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Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Residents Should Avoid Displaced Wildlife



SCEMD

Office of the Adjutant General

State Emergency Operations Center
2779 Fish Hatchery Road, West Columbia, SC 29172

Hurricane Matthew

NEWS RELEASE 22

For Immediate Release

State Joint Information Center

Phone: 803-737-8515 | Social: [@SCEMD](https://twitter.com/SCEMD)

SCDNR: Avoid Displaced Wildlife

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Wednesday, October 12, 2016) – Residents in areas affected by Hurricane Matthew and flooding in the Pee Dee should be cautious of wildlife that have moved to high ground.

The natural instinct of these creatures is to seek safety and return to their natural habitats once nature allows. S.C. Department of Natural Resources Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Deputy Director Emily Cope said while some animals do not have the speed or mobility to escape, fish and other wildlife are generally resilient species and, while there may be some negative impact to the local population, they will rebound to normal levels with proper habitat management.

“While SCDNR understands and appreciates public concern, we want to assure everyone that the overall fish and wildlife populations are stable and should not experience any long-term negative impacts from this natural disaster,” she stated.

People who spot wildlife are asked to leave the animals alone: do not approach them, attempt to feed them, or attempt to catch them. If an injured animal is spotted, people are asked to call their local [wildlife control officials](#).

-END-

Derrec Becker

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“South Carolina’s emergency management program minimizes loss of life and property damage from all-hazard incidents.”