



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hurricane preparedness workshops rescheduled due to Tropical Storm Andrea

GEORGETOWN COUNTY — Two Hurricane preparedness workshops scheduled for this week have been postponed due to Tropical Storm Andrea.

A workshop at North Santee Community Center, 1484 Mt. Zion Ave., Georgetown, will now take place June 24. A workshop at Plantersville Community Center, 1458 Exodus Dr., Georgetown, will be June 25. Both workshops will begin at 6 p.m. and last about an hour.

Georgetown County Emergency Management scheduled five of the workshops across the county this week in recognition of the start of hurricane season on June 1. Workshops in Georgetown, Murrells Inlet and Pawleys Island already took place.

Though Tropical Storm Andrea reinforces the importance of distributing hurricane preparedness information to residents in all areas of the county, not just those closest to the ocean, rains have moved in earlier than expected. Emergency management officials determined continuing with the workshops as originally planned poses too much of a danger for those who would like to attend.

Heavy rains are expected tonight and tomorrow. The National Weather Service has predicted rainfall of at least three to five inches. A number of areas have already experience heavy rains recently and the ground is already saturated, making flooding a major concern. Residents are encouraged to stay off of roads in flood prone areas. If travel is necessary, practice extreme caution.

Flooding is one of the greatest threats in a hurricane or tropical storm and poses a life-threatening danger even in the most western reaches of the county. County residents are asked to listen closely for any flood warnings and practice caution if flooding occurs.

During a flood:

- Be aware of potential flash flooding. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move to higher ground. Do not wait to be told to move.
- If time allows, prepare your home for a flood by moving essential items to an upper

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floor, bring in outdoor furniture, disconnect electrical appliances and be prepared to turn off the gas, electricity and water.

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.

County residents are also advised to have a weather radio nearby. Weather radios are an excellent way to receive tornado warnings. Tropical storms can produce tornados.

This is an excellent time for people to stay indoors and review their family disaster plans and emergency supply kits, said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County's emergency manager.

Resources:

For future updates pay attention to local media and reliable online sources, such as the County's website and county-run social media accounts. Keep an eye on the county's OPCON status at www.gtcounty.org. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gtcounty.org and www.facebook.com/GCEMD, and find us on Twitter @GCEMD. You can also find emergency preparedness tips at www.gtcounty.org under Public Safety Services/EmergencyManagment.

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