



Georgetown County Government

NEWS RELEASE

(Hurricane Isaias #1)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgetown County monitoring Hurricane Isaias

GEORGETOWN COUNTY — Georgetown County Emergency Management is monitoring Hurricane Isaias as it moves toward the U.S. coastline with a projected track that could impact our area sometime Monday. Residents and visitors are also encouraged to keep a close eye on the storm as it approaches, and make preparations for any impacts we may see.

It's too early to know if the storm will have any significant impact on South Carolina, but it's important to get ready now rather than waiting until the last minute, said Brandon Ellis, Georgetown County's Emergency Manager and Director of Emergency Services.

"We all know we're entering the peak of hurricane season, and this season is predicted to have above average activity," Ellis said. "Hopefully we'll see only very minor impacts from this storm and it will be the last one we have to deal with for this year. But we never know what's going to pop up in the Atlantic next week or next month. We've still got a long way to go this hurricane season, and it's definitely better to be ready."

Isaias was upgraded from a tropical storm to a category 1 hurricane late last night.

"Ideally you want to start getting your hurricane plan and your kit ready before there's a storm out there, but once we're tracking one, it really becomes a matter of 'the sooner the better,'" Ellis said.

This morning Georgetown County Emergency Management was gearing up to put into motion plans for activating the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) over the weekend. Luckily, an EOC activation during the COVID-19 pandemic is something the division had been preparing for since the pandemic started this spring. Normally, an activated Emergency Operations Center is packed with people as representatives from county departments and partner agencies come together to launch a coordinated effort to deal with an approaching or occurring emergency and the recovery that comes after. To help avoid the spread of COVID-19, the Emergency Operations Center will be manned by a skeleton crew, with nearly all staff working remotely.

As the county works with the S.C. Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), the National Weather Service and others to monitor the storm and its potential impacts,

members of the public are urged to do the same via local media, NOAA Weather Radio, and the county's website (gtcounty.org) and social media channels (@gtcounty and @GCEMD). Individuals are also encouraged to download SCEMD's Emergency Manager app.

Getting Ready for Hurricane Season:

- Be sure your emergency supplies kit has enough bottled water and non-perishable food to sustain each family member for three days. Include a weather radio, flashlight, extra batteries, chargers, toiletries, change of clothes, blankets or sleeping bag, rain gear and appropriate footwear. Don't forget necessary medications for family members, and food, water, medicine and other items for your pets. Also include copies of important documents, such as birth certificates and insurance policies.
- Prepare your home for tropical storm conditions by making sure gutters are cleaned, storm drains are clear and any lawn furniture can be secured. Remove anything that could become airborne in high winds.
- Keep cell phones and mobile devices charged in case of power outages.
- Know Your Zone. Residents in coastal counties can find their hurricane evacuation zone instantly by visiting scemd.org/KnowYourZone or downloading the SC Emergency Manager mobile app.
- Follow trusted, verified sources for the latest news and be prepared to follow the instructions of state and local public safety officials.
- Have a plan for where you will go if an evacuation order is issued. Again, make sure to include pets in all plans.

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