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INFORMATION RELEASE #04

HURRICANE ISABEL **SEPTEMBER 16, 2003 – 4:30 PM**

As of the 5:00 PM advisory from the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Isabel was located at 27.8 N and 71.4 W or about 670 miles SE of Chatham County. Isabel is moving NNW at 8 mph with maximum sustained winds of 105 mph making this a Category 2 Hurricane. Large ocean swells and dangerous surf conditions are likely over portions of the Southeastern U.S. coast during the next several days.

Currently, a Tropical Storm Watch has been issued from South Santee River, SC to Little River Inlet, SC. This Tropical Storm Watch is not expected to move any further south than its current location.

Due to the proximity of the storm, Chatham County remains in 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>