EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2018-28

Mandatory Medical Evacuation of Healthcare Facilities

WHEREAS, the National Hurricane Center advises that Hurricane Florence, anticipated to be a category 4 hurricane, will likely affect or strike the coast of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the force of Hurricane Florence represents an imminent threat to the safety, security, and welfare of the residents and patients of coastal healthcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, I am authorized pursuant to section 25-1-440 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, as the elected Chief Executive of the State, to direct and compel evacuation of all or part of the populace from any stricken or threatened area if this action is considered necessary for the preservation of life or other emergency mitigation, response, or recovery; and

WHEREAS, I have declared a State of Emergency in South Carolina pursuant to Executive Order 2018-26; and

WHEREAS, I have determined that evacuation of healthcare facilities is necessary for the preservation of life in and surrounding the threatened area; and

WHEREAS, I, with consultation of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), have determined that due to time and logistical concerns, evacuation of healthcare facilities should begin prior to a general population evacuation.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, effective at the time of one o’clock PM, September 10, 2018, I do hereby order a mandatory medical evacuation of all healthcare facilities licensed by DHEC
and located in the following Evacuation Zones in Jasper (Zones A, B), Beaufort (Zone A), Colleton (Zones A, B), Charleston (Zones A, B and C), Dorchester (Zones D, E and F), Berkeley (Zones B, G, H and I), Georgetown (Zones A, B and C), and Horry (Zones A, B and C). Specific details of the areas for the evacuation follow this Order in Attachment 1., Evacuation Zones.

For purposes of this Order, healthcare facilities include acute care hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, alcohol and substance abuse hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, nursing homes, community residential care facilities (also called assisted living facilities), ambulatory surgical facilities, hospice facilities, radiation therapy facilities, abortion facilities, day care facilities for adults, residential treatment facilities for children and adolescents, intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disability (ICFPID), narcotic treatment programs, inpatient facilities that treat individuals for psychoactive substance abuse or dependence, and birthing centers.

Upon the effective date and time of this Order, all healthcare facilities in the evacuation zones are hereby ordered to initiate evacuation procedures and to stop admission of any non-emergent patients. All inpatient facilities in the evacuating zones shall immediately begin to reduce their census of patients, limit services to emergent or essential patient needs (for example, non-elective procedures, dialysis, giving birth, medications, and chemotherapy), and take other measures as necessary to ensure evacuation is completed pursuant to this Order.

It is important to begin evacuating healthcare facilities in advance of the approaching hurricane and prior to further general population to ensure the safety of patients. Each healthcare facility is unique with different needs and should begin implementing its plan now. Recognizing that fully evacuating takes time and the needs of each healthcare facility are different, each healthcare facility must notify DHEC upon completion of its evacuation so that the State has a census of healthcare facilities. Such notification to DHEC may be made by e-mail or by telephone: acc-healthreg@dhec.sc.gov or 1-800-833-0099.

**OBTAINING EXEMPTION FROM THE MANDATORY MEDICAL EVACUATION**

In accordance with applicable law and regulations, a hospital seeking an exemption from this Order must request the exemption from DHEC. DHEC will base its exemption decisions on the hospital’s Critical Data Sheet (CDS) on file with DHEC. Based upon the CDSs and other relevant criteria, DHEC may grant exemptions from a full mandatory evacuation to those hospitals which qualify. Nursing homes, ICFIDs, and hospice facilities are generally NOT allowed an exemption. Under limited circumstances, DHEC may exempt nursing facilities (nursing homes), ICFIDs, and hospice facilities pursuant to SC Regs. 61-17, 61-13, and 61-78, respectively. Attached to this Order are DHEC’s Mandatory Medical Evacuation Protocols that shall be enforced while this Order is in place.

DHEC will maintain the list of hospitals that are granted exemptions from the requirement to evacuate. DHEC may revoke an exemption as needed, such as due to deteriorating conditions. Those requesting exemptions should be aware that assistance may not be available due to the severe weather or the effects of the severe weather.
APPROVING SHELTER-IN-PLACE FOR MEDICALLY-FRAGILE PATIENTS

Under limited circumstances, a physician may determine that it is medically advisable for a medically-fragile patient to shelter-in-place in a hospital that has otherwise evacuated. In this scenario, such hospital should work through this issue according to DHEC’s protocols. Attached to this Order are DHEC’s Mandatory Medical Evacuation Protocols that shall be enforced while this Order is in place.

RE-ENTRY

After a county is evacuated, re-entry decisions into the county will be made at a local level based on local conditions. Thus, if a hospital requests to re-establish emergency services, including those services necessary to support emergency services, within a part of the hospital after the hurricane has subsided but before the expiration of this Order, or after the expiration of this Order but before a county is allowing re-entry, the hospital must work with DHEC and the local emergency management authority to gain re-entry into the county and hospital. The hospital, in consultation with DHEC, must conduct an inspection of the facility to determine if that section can function safely and meet regulatory requirements. The inspection must be certified by the facility manager and the CEO or their designees. Upon approval from DHEC, the hospital must obtain approval of the local emergency management authority in the county prior to re-establishing services. The local emergency management authority is appropriate to assist in re-entry decisions as they will have intimate knowledge of the local conditions, such as road conditions and risks to patients’ lives and safety.

Further Proclamations and Orders deemed necessary to ensure the fullest possible protection of life and property during this State of Emergency shall be issued verbally by me, and thereafter published for dissemination within the succeeding twenty-four-hour period.


HENRY McMASTERS
Governor

ATTEST

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State
ATTACHMENT 1. EVACUATION ZONES

A. Northern Conglomerate Evacuation Zones

1. Horry County Evacuation Zones
   a. **Zone A** - All areas east of U.S. Business 17 (Kings Hwy.), up to intersection with U.S. 17 (Kings Hwy.), and then all areas east of U.S. 17 (Kings Hwy.) to the northern county line.
   b. **Zone B** - All areas south of Hwy. 707 and Longwood Drive, including all areas in Longwood Plantation (Blackmoor) to the Waccamaw River and all areas east of U.S. 17 Bypass (Mark Garner Hwy.) to U.S. 17 (North Kings Hwy.) and all areas east of U.S. 17 (North Kings Hwy.) to the northern county line.
   c. **Zone C** - All areas between Hwy. 701 and Hwy. 544, south of Brown’s Chapel Avenue and Hwy. 814, plus all areas east of Hwy. 31 (Carolina Bays Parkway) to Hwy. 90 and all areas east of Hwy. 90 to U.S. 17 to the northern county line.
   d. This also includes all flood prone areas along the Waccamaw River and the Great and Little Pee Dee Rivers, as well as all mobile home residents within the County.
2. Georgetown County Evacuation Zones
   a. Zone A - Areas east of Hwy. 17 to the Atlantic Ocean from the South Santee River and north to the Horry County line, including Sandy Island; areas east of Dawkoo Lake, and south of Walker Road and Powell Road to the South Santee River; all low-lying areas along the Waccamaw River, Great Pee Dee River, Black River, and Sampit River south of Hwy. 521 (17A), including Maryville; and all mobile home residents within the County.
   b. Zone B - Areas east of Dawkoo Lake and south of Walker Road to Powell Road to the South Santee River; all areas on the Atlantic Ocean side of Powell Road to Alt. U.S. 17 to Hwy. 521 to Brick Chimney Road to Hwy. 51 to Black River Road ending at the Black River; all low-lying areas along the Waccamaw River, Great Pee Dee River, and Black River, and all areas east of them to the coast; and all mobile home residents within the County.
   c. Zone C - Areas east of Dawkoo Lake and south of Walker Road to Powell Road to the South Santee River; all areas on the Atlantic Ocean side of Powell Road to Alt. U.S. 17 to Hwy. 521 to Sawmill Road to Indian Hut Road to Carvers Bay Road (State Hwy. S-22-4) to Plantation Hill Road (State Hwy. 261) to Old Pee Dee Road to the northern county line; and all mobile home residents within the County.
B. Central Conglomerate Evacuation Zones

I. Berkeley County Evacuation Zones

a. Zone B - See 3.b. below and map.

b. Zone G

(1) Hanahan - North of Woods Avenue from end of road at east edge of rail yard to its intersection with Remount Road. North of Remount Road from its intersection with Woods Ave. to its intersection with the railroad tracks just west of Dutton Avenue. East of the railroad tracks from their intersection with Remount Road to crossing over the Goose Creek (just south of Middle Earth Nursery and Infinger Furniture).

(2) Goose Creek/Ladson/Summerville - Including all homes and businesses northeast of the intersection of Hwy. 52 and Camelot Drive, continuing along Ryan Drive and Holly Avenue across to Westview Blvd. (includes buildings on both sides of Camelot Drive, Ryan Drive, and Holly Avenue). Crowfield Plantation from Westview Blvd. near Holly Avenue across I-26 along Ancrum Road to its intersection with Hwy. 78. Northeast of Hwy. 78 from its intersection with Ancrum Road (Ladson Road) to its intersection with Hwy. 17A (Main St.) in Summerville. Southeast of Hwy. 17A (Main Street/S. Live Oak Drive) from its intersection with Hwy. 78 to its intersection with Cypress Gardens Road.
(3) Whitesville/Pimlico/Cordesville - South of Cypress Gardens Road from its intersection with Hwy. 17A (S. Live Oak Drive) to its intersection with Pimlico Blvd. South of Pimlico Blvd. from its intersection with Cypress Gardens Road through to its end. The area east of Wappaoolah Plantation and west of the Cooper River, north of Pimlico Blvd., and south of Mepkin Abbey. Southeast of the railroad tracks from the Cooper River by Pimlico to its intersection with Hwy. 402.

(4) Huger/Cainhoy/Wando - South of Hwy. 402 from its intersection with the railroad tracks near Cordesville to its intersection with Hwy. 41 (Hwy. 402 becomes Steed Creek Road). Southwest of Steed Creek Road from its intersection with Hwy. 41 to its intersection with Halfway Creek Road. West of Halfway Creek Road from its intersection with Steed Creek Road to its intersection with Guerins Bridge Road. West of Guerins Bridge Road from its intersection with Halfway Creek Road to its intersection with Wando River (just after Drew Lane). Northwest of the Wando River from its intersection with Guerins Bridge Road to its intersection with Nowell Creek, with the addition of Patterson's Academy. North/northeast of Nowell Creek from its intersection with the Wando River to its intersection with Rebellion Farms Place. Northeast of Rebellion Farms Place from its intersection with Nowell Creek to its intersection of Clements Ferry Road. Northeast of Yellow House Place from its intersection with Clements Ferry Road to the Cooper River (across from the Goose Creek).

c. Zone H

(1) Huger, Cordesville, Pimlico - Northeast of Steed Creek Road from its intersection with Halfway Creek Road and its intersection with Hwy. 41. North of Hwy. 402 from its intersection with Hwy. 41 (Steed Creek Road becomes Hwy. 402) and its intersection with the railroad tracks near Cordesville. Northwest of the railroad tracks from its intersection with Hwy. 402 to its intersection with the Cooper River. North of Pimlico Blvd. from its beginning near the Cooper River to its intersection with Cypress Gardens Road with the following exception: the area east of Wappaoolah Plantation and west of the Cooper River, north of Pimlico Blvd., and south of Mepkin Abbey is in ZONE G.

(2) Whitesville, Summerville - North of Cypress Gardens Road from its intersection with Pimlico Blvd. to its intersection with Hwy. 17A (S. Live Oak Drive) Northwest of Hwy. 17A (S. Live Oak Drive/Main Street) from its intersection with Cypress Gardens Road to the edge of the County.

(3) Summerville, Lebanon, Pringletown - Northeast of the Berkeley-Dorchester county line from Hwy. 17A (Main Street) in Summerville to the western county line.
(4) Pringletown, Sandridge, Cross, Eadytown - East of the Berkeley-Dorchester county line and Berkeley-Orangeburg county line from Pringletown to Lake Marion. Southeast of the Santee River from Lake Marion to Belle Isle Road. West of Belle Isle Road from the Santee River to its intersection with Hwy. 45.

(5) Pineville, Russellville, St Stephen, Alvin, Jamestown, Shulerville - Southwest of Hwy. 45 from its intersection with Belle Isle Road to its intersection with Schurlknight Road. North of Schurlknight Road from its intersection with Hwy. 45 to its intersection with Peaceful Woods Road. West of Peaceful Woods Road (becomes Greenwood Drive) from its intersection with Schurlknight Road to its intersection with Hwy. 17A. South of Hwy. 17A from its intersection with Greenwood Drive to its intersection with Tiger Corner Road. Southwest of Tiger Corner Road from its intersection with Hwy. 17A to its intersection with Horse Island Road. West of Horse Island Road from its intersection with Tiger Corner Road to its intersection with Yellow Jacket Road. South of Yellow Jacket Road from its intersection with Horse Island Road to its intersection with Slash Road. West of Slash Road from its intersection with Yellow Jacket Road to its intersection with Halfway Creek Road. Northwest of Halfway Creek Road from its intersection with Slash Road to its intersection with Steed Creek Road.

d. Zone I - Shulerville, Honey Hill, Jamestown, Alvin, St. Stephen - East of Halfway Creek Road from its intersection with Forest Road 200 (on the Berkeley-Charleston county line) to its intersection with Slash Road. East of Slash Road from its intersection with Halfway Creek Road to its intersection with Yellow Jacket Road. North of Yellow Jacket Road from its intersection with Slash Road to its intersection with Horse Island Road.

e. In all cases, residents living in low-lying areas along rivers, streams, and creeks, and all manufactured housing should evacuate when announced.

2. Dorchester County Evacuation Zones

a. Zone D - Tidal River and Creeks/Southern Swamps - All properties along the Ashley River between Ashley River Road and Dorchester Road, from the Charleston County line to Bacons Bridge Road. Properties that front the Sawmill Branch from Dorchester Road to Luden Road including Arbor Oaks, Sawbranch Apartments, Millbrook Apartments, and Creekside. Properties near Eagle Creek between Ladson Road and Parlor Road from Dorchester Road to the Charleston County line. Southeastern portions of the county in the vicinity of Bear Swamp, Horse Savannah Swamp, Fishburne Creek, and Rantowles Creek, including the Poplar Grover Community. All residents living in flood-prone areas or mobile/manufactured homes.

b. Zone E - Sand Hills Area/North Charleston/Wescott/Oakbrook/ Miles Jamison - Properties east of Hwy. 17A to Dorchester Road, including Summers Corner and Clubhouse Crossroads. Properties east of Orangeburg Road and South of Miles Jamison Road to the Charleston County line.
including South Main Mobile Home Park, Newington Plantation, Woodland Estates, Oakbrook, Wood Oak Park, Wescott, and the City of North Charleston in Dorchester County. All residents living in flood-prone areas or mobile/manufactured homes.

c. **Zone F** - The Cypress Swamp - Areas near the Cypress Swamp, Edisto River, the Twin Lakes subdivision, and portions of The Ponds subdivision. All residents living in flood-prone areas or mobile/manufactured homes.

3. **Charleston County Evacuation Zones**

a. **Zone A** - West of the Ashley River - Unincorporated areas of Charleston County from the Ashley River to the Colleton County line; Atlantic Ocean to the Dorchester County line. This includes the towns of Hollywood, Meggett, Ravenel, Folly Beach, Rockville, Kiawah Island, and Seabrook Island, Johns Island, Wadmalaw Island, and unincorporated Charleston County.

b. **Zone B** - Central Charleston - From the tip of the Peninsula to Ladson Road; from the Ashley River to the Wando River. This includes the cities of Charleston, North Charleston, and Lincolnville, as well as Daniel Island, Thomas Island, and unincorporated Charleston County.

c. **Zone C** - East of the Wando River - Unincorporated areas of Charleston County from the Atlantic Ocean to the Berkeley County line; Wando River to the Georgetown County line. This includes the towns of Mt. Pleasant, Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island, Awendaw, and McClellanville, as well as Dewees Island, Capers Island, and Goat Island.

d. In all cases, residents living in low-lying areas along rivers, streams, and creeks, and all manufactured housing should evacuate when announced.
C. Southern Conglomerate Evacuation Zones

1. Colleton County Evacuation Zones
   a. Zone A - All areas south of the CSX Railroad, and all mobile homes and other floodplain areas in the County.
   b. Zone B - All areas east of I-95 from the southern county line to Walterboro and all areas south of Alt. U.S. 17 from Walterboro to the northern county line plus all mobile homes and other floodplain areas in the County.

2. Beaufort County Evacuation Zones
   a. Zone A - All residents and tourists are to evacuate.

3. Jasper County Evacuation Zones
   a. Zone A - All areas east of I-95 and all mobile homes and other floodplain areas in the county.
   b. Zone B - All areas east of I-95 and all areas south of Sand Hills Road (Hwy. 119) and Tillman Road (Hwy. 336), plus all mobile homes and other floodplain areas in the county.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
MANDATORY MEDICAL EVACUATION PROTOCOLS

The Department of Health and Environmental Control (the "Department") has protocols in place during a declared state of emergency. These protocols are below:

A. MANDATORY MEDICAL EVACUATION EXEMPTIONS

To qualify for an exemption from a mandatory medical evacuation, a hospital must have previously provided a complete, up to date Critical Data Sheet (CDS) to the CDS Information System for the Department’s use in determining the appropriateness of evacuation. Based upon the CDSs and other relevant criteria, the Department may grant exemptions from a full mandatory evacuation to those hospitals which qualify. Nursing homes, ICFIDs, and hospice facilities are generally NOT allowed an exemption. Under limited circumstances, the Department may exempt nursing facilities (nursing homes), ICFIDs, and hospice facilities pursuant to SC Regs. 61-17, 61-13, and 61-78, respectively.

Exempt hospitals must:

(1) reduce their census of patients to the extent possible and limit services to emergent or essential patient needs (for example, non-elective procedures, dialysis, giving birth, medication); and

(2) have a plan that provides for the safety of the patient(s), staff, and those remaining with the patient(s), ensures there will be sufficient and appropriate staff on duty in the hospital at all times, and ensures the staff is capable of supporting the patient and his/her parent, guardian, spouse or representative who may stay with the patient; and

(3) certify there is sufficient food, water, medications, equipment and other logistical support internal to the hospital to maintain every person within the hospital for ninety-six (96) hours post impact of the hurricane.

B. SHELTER-IN-PLACE FOR MEDICALLY-FRAGILE PATIENTS

Under limited circumstances, a physician may determine that it is medically advisable for a medically-fragile patient to shelter-in-place in a hospital that has otherwise evacuated. In this scenario, such hospital should work through this issue with the Department. In such cases, hospital management and the physician shall weigh the risks of sheltering in place to care for the patient as compared to the risks of evacuating the patient.

To request an exception for medically-fragile patients to shelter-in-place, the following must occur:

(1) For any patient who is not evacuated, the hospital must document that a physician reviewed the status of the patient and determined that evacuation of the patient would create a high probability of death or disability. The hospital must make reasonable efforts to consult with the patient or his/her legal representative prior to making the final determination regarding sheltering-
in-place. In circumstances where a consultation is not possible, the hospital shall provide documentation in the patient's medical record. All patients who could reasonably be evacuated or discharged without jeopardizing his/her life or abilities must be evacuated or discharged;

(2) The hospital must provide the number of patients and number of other persons who will shelter-in-place and a contact person (name, e-mail, telephone number) who will provide confirmation (24/7) that the hospital is in compliance with all aspects of this order;

(3) The hospital must have a plan that provides for the safety of the patient(s), staff, and those remaining with the patient(s) during the sheltering-in-place, ensures there will be sufficient and appropriate staff on duty in the hospital at all times during the sheltering-in-place, and ensures the staff is capable of supporting the patient and his/her parent, guardian, spouse or representative who may stay with the patient; and

(4) The hospital must have a plan to ensure there is sufficient food, water, medication, equipment and other logistical support internal to the hospital to maintain every person within the hospital for ninety-six (96) hours post impact of the hurricane.

#####