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**Columbia, S.C. (Wednesday, October 5, 2016)** – The South Carolina Response Team today announced the opening of shelters across the state for residents and visitors who are evacuating from coastal areas as Hurricane Matthew approaches. Shelters began opening on Wednesday, October 5, and as of 3 PM there are 26 shelters open.

Shelters are generally the place of last resort. Individuals and families are encouraged to have emergency plans in place. These plans should include relatives or friends with whom you can stay or locations to which you will travel. In the event that you must use a shelter, there are two types: General Population and Special Medical Needs Shelters. Only individuals with special medical needs and their caregivers will be admitted to SMNS.

Be sure to make arrangement for your pets; pets are not allowed in official shelters.

The Department of Social Services is designated as the lead agency for coordinating mass care operations. In particular, DSS works with the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, the Department of Health and Environmental Control and other state agencies and volunteer relief organizations in disaster situations to coordinate the capability to meet basic human needs (shelter, food, bulk distribution of emergency relief supplies, disaster welfare inquiries, and emergency social services).

**As of 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 5, 2016, the following emergency shelters are open:**

Aiken  
South Aiken High School  
232 East Pine Log Road  
Aiken, SC

Hights Church  
4631-A Jefferson Davis Hwy.  
Beech Island, SC 29842

Allendale County  
Allendale Elementary School  
4561 Allendale-Fairfax Hwy.  
Allendale, SC

Bamberg  
Bamberg-Ehrhardt School  
267 Red Rider Dr.  
Bamberg, SC

Ghents Branch Baptist Church  
1974 Ghents Branch Rd.  
Denmark, SC

Denmark-Olar High School  
197 Viking Circle  
Denmark, SC

Barnwell  
Barnwell Elementary School  
10524 Marlboro Ave.  
Barnwell, SC

Berkeley  
Berkeley Elementary School  
715 Hwy 6  
Monks Corner, SC

Charleston County  
AC Corcoran Elementary School  
8585 Vistavia Road  
N. Charleston, SC

Burns Elementary School  
3750 Dorchester Road  
Charleston, SC 29405

Ladson Elementary School  
3321 Ladson Road  
N. Charleston, SC

Midland Park Elementary  
2415 Midlands Park Road  
N. Charleston, SC

North Charleston High School  
1087 East Montague Ave.  
N. Charleston, SC

Stall High School  
3625 Ashely Phosphate Road  
N. Charleston, SC

Colleton County  
Colleton County Middle School  
1379 Tuskegee Airman Drive  
Walterboro, SC

Dorchester County:  
Dubose Middle School  
1005 Dubose School Road  
Summerville, SC

Fort Dorchester High School.  
8500 Patriot Blvd  
North Charleston, SC

Oakbrook Middle School  
4704 Ladson, SC

St. George Middle School  
600 Minus Street  
St. George, SC

Summerville High School  
1011 Boone Hill Road

Summerville, SC

Woodland High School  
4128 US Highway 78  
Dorchester, SC

Lexington County  
White Knoll High School  
5643 Platt Springs Road  
Lexington, SC

In Spartanburg County  
Spartanburg Expo Center  
6655 Pottery Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29303

In Williamsburg County:  
CE Murray High School  
222 CE Murray Blvd  
Greeleyville, SC

Hemingway High School  
402 South Main Street  
Hemingway, SC

Kingstree Senior High  
615 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue  
Kingstree, SC

Tupperware Gym  
Tupperware Road 258  
Hemingway, SC

SCDSS is preparing additional shelters to open in other areas across the state.

Visit [scemd.org](http://scemd.org) for a complete list of shelters as well as updates.

Derrec Becker

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*"South Carolina's emergency management program minimizes loss of life and property damage from all-hazard incidents."*