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INFORMATION RELEASE

HURRICANE FRANCES

August 31, 2004 5:00 pm

At 5:00 PM, Hurricane Frances is located at 20.5N and 65.9W or about 1100 miles SE of Chatham County. Currently, the system is moving W near 15 mph. Maximum sustained winds are 140 mph and extend 150 miles from the center of circulation making this a major hurricane.

On the current forecast track, Hurricane Frances could pose a threat to the Georgia Coast as early as Saturday evening. Minor changes with each advisory could result in major changes in the forecast track over time.

All interested parties should maintain vigilance in monitoring this storm. A thorough check of emergency supplies and evacuation plans should commence. 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.

CEMA remains at OPGON 5, the first level of preparedness during the hurricane season. No further action is required at this time. CEMA will continue to monitor this storm and begin issuing Situation Reports at 9:00 AM Wednesday morning.