



## News Release



### For Immediate Release

Contact: Joint Information Center  
Cumberland County and City of Fayetteville  
Joint Information Center  
**910-437-1880 or 910-321-6676 (media calls only)**  
**910-677-5509 (public can call this number)**

Oct. 12, 2016

## FEMA Inspectors Start Visits, 1,500 People Go to DSS New Water Sites on Thursday JIC Media Release 8:30 p.m.

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Here is an update on storm-related information.

### FEMA Inspectors Arrive in Area

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has deployed 200 inspectors to North Carolina. Residents affected by Hurricane Matthew who register for assistance are being contacted by the FEMA inspectors to set up appointments for visits.

Federal funding is available to affected individuals and business owners in Cumberland County and they are encouraged to contact FEMA as soon as possible to start the process. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses area can apply for assistance online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**.

Disaster assistance applicants who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362.

Residents who submitted pre-applications for individual assistance must follow through and complete the full application process.

### Approximately 1,500 Seek Food Stamp Replacement

Approximately 1,500 people seeking replacement Food and Nutrition Services benefits were seen at the Department of Social Services today. Cumberland County residents who already receive food stamps and who experienced flood damage



and/or power outages may apply for replacement benefits.

DSS is awaiting instructions from the state regarding disaster food stamps for residents who do not currently receive food stamp benefits, but who have experienced flood damage and/or power outages as a result of Hurricane Matthew.

“I appreciate the citizens being patient as they waited in line and I want to thank the more than 100 employees from DSS, the Sheriff’s Office and other departments who worked here today to help our citizens during this crisis,” said DSS Director Brenda Jackson.

DSS asks that if you have questions to please call 910-323-1540 and select option 4 for food stamps during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please do not call the after-hours Child Protective Services line and leave messages regarding food stamps. The purpose of the Child Protective Services line is to report incidents of abuse and neglect.

### **Water from Eight Tractor Trailers Distributed Today; New Sites on Thursday**

Water from eight tractor trailers was distributed today throughout the county by emergency management to various locations including Cape Fear Valley Hospital, fire departments and through distribution points.

On Thursday, residents can receive one free case of water per family at the following locations. Distribution starts at 10 a.m. and will run until 7 p.m. while supplies last.

- **Eastover Fire Department, 3405 Dunn Road**
- **J.S. Spivey Recreation Center, 500 Fisher Street, Fayetteville**
- **Vander Fire Department, 3509 Clinton Road**

### **Damage Assessment**

Preliminary damage assessment will start Thursday in Cumberland County.

### **Farmers Cautioned**

Agricultural officials are alerting farmers to be cautious of individuals posing as disaster relief workers and seeking information about their farm operations. If you did not request or apply for assistance, you should be especially careful about allowing anyone access to your farm.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture has a toll-free hotline to help farmers affected by Hurricane Matthew connect with resources that can assist with recovery. Farmers who have an agricultural emergency can call 1-866-645-9403.

Locally, you can call Cooperative Extension at 910-321-6880.

###