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SITUATION REPORT #2

HURRICANE FRANCES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2004 5:00 PM

At 5:00 PM, Hurricane Frances is located at 22.0 N and 71.0 W or 950 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 15 MPH. This general motion is expected to continue with a gradual decrease in forward speed over the next 24 hours.

The latest forecast from the National Hurricane Center projects this storm to make landfall somewhere near the central east coast of Florida and continue toward SW Georgia. If the storm remains on this forecast track, Chatham County can expect gusty winds early Sunday morning. However, any eastward deviation could pose more serious weather conditions for our area.

Please keep in mind that minor changes with each advisory could result in major changes in the forecast track and storm dynamics. Observers are cautioned not to concentrate on the center of the storm and the small line of projected travel but instead to focus on the size of the storm.

CEMA remains in 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.