



George County Board of Supervisors
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George County declares local emergency in advance of Tropical Storm Gordon

- County will open shelters THIS afternoon -
Gordon Release #1 (**Update**): Sept. 4, 2018

The George County Board of Supervisors approved a “Proclamation of Local Emergency” today in advance of Tropical Storm Gordon.

Tropical Storm Gordon is forecast by the National Weather Service to strengthen and make landfall tonight as a Category 1 Hurricane on the Mississippi or Louisiana Gulf Coast. This system could bring strong winds (20-30 mph with 45 mph gusts) and 4-6 inches of rain into the area (locally up to 8 inches) by this evening through Wednesday morning.

The County will open two storm shelters on TODAY (Sept. 4) at 2 p.m. which will be managed by the American Red Cross and the MS Department of Human Services. Residents going to a shelter should bring food, prescription medication, eyeglasses, sleeping gear, baby/infant items, and a change of clothes. Review Red Cross guidelines at www.redcross.org. No pets are allowed inside of shelters. Locations are:

- **Benndale Storm Shelter (5207 Hwy. 26 W)**
- **Agricola Storm Shelter (3161 Cooks Corner Road)**

“This is a fast moving system, strong winds and heavy rains could be here within the next 8 hours. I’m asking all residents to finish precautions around their homes now and start their plans for sheltering. The ‘safe window’ for outdoor preps is closing,” Nancy Smith, George County Emergency Management Director explained.

The County is also taking several precautions:

- The George County School District has already cancelled classes today and Wednesday.
- MGCCC- GC Campus has cancelled all classes for today and Wednesday.
- **UPDATE**- George County Community Medical and Pharmacy will close **today at 5 PM**.
- **UPDATE**- GC Solid Waste is running the “Tuesday Garbage Route” as long as possible today. The “Wednesday Route” is pending on the weather. Please, don’t leave garbage cans outside during severe weather. **All routes will be run by week’s end.**
- County supervisors are pre-positioning road equipment across their beats to better respond to road closures. Road crews are now on “stand-by.”
- Sheriff’s Department is placing all staff members on “stand-by” and coordinating with the Sheriff’s Reserve, if needed.
- All County offices will remain open today (Sept. 4) for normal operations until 3 pm. County employees should discuss scheduling with their supervisor for Wednesday.

The County is also under a Flash Flood Watch meaning heavy pockets of rain could quickly cover local roads and private property.

“All drivers also need to be aware road conditions will be changing throughout today. Flash flood along with tropical storm conditions can easily produce standing water and debris on road ways,” Smith said.

For the most updated weather information and alerts follow George County’s EMA Facebook page at Facebook/GeorgeCountyMsEmergencyManagement and the County’s website www.georgecountyms.gov .

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