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INFORMATION RELEASE #02

HURRICANE ISABEL SEPTEMBER 14, 2003 – 9:00 AM

As of the 05:00 AM advisory from the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Isabel was located at 23.3 N and 65.2 W or about 1150 miles SE of Chatham County. Isabel is moving WNW at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 160 mph making this a very dangerous Category 5 Hurricane. Please keep in mind, as of the time of this release, Isabel is 1150 miles away and leaves a significant margin for error.

The official forecast is consistent with a variety of hurricane forecasting models, which unanimously bring the core of Isabel to the U.S. Mid-Atlantic coast somewhere between North Carolina and New Jersey between 4 or 5 days. Large ocean swells and dangerous surf conditions are likely over portions of the Southeastern U.S. coast during the next several days.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to monitor this powerful hurricane closely. Please use the weekend to review and update your individual emergency plans. Prudent recommendations during hurricane season should contain the following:

- Review insurance coverage
- Locate important documents and make them readily available
- Ensure medications are refilled if appropriate
- Be familiar with evacuation routes outside of Chatham County
- Identify primary relocation destination and a backup
- Make contact and assist elderly family members, friends and neighbors

At this time, Chatham County will remain in Operating Condition (OPCON) 5, which is the most relaxed stage during Hurricane Season. CEMA staff will closely monitor and analyze the storm continuously through the weekend and issue updates should conditions warrant. No further action is required at this time.

For more detailed planning needs, information can be found on the CEMA website at <http://cema.chathamcounty.org>