



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Emergency Services

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## Cumberland County Urges Weather Preparedness

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Emergency Services urges residents to be prepared for possible effects of Hurricane Matthew by reviewing and updating emergency plans, creating preparedness kits and securing personal property.

Cumberland County Emergency Services Director Randy Beeman advises residents to be prepared for the possibility of heavy rains, wind damage and power outages associated with Hurricane Matthew, which could affect North Carolina late Friday and Saturday.

County leaders met this afternoon in the Emergency Operations Center with officials from the City of Fayetteville, Fayetteville Fire, Fayetteville Police, Hope Mills, Spring Lake, Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, Public Works Commission, Cumberland County Schools, N.C. Department of Transportation, American Red Cross and other partners to review and coordinate plans in preparation for the possible effects of the hurricane.

Residents, schools and business owners are encouraged to make an emergency plan and practice the plan. The plan should include details about where to meet, how to get in touch with one another, evacuation plans, what to do with pets and how to notify employees after an emergency. The next step is to put together an emergency supply kit, which should contain items needed for survival.

Residents can monitor information about storm events through the following outlets:

- 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](https://twitter.com/CumberlandNC) and [twitter.com/Cumberland911](https://twitter.com/Cumberland911)
- County website at [co.cumberland.nc.us](http://co.cumberland.nc.us)
- Media outlets.

### Hurricane Safety Tips

Safety tips before, during and after a hurricane include:

- Fill your vehicle's fuel tank.
- Secure personal property. Tie down outdoor furniture or other items that could be carried by wind.
- Obey instructions from authorities, including orders to evacuate.
- Go to a shelter or hotel until storm has passed if you are unsure about the stability of your home.
- Do not drive in hurricane-force winds
- Do not drive on flooded highways – "turn around, don't drown."

- Obey all road detours and never drive around barricaded roads.

### **Emergency Kit Suggested Items:**

- Water – 1 gallon per person, per day for three to seven days
- Food – non-perishable and canned food supply for three to seven days
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger
- First-aid kit and first-aid book
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Manual can opener for food
- Anti-bacterial hand wipes or gel
- Wrench or pliers to turn off water
- Blanket or sleeping bag – one per person
- Prescription medications, glasses and hearing aids
- Seasonal change of clothing, including sturdy shoes
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, feminine supplies
- Extra house and car keys
- Important documents – insurance policies, copy of driver’s license, Social Security card, bank account records
- Fire extinguisher
- Cash and change in case power outage hinders use of financial ATMs.
- Books, games or cards

For more information, contact Cumberland County Emergency Services at 910-678-7688 or 910-321-6676.

For more information on how to ensure your family is disaster ready, go to [ReadyNC.org](http://ReadyNC.org) or download the free ReadyNC app. The app 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](http://co.cumberland.nc.us) and click the CodeRED link. You can also call 910-678-7641 or 910-321-6676.