



## **Chatham County Board of Commissioners**

**124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401**

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# *NEWS RELEASE*

**For Immediate Release**

**September 5, 2019**

### **Governor Brian Kemp Lifts Mandatory Evacuation**

**Chatham County, GA (September 5, 2019)** – Governor Brian Kemp has lifted the mandatory evacuation order for the coastal counties of Georgia. All Chatham County residents can return to their homes at this time.

CEMA will be working throughout the day to return those who evacuated to an inland shelter through the Evacuation Assembly Area. In coordination with the State of Georgia and Department of Public Health, efforts to return our Functional Access and Medical Needs population are underway and planning efforts to return them to their homes will begin tomorrow.

Soldiers, civilians, and family members of Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF) are to follow the guidance of the Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield senior command.

The Talmadge bridge is still currently closed. Georgia Department of Transportation will inspect the bridge today. Returning residents should be aware of the potential of power outages, downed powerlines, and debris in roadways. At this time the Georgia Power Outage Map indicated that approximately 6,000 residents in Chatham County are without power. Tybee and Skidaway Islands have been significantly affected by the power outages.

#### **After the Storm Safety Tips from Georgia Power:**

- **Watch for downed wires.** Downed power lines may be hidden by debris or fallen trees.
- **Never touch any downed wire or attempt to remove tree branches from power lines – it can kill.**
- **Don't step in standing water or saturated ground where downed lines may be present.** They could be electrified.
- **Avoid chain link fences.** They may be electrified by a downed line out of sight and conduct electricity over great distances.

- **Watch for Georgia Power crews working across the state.** If driving, move over one lane for utility vehicles stopped on the side of the road – it's the law in Georgia.
- **Protect electronics and appliances.** Disconnect or turn off any appliances that will start automatically when power returns to avoid overloading circuits when power is restored.

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