



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. 9, 2016

Hurricane Matthew aftermath update JIC Media Release 10 a.m.

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Cumberland County and City of Fayetteville residents are cautioned that we remain in a critical situation and roads remain dangerous. Residents are encouraged to stay home and not venture out unless it is an emergency.

Conditions

Rain has ended. Gusty winds will persist with 20-30 mph winds, gusts up to 30-40 mph possible. Major river flooding will continue along many of the rivers across the area with lots of standing water and closed roads persisting. We encourage people to stay off the roads to allow emergency services personnel to focus on responding emergent needs.

Heed any barricades and road closures. Stay far away from downed power poles and power lines. Be mindful of carbon monoxide dangers. Widespread power outages have occurred. Be careful with generators and gas grills. These should never be used indoors or in garages. They need to be operated outdoors and placed well away from homes and other buildings.

Rescues

There have been 227 water rescue calls, 574 people rescued; and 4 people remain missing.

Closings

- Cumberland County schools will be closed on Monday.
- County and City offices will be closed Monday, including the court system. However, essential personnel will still report to work on Monday. All public libraries will be closed.
- Fire and Emergency Services recruit physical agility testing for Monday is postponed. Individuals scheduled to be tested will be contacted. Others with questions can call 433-1580.
- We are working diligently to open the landfill on Monday for municipal and commercial haulers; however, we are currently experiencing some challenges. Regardless of Monday's landfill opening status, all other convenience centers will be closed.

Shelters

We have 503 people housed in shelters and more coming. Mac Williams Middle School, 4644 Clinton Road, opened as a shelter this morning at 8 a.m. There are four other shelters open. Residents should bring medications, baby formula and baby supplies, blankets, pillows and food to last 24 hours if possible.

We continue to assess shelter needs. There is limited shelter space and we are asking that residents consider going to stay with friends and family if possible. This will leave shelter space for citizens in dire need and who have no other means for obtaining shelter.

We will have transportation available to shelters for those in need as well, but as with the shelters, we encourage only those with absolute need to call for transportation. **Please call 433-1287 for transportation to shelters.**

Water Shortage Response Ordinance

Fayetteville Mayor Nat Robertson and the Fayetteville Public Works Commission have implemented a Stage IV Water Shortage Response Ordinance requesting customers limit their use of water to only essential uses. PWC has lost pressure in its water distribution system following Saturday's historic rainfall from Hurricane Matthew. Due to extensive flooding, PWC has been unable to identify the cause of the pressure loss, which is expected to be caused by broken water mains that were not easily detectable during the post-hurricane conditions or overnight once the storm passed.

Essential water use includes:

- Use of water to sustain normal life and the lives of domestic pets, and to maintain minimum standards of hygiene and sanitation.
- Use of water for patient care and rehabilitation
- Firefighting, including certain testing and drills by the fire department if conducted in the interest of public safety and if approved by the Public Works Commission,
- Health and public protection purposes, if specifically approved by health officials and the Public Works Commission including flushing of water lines and hydrants.

PWC will continue to inspect the water system as flood waters recede and will begin repairs once the cause is identified.

Boil Water Advisory

Saturday night PWC issued a precautionary advisory to customers to boil water because of possible contamination due to water pressure loss. Once the cause has been located and repaired the advisory will remain in place until testing can confirm no contamination has occurred. This is expected to take 48-72 hours. There are currently approximately 20,000 without power and over 100 reports of downed lines and trees across the city and county.

For those who have lost power, ensure that appliances are not left on, or cookware is not left on a stove that has been mistakenly left on, as this will most certainly cause fire hazards once power is restored. We have already had at least one fire resulting from someone leaving cookware on a stove left on, which started a house fire once the power was restored.

The public is encouraged to call the Emergency Operations Center for non-emergency purposes at 910-677-5509 and to continue calling 911 for emergencies.

Media should call the Joint Information Center at 910-437-1880 or 910-321-6676 for media queries. Residents can call the Emergency Operations Center at 910-677-5509 for non-emergencies.

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