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SITUATION REPORT #3

HURRICANE FRANCES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2004 5:00 PM

At 5:00 PM, Hurricane Frances is located at 24.1 N and 74.8 W or 650 miles SE of Chatham County. Maximum sustained winds remain at 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 NW near 10 MPH. This general motion is expected to continue with a gradual decrease in forward speed.

High confidence is given to the latest forecast from the National Hurricane Center which projects this storm to make landfall near Vero Beach, FL Friday evening and continue toward SW Georgia. If the storm remains on this forecast track the impact to Chatham County would be minimal.

It is important to note, however, that any eastward deviation could pose more serious weather conditions for our area. Minor changes with each advisory could result in major changes of the forecast track. 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.