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SITUATION REPORT #7

HURRICANE CHARLEY

AUGUST 13, 2004 6:00 pm

The City of Tybee Island has issued voluntary evacuation orders for their residents. Evacuees seeking shelter in Chatham County should obtain adequate shelter no later than 11:00 PM.

As of the 5:00 PM advisory, Chatham County remains in a Hurricane Warning. The center of Hurricane Charley was located near latitude 26.9 north, longitude 82.2 west and has made landfall at Charlotte Harbor, Florida as a Category 4 hurricane. Charley is moving NNE near 22 mph with maximum sustained winds near 140 mph. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 25 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 85 miles.

Based on this forecast, Charley is expected to cross the Florida peninsula and enter into the Atlantic near Daytona Beach, FL. The storm is expected to remain off the Georgia coast and make a second landfall near Myrtle Beach, SC sometime early Saturday afternoon. Minor changes in the forecast track can result in large differences in the expected conditions.

In Chatham County, tropical storm force winds may reach 60 mph with rainfall accumulations of three to six inches. Flooding is possible in areas with poor drainage. Storm surge of three to five feet above normal tides is predicted. Isolated tornadoes are possible after midnight and early Saturday morning.

With the exception of Tybee Island, no evacuations are expected for this event. Individuals should be prepared to shelter-in-place. All residents should conclude the following activities:

- Remove articles from your yard that may become flying hazards.
- Stay indoors and away from windows during periods of strong gusty winds.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Report any power outages to Savannah Electric (Hotline 1-800-390-2834).
- Ensure you have a flashlight with extra batteries.
- Stay tuned to local TV and radio for storm information.
- DO NOT drive through flooded roads.

CEMA will continue to monitor conditions and provide updates as information becomes available. CEMA remains at Operating Condition 3 and will partially activate the Emergency Operations Center at 7:00 pm tonight.

The next advisory will be issued at midnight tonight.