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INFORMATION RELEASE #03

HURRICANE ISABEL SEPTEMBER 15, 2003 – 9:30 AM

As of the 05:00 AM advisory from the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Isabel was located at 24.8 N and 69.0 W or about 900 miles SE of Chatham County. Isabel is moving WNW at 10 mph with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph making this a very dangerous Category 4 Hurricane. A gradual turn to the northwest is expected during the next 24 hours.

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 3 or 4 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 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

Although Hurricane Isabel is not currently forecast to impact coastal Georgia, as a precautionary measure CEMA is entering into Operating Condition (OPCON) 4, which is the first stage of alert readiness. Unless your plans call for specific action during this phase, 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>