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SITUATION REPORT #4

HURRICANE FRANCES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2004 12:00 PM

At 11:00 AM, Hurricane Frances is located at 25.5 N and 76.7 W or 519 miles SE of Chatham County. Maximum sustained winds are approximately 115 mph with tropical storm force winds extending 185 miles from the center of circulation making this a very strong Category 3 hurricane. Frances is moving NW near 9 MPH.

The National Hurricane Center which projects this storm to make landfall near Vero Beach, FL 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.

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