



Chatham County Board of Commissioners  
124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

## HURRICANE IRMA UPDATE

SAVANNAH, GA (September 9, 2017) –Governor Nathan Deal issued a mandatory evacuation for those in Chatham County. This mandatory evacuation begins on Saturday September 9, 2017 at 8 AM. An evacuation began for functional, access, and medical needs citizens on Friday September 8, 2017 at 8 AM. The contraflow for I-16 was activated at 8 AM on Saturday. Tybee Island Mayor, Jason Beulterman, announced an evacuation for Tybee Island which began on Friday morning at 8 AM due to the high tides on Hwy. 80 and subsequent flooding. The Evacuation Assembly Area opened at 8 AM at the Civic Center.

Chatham County will begin evacuating by the following zones:

- Zone A: (RED) 8 AM—12 PM Saturday
- Zone B: (ORANGE) 12 PM—8 PM Saturday
- Zone C: (PURPLE) 8 AM—12 PM Sunday
- Citizens may leave before their zone evacuation time begins

SAGIS has created an interactive map to assist residents in locating appropriate public transit routes to access assembly areas for evacuation. <https://goo.gl/9PTaZG>

- EAA (Evacuation Assembly Area) at the Civic Center
  - Available from 8 AM—7 PM on Saturday
  - Will reopen at 8 AM—7 PM on Sunday, weather permitting
- Thunderbolt evacuation assistance:
  - Anyone wishing to evacuate must be at the Senior Center located at 3236 Russell Street
  - Begins at 8 AM and the last pick-up will be at noon on Saturday
- City of Bloomingdale evacuation assistance
  - Assembly area for anyone needing assistance will run from Bloomingdale Community Center located at 202 E. Moore Street
    - Begins at 1:00 PM today and the last pick-up will be at 2:45 PM

Please remember that cars are not allowed to park at assembly area(s), luggage cannot be stored at assembly area(s), and **NO ONE** is allowed to remain at the assembly area(s) after evacuation assistance is closed.

Shelters are in the process of opening across Georgia. To find a shelter please call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

A local state of emergency was previously issued, which allows CEMA to use the full resource of the county and municipalities. Other provisions of the ordinance include: prohibiting price gouging, issuing evacuation orders, suspending laws that are in conflict with the Emergency Management Ordinance, and the authority to establish curfews. Citizens can report price gouging by calling the Georgia Department of Law's Consumer Protection Unit at 404-651-8600 or 1-800-869-1123.

The Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) is closely monitoring Hurricane Irma and is coordinating response efforts with local, regional, and state agencies. CEMA went into OPCON 2 at 8 AM today, which is the Readiness and Staging Phase and implements additional coordination activities.

Irma, is a Category 3 Hurricane with maximum sustained winds at 125 mph, moving west 9 mph, and is 559 miles away from Savannah. Irma's hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 70 miles from the center of the storm. Residents and businesses should monitor official sources for current weather information.

Community-wide preparations include:

- Preparing partners, property, and your family for storm conditions. Secure any items that can easily be blown around by strong winds.
- Ensure fuel tanks are topped off and finalize personal emergency kits and communication plans.
- Coordinate with family, friends, and co-workers to ensure awareness and timing of storm potential.
- Follow official sources for storm updates.
- All partners that have a responsibility in the County's Emergency Operations Plan should take this time to ensure you are ready to support.
- Ensure you have an accurate inventory or video record of the contents of your home.

Municipal utility services will not be turned off, however residents are encouraged to make contact with their provider for specific details. Some parts of Chatham County have private water providers. For more information, visit [www.consolidatedutilities.com](http://www.consolidatedutilities.com)

The Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport has provided us with updates from the following airlines:

- American is shut down
- Delta and United will close at 10 AM
- Jet Blue will operate three flights today
- General Aviation will close at 10 AM today

The parking decks of the airport are full and are closed. Additional information can be found at [fly.SAV.com](http://fly.SAV.com)

Additionally, Thunderbolt's Town Hall will be closed Monday, September 11, 2017 and Tuesday, September 12, 2017 and will tentatively reopen on Wednesday. The Council meeting was cancelled for September 13, 2017 and court was cancelled for September 14, 2017.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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