



# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

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## PREPARING FOR HURRICANE IRMA STORM EVENT

*Date of Release: Friday, September 08, 2017*

[Wentworth, N.C.]— With the uncertainty of Hurricane Irma looming, Rockingham County Emergency Officials have been planning for the worst as we continue to hope for the best. Currently Hurricane Irma will track west of NC, but this is **ONLY** a prediction and as we have already seen, forecast and track changes could occur.

In preparation of the upcoming storm event, a State of Emergency has been enacted for the State of North Carolina effective Thursday, September 07, 2017 at 8 a.m. Additionally, Rockingham County Officials have enacted a State of Emergency for Rockingham County effective Friday, September 08, 2017 at 6 p.m. A copy of this State of Emergency Declaration is attached. We are urging citizens to pay particular attention to the following:

### **Declaration of State of Emergency for Rockingham County Section 3A:**

**Restricted Access: It is unlawful to disobey any barriers which restrict vehicular or pedestrian travel due to road closure, detours, hazards, etc. All citizens should fully obey all regulatory signs whether they are permanently or temporarily placed due to the existing circumstances.**

These obstructions / barriers will be placed in roadways deemed hazardous for travel due to flooding, etc. Remember... It only takes a small amount of water on the roadway to move a vehicle, so PLEASE heed these warning barriers. **TURN AROUND!! DON'T DROWN!!!**

As part of the Action Plan devised by Rockingham County Emergency Officials, the Rockingham County Swift Water Rescue Team will be activated Monday morning, September 11<sup>th</sup> and will be on available if needed to deploy during the event.

Decisions on the opening of shelters will be made pending further information of the storm track and intensity. At this time, no shelters are open. A companion animal shelter will coincide with the opening of shelters should the need for shelters become evident. At this time no companion animal shelters are open. Farm Animals CANNOT be sheltered by ANY county resources. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture will be the governing authority concerning farm animals.

Citizens are urged to collect personal documents (insurance documents, banking information, etc.) and maintain these documents in a safe manner that protects the items from water damage, as well as, photograph their property prior to any significant weather event to verify the pre-storm condition of the property.

ANY and ALL movements should be completed prior to the impacts of the storm, as conditions could quickly worsen as the storm moves through the area. If we see significant affects from the storm, citizens are urged to shelter in place and to restrict travel unless it is **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY** until the storm event has passed.

Citizens should monitor weather updates via TV, radio and/or social media outlets for further updates and preparation guidance. Rockingham County uses the CodeRED Alert Notification System to send emergency situation or critical community alerts. These notifications can be sent via Reverse 9-1-1 calling, text messaging or email. There is a link to sign up for these CodeRED alerts on the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office's Website [www.RockinghamSheriff.com](http://www.RockinghamSheriff.com), on the Rockingham County Website [www.MyRockinghamCountyNC.com](http://www.MyRockinghamCountyNC.com), or smartphone users can download the CodeRED app on their Android or Apple devices.

This is the most current information we have been provided as of the time of this release. Rockingham County Office of Emergency Management Director Rodney Cates is monitoring the storm's status. Additional updates will be released as they become available.

