



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 6, 2016

Emergency Services

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County Monitors Storm, Prepares for Effects

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Emergency Services continues to monitor the status of Hurricane Matthew and is preparing for the effects from heavy rainfall and high winds as a result of the storm.

Cumberland County Emergency Services Director Randy Beeman told county commissioners this morning that the area could receive as much as 7 inches of rain starting late Friday and into Sunday. Since the ground is already saturated from the flooding on Sept. 29, Beeman cautions residents to be prepared for additional flooding, as well as falling trees and power outages.

“Our biggest concern is widespread flooding with an additional 4 to 7 inches of rain in an already saturated area. Reports are projecting winds gusting at 35 to 40 miles per hour, which could result in downed trees and power lines,” Beeman said.

In addition to tracking National Weather Service reports, Emergency Management officials are also monitoring the status of dams that were weakened during last week’s flooding.

If needed, the County will open emergency shelters for residents and information on shelter locations will be announced.

“The worst weather is expected Saturday and into Sunday, according to our 4:30 p.m. National Weather Service update today. This is a perplexing storm and we are on top of it. We are preparing for the worst and hoping for the best,” Beeman said.

Information about the County’s storm preparation and response will be available through these outlets:

- County’s website at co.cumberland.nc.us, which includes a GIS Hurricane Matthew Watch App at <http://cumberlandgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=61bb217fdf3949aabe4c5953dd1f279b>
- County’s Facebook pages at [Facebook.com/CumberlandNC](https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandNC) and [Facebook.com/CumberlandCountyNC911](https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandCountyNC911)
- Twitter at twitter.com/CumberlandNC and twitter.com/Cumberland911
- Media outlets

Residents are encouraged to go to ReadyNC.org or to download the free ReadyNC app, which is available for both iPhone and Android devices and features real time weather, traffic and shelter information.

The North Carolina Office of Emergency Management provides useful tips and resources online at <https://www2.ncdps.gov/div/pao/HurrGuideFront08.pdf>

Cumberland County residents can also sign up for CodeRED, a free emergency notification service that can send severe weather warnings or other emergency alerts to county residents and businesses by telephone, cell phone, text message or email. The Cumberland County homepage has a link to a CodeRED registration form you can fill out online. Go to co.cumberland.nc.us and click the CodeRED link. You can also call 910-678-7641 or 910-321-6676.

Cancellations

- The **rabies vaccination** clinic scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 8, at the Department of Public Health will be rescheduled for a later date.
- The **Household Hazardous Waste Facility** at 923 Wilkes Rd. will be closed Saturday, Oct. 8, because of weather conditions. The site, which is open the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, will open as normal on Oct. 22 at 8 a.m.