



South Carolina Department of Transportation

Hurricane Irma Operations Report

2:00 PM

September 9, 2017

SCDOT Operations Mode: Preparation

SEOC Operations Mode: OPCON1

Statewide Summary – SCDOT continues preparation activities for pending impacts anticipated by Hurricane Irma. Current forecasts predict that Hurricane Irma could impact South Carolina early next week. SCDOT will continue to closely monitor the forecast and consult with emergency service providers.

SCDOT Headquarters – Fuel inventories at SCDOT facilities are being monitored and adjusted to ensure adequate supplies for hurricane response activities. Comfort stations (rest areas, welcome centers, weigh stations, parking areas) are being stocked with portable toilets, bottled water and 24-hour custodial staffing for pending coastal evacuation. Disaster recovery contractors have been put on notice for possible activation. Appropriate emergency service teams have been deployed to the Emergency Management Division's State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

Traffic Conditions – Traffic congestion on interstate routes in impacted areas are being monitored. I-95 NB from Savannah, GA to I-26 is experiencing higher volumes than normal. Evacuation Routes leaving coastal areas are light to moderate.

Overall traffic conditions are good and traffic is flowing well.

I-95 in Georgia and Florida is operating below capacity. Lane reversals on I-16 in GA have been implemented and are scheduled to be in place until late Saturday afternoon.

District Activities – Maintenance crews prepped equipment, cleaned drainage structures, and reviewed evacuation routes. Assets were deployed in preparation for a potential coastal evacuation. 24 hour staffing plans are finalized. Other preparation activities were performed in accordance with their Hurricane Response Plans.



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Other Modes of Transportation – Amtrak has temporarily cancelled the following intercity passenger rail services serving stations in South Carolina:

- Silver Service: cancelled Northbound for September 9-13 and cancelled Southbound September 8-12
- Palmetto Service: cancelled Northbound for September 10-13 and cancelled Southbound September 9-12

Lowcountry RTA, serving Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties and the municipalities of Bluffton and Hilton Head, will not be providing general public transit services Saturday through Monday. SCDOT continues to coordinate with our statewide transit and transportation partners, and all other public transit services are operating normally.

Norfolk Southern Railroad will embargo rail traffic destined for FEC and CSX at Jacksonville. As the storm path continues to become more defined, traffic may be withheld from South Carolina.

Palmetto Railways is in the process of suspending all operations. All customer cars that could be shipped out of Charleston Yard have been moved as of Sept 8. Operations at Charity Church facility will end Saturday with all remaining cars secured for high wind conditions. Cosgrove Yard will continue to service customers until midnight on Sunday on a limited basis. All remaining cars will be secured for high wind conditions. Based on the current forecast Palmetto Railways will begin inspecting track and equipment on Tuesday morning and work to restore service as soon as possible.

Presently there have been no storm-related disruptions to air transportation or South Carolina Ports Authority operations.

Customer Service

The SCDOT Customer Service Center will be open 24 hours throughout this event

- Call volumes were up nearly 300% on Friday
- Currently, call volumes are about 10% ahead of Friday's pace
- Most calls are hurricane related

Motorists are encouraged to use SCDOT's 511 mobile app or to call 511 for current travel conditions

- Call volumes to 511 were up over 300% compared to a week ago
- On Friday, there were nearly 3,200 new user to the 511 app
- These new users helped generate over 10 times the normal daily visits to SC511.org

Visits to SCDOT's web site were up 442% on Friday

- There have been over 200,000 page views this week.

Hurricane Irma Resources

South Carolina Hurricane Guide:

<http://www.scecmd.org/component/content/article/26-guides-and-brochures/142-south-carolina-hurricane-guide>

SCDOT Storm Resources and Road Closures: <http://www.scdot.org/getting/IrmaStormResources.aspx>

Updates of activities will be reported through SCDOT's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Traffic information and evacuation routes can be found on the SCDOT 511 mobile app.



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