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Subject: Draft press release

Derrec, here is a draft of a release we'd like to get out before the noon news cycle. Please let us know if you have any changes to it.

Gov. Nikki Haley, S.C. EMD Encourage Citizens To Take Safety Precautions Ahead Of Anticipated Heavy Rain

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley and South Carolina Emergency management officials are encouraging citizens across the state to take time today to take safety precautions ahead of heavy rains and flooding anticipated for our state.

On Thursday, the governor declared a State of Emergency in advance of any potential impacts from Hurricane Joaquin and flooding from a separate weather system. The governor's State of Emergency declaration puts state emergency plans into effect, enabling agencies to better coordinate resources jointly and respond to requests for state assistance from county emergency managers.

Hurricane Joaquin is currently a category four hurricane with an uncertain track. The storm could bring dangerous rip currents, higher tides and additional rain to the coastal areas already experiencing flood conditions. Forecasters with the National Weather Service predict that heavy rain from a separate weather system will create flash flood conditions throughout the entire state.

Everyone in South Carolina is urged to continue to monitor the developing forecasts through news media and by following trusted sources online. Pay attention to emergency warnings from local and state public safety officials and take safety actions if instructed to do so.

When Flooding Occurs in Your Area:

- Be aware of potential flash flooding. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move to higher ground. Do not wait to be told to move.
- If time allows, prepare your home for a flood by moving essential items to an upper floor, bring in outdoor furniture, disconnect electrical appliances and be prepared to turn off the gas, electricity and water.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle could be quickly swept away. One foot of water can cause your car to float off the roadway.

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