



COUNTY of CUMBERLAND

Public Information Office

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Public Information Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICIALS PREPARE FOR HURRICANE ISABEL

Officials from the County, the City of Fayetteville and other municipalities, along with the American Red Cross, met today to prepare for Hurricane Isabel.

After a thorough briefing and discussion, officials have decided to open three general population shelters and one special-needs shelter at 5:00 pm this evening. The special-needs shelter will be located at the Smith Recreation Center at 1520 Slater Avenue. The general population shelters will be located at Spring Lake Middle School at 612 Spring Ave, South View Senior High School at 4184 Elk Road in Hope Mills and Mac Williams Middle School at 4644 Clinton Road. (Cumberland County Schools will be closed Thursday, September 18.)

Opening the shelters this evening will allow individuals to move to these locations while it is still daylight and under good weather conditions.

According to reports from the National Weather Service, Isabel is expected to make landfall sometime between 12 noon and 2 pm tomorrow. If the storm remains on its projected path, at approximately 8:00 am Thursday, Cumberland County can expect winds in a northerly direction at 25 mph. By noontime Thursday, sustained winds at 35 mph with gusts of 40-50 mph; the storm is expected to begin backing off around 5:00 pm tomorrow. Cumberland County can expect between 1-3 inches of rain.

As stated before, this is based on the latest model and projected path of the storm. When dealing with storms of this nature, it is possible for it to veer from its projected path and for wind speeds to increase. That is why it is critical to continue to watch the television and listen to the radio for updates. Be sure to have a battery powered radio with extra batteries in case you are without power.

Individuals who live in mobile homes or have special needs are encouraged to move to shelters this evening as a precautionary measure. Pet owners who plan to stay in a shelter this evening may contact Animal Control at 321-6851 or 6852, to make arrangements for their pets.

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