

Hurricane Irma–North Carolina: Sept. 11, 2017

Weakened Storm Less of a Threat; Strong Rains Still Possible

Much of North Carolina will get some rain and perhaps a drenching on Tuesday, but the state was expected to escape the worst as Hurricane Irma works up the west coast of Florida and into western Georgia.

In a briefing Monday morning, officials at North Carolina's Emergency Operations Center said they expect 2-4 inches of rain in the western part of the state, 1-2 inches in central counties and 1-3 inches in the southeast.

A coastal storm surge of 1-3 feet is expected, they said.

West of Alamance and Chatham counties, a high-wind advisory was posted, and forecasters told residents to expect steady wind at 15 to 25 mph and frequent gusts of up to 40 mph.

On the coast, forecasters said very rough surf and waves several feet high were likely south of Cape Hatteras, along with strong rip currents, and that could last a few days.

In the southeast corner of the state, forecasters in Wilmington said to expect stiff, 20-to-30 mph winds and gusts up to 50 mph from the east all day Monday.

The North Carolina mountains were under a wind advisory until early Tuesday. The area was in for heavy rain Monday, too.

State officials in North Carolina said Sunday that they were still watching carefully where Irma tracks.

Irma was a Category 1 hurricane Monday morning with 75 mph sustained winds. It was expected to weaken to a tropical storm as it slogged into Georgia on Monday night and then aimed for western Tennessee.

The N.C. National Guard staged about 315 soldiers and airmen in Charlotte, Greensboro and Asheville on Sunday because of the forecast, according to Gov. Roy Cooper's office.

The state has five shelters open for people coming from outside the state to get out of Irma's way.

The shelters are in Gaston, Guilford, Henderson, Johnston and Mecklenburg counties.

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/weather/article172539886.html>

To Get Help

North Carolina Emergency Services

- United Way 211: Dial 2-1-1 or visit <http://www.nc211.org/>
- American Red Cross: 919.231.1602, <http://www.redcross.org/nc/raleigh>
- Office of Emergency Management: 800.858.0368, www.ncem.org/

Contact us anytime for confidential assistance.

Road Conditions

North Carolina Department of Transportation:

- <http://www.ncdot.gov/> Call 511: The Department of Transportation offers its free 511 service for travel information and roadway conditions, including road and bridge closures, toll suspensions and major evacuation routes.

Power Outage

To report an outage, call:

- Duke Energy: 800.452.2777
- Dominion: 866.366.4357

Shelters

Soabar Street Shelter

2305 Soabar Street, Greensboro

County: Guilford

Population: 0

Gaston County Citizens Resource Center

1330 Dallas Cherryville Highway, Gastonia

County: Gaston

Population: 0

Johnston Industries

912 N Brightleaf Blvd., Smithfield

County: Johnston

Population: 1

East Henderson High School

110 Old Upward Road, East Flat Rock

Population: 6

Alexander (J.M.) Middle School

12201 Hambright Road, Huntersville

Population: 26

Source: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter>

Airport Closures

Passengers are urged to not come to the local airport unless your flight has been confirmed. If your flight has been canceled, please call your airline's customer service telephone number or rebook through your airline's website.

Flight delay information: <http://www.flightstats.com/go/Home/home.do>

How to prepare and stay safe

During a hurricane

- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.

Contact us anytime for confidential assistance.

- Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and fast-moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Be extra careful when walking outside.
- Storm damage such as downed power lines and fallen debris could injure you.

6 hours before arrival

- Close storm shutters if possible and stay away from windows. Flying glass from broken windows could injure you.
- Turn your refrigerator or freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. If you lose power, food will last longer.

6 to 12 hours before arrival

- Turn on your TV/radio, or check your local government's website frequently to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Charge your phone. You'll have a full battery if you lose power.

12 to 36 hours before arrival

- Bring in outdoor furniture and other items that could blow away. These may become a safety hazard.
- Bookmark your local government's website. This gives you quick access to storm updates and emergency instructions.

36 to 48 hours before arrival

- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
- [Plan how to communicate with family members](#) if you lose power.
- For example, you can use phone, text, social media, or email.
- Create an [evacuation plan](#) with your family. You may have to leave quickly.

Source: <https://www.ready.gov/>