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SITUATION REPORT #1

HURRICANE FRANCES
SEPTEMBER 1, 2004 9:00 am

At 8:00 AM, Hurricane Frances is located at 21.4N and 69.1W or 1045 miles SE of Chatham County. Maximum sustained winds are approximately 140 mph with tropical storm force winds extending 185 miles from the center of circulation making this a very strong Category 4 hurricane. Frances is moving WNW near 16 MPH. This general motion is expected to continue with a gradual decrease in forward speed over the next 24 hours.

On the current forecast track, Hurricane Frances could pose a threat to the Georgia coast as early as Sunday morning. Please keep in mind that minor changes with each advisory could result in major changes in the forecast track and storm dynamics over time.

As of 9:00 AM this morning, CEMA will enter into Operating Condition (OPCON) 4 or the Monitoring Phase as defined by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. OPCON 4 is the first stage in advanced readiness. All interested parties should maintain vigilance in monitoring this storm through local media. A thorough check of emergency supplies and evacuation plans should commence immediately. Emergency response agencies should review their hurricane plans and determine the availability of their assets, resources and personnel. Those agencies that have the responsibility to share information should be doing so at this time.

The next Situation Report will be issued as the situation warrants.