **South Carolina's rain event is expected to be worse than NC's** or any other state. With Joaquin expected not to hit the U.S., then all eyes are expected to be turned towards SC.

\*\*\*Below is a summary of key issues to know going into the weekend's operations.\*\*\*

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNOR'S MESSAGING:** EMD believes that what the Governor says to her directors matters and sets priorities. The biggest help that EMD needs is not losing tomorrow, Friday, as a day of preparation before the serious operations begin **on Friday night** through the weekend. This is expected to be a long-term problem until mid next week, even after the rain stops.

**PUBLIC TALKING POINTS:** Similar to winter storms, the Governor is encouraged to message that citizens should leave work early and stay home before the serious rains start to fall **tomorrow evening**. Citizens need to stay off the roads and be aware if they live in low-lying areas to take personal responsibility to get to places of safety.

**EMD PRIORITIES:** The priority now for EMD is to drive preparedness for agencies tomorrow, to get out media messages for the public, and then to respond rapidly **tomorrow night** for life safety. It will be a challenge to sustain significant night-time operations.

**ROAD & BRIDGE DEBRIS (DOT):** A major issue is that the water will pick up debris and carry it to clog underneath and all around bridges, and the flow will put pressure on the pilings and could cause bridges to collapse or flood. Potentially, dozens and dozens of bridges could be lost.

DOT will be monitoring bridges closely and preparing for detours. Also, traffic signage for road closure and sandbags will be key for prepping tomorrow.

**DAMS (DHEC):** We have more than 5,000 dams across the state, and if the earth gets too soft, they are quite vulnerable, especially over an extended period of time.

**LOCAL WATER/SEWER FACILITIES:** One of our biggest weakness is ESF-3 (public works and engineering, such as water, sewer, and waste water systems). All of these teams are locally owned and operated, primarily owned by municipalities and counties. There is no state entity that keeps public works open, such as there is for firefighter or roads. If locals need assistance, then we have little capability at the state level and so would most likely need to turn to federal assistance. In addition, our water and sewer facilities are usually located in our most low-lying areas. Potentially, areas could be cut off from these services for days or weeks.

**SHELTERS (DSS & RED CROSS):** Based on need, counties will be contacting DSS and Red Cross to stand up shelters. **The locations of shelters will not be determined until a need is presented**, so DSS will have to react quickly as calls are made. It is possible that nursing homes or medical facilities may have to evacuate or at least move patients and electrical systems to higher floors. (Unlike hurricane evacuations, where the need for shelters is obvious, there is no such anticipated need for flooding - it's case by case as the need arises.)

**POWER OUTAGES (ORS):** Although high winds are not expected, there is the possibility for tornadoes and the heavy rain could knock over transformers and cause the ground to be soggy enough to have outages.

**FEDERAL ASSISTANCE (FEMA):** Eight personnel from FEMA IMAT (incident management assistance team) will arrive in Columbia tomorrow and will work out of the SEOC. If we need federal assistance to prepare for or fight the flooding, then EMD may send over an Emergency Declaration Request for Direct Federal Assistance, which is access to federal teams and resources, such as USAR, generators, sandbags, additional military help, etc. Once the Governor sends a request, FEMA would approve/deny the request within a few hours. (Note that NC and SC have FEMA's main attention at this time). Mike Moore out of Atlanta (FEMA Region IV) is predesignated to serve as our federal resource coordinator.

Expect the next update [tomorrow around 6:30 a.m.](#)