

Hurricane FLORENCE (UPDATE)

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Key Judgments:

All residents should continue to closely monitor weather services for updated forecasts regarding hurricane Florence. Storm path projections are changing continuously.

All residents should be prepared with a minimum of 5-7 days of supplies.

All residents should review the most current US Rainfall Potential and Flash Flooding Potential maps for Florence on NOAA's website. Anyone living in a flood prone area should make decisions on whether or not to evacuate in advance of the storm based on these rainfall and flooding projections.

Introduction:

The National Hurricane Center is reporting that Hurricane Florence has weakened to a Category 2 storm. After yesterday's major path change, it's still expected to generate catastrophic flooding across much of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and possibly other states. Wind speeds are expected to range between 74-100mph. Florence will cause major damage starting tonight and achieve landfall into early tomorrow morning.

As of Thursday, 13 Sept. at 1700Z we are increasing the AmCON to level 2 (Incident Imminent). Hurricane-force high sustained winds and extremely heavy rainfall are forecast and damage is imminent. Major disruptions to conventional power and telecommunications grids as well as transportation are expected in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, especially along the coastal areas.

Tropical Storm Florence has weakened to a Category 2 hurricane as of 2000L September 13th. At 2000L, the storm was centered about 85 miles east-southeast of Wilmington, NC and 145 miles east of Myrtle Beach, SC moving northwest at 5mph. The maximum sustained winds are 100 mph and the minimum central pressure is 955millibars.

Evacuations are ongoing from the coasts of North and South Carolina.

Information:

Continuing to monitor nets and health and wellness of Golf-8-Romeo in Wilmington.

Local operators are watching the following key infrastructure: lakes, roadways, shelter sites, hotels, etc.

Assisted out of area Cajun Airlift/Navy assets with information regarding Augusta, GA airports to aid in preposition aircraft for recovery efforts.

Local lake levels are:

Clarks Hill at 327.17 feet with full pool at 330.0 feet at 0800L, 13 Sep

Greenwood at 438.75 feet with full pool at 440.0 feet at 0000L, 13 Sep
Hartwell at 660.85 feet with full pool at 660.0 feet at 0700L, 13 Sep
Jocassee at 94.33 feet with full pool at 100.0 feet at 1800L, 13 Sep
Keowee at 97.10 feet with full pool at 100.0 feet at 1800L, 13 Sep
Lake Bowen at 814.93 feet with full pool at 815.0 feet at 0000L, 13 Sep
Murray at 355.55 feet with full pool at 360.0 feet at 1930L, 13 Sep
Oconee at 434.56 feet with full pool at 435.0 feet at 0700L, 13 Sep
Russell at 471.79 feet with full pool at 475.0 feet at 1700L, 13 Sep

Outlook:

Conditions are developing very quickly. Different models are projecting some very different paths after hurricane Florence gets to the coastline. The models vary widely on how far to the south Florence will travel while moving inland.

Supplies such as batteries, gas, lanterns, candles, water, and basic foods are being depleted quickly as residents prepare for the effects of the storm. These items will become increasingly difficult to obtain.

Power outages and flooding, especially near the coastline are expected.

Sources:

Hurricane Florence Advisory Number 58A

<http://www.lakelevels.info/USA/Georgia/>

<http://www.lakelevels.info/USA/South-Carolina>