



# Sampson County Local Government

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PRESS RELEASE

Emergency Operations Center Main Number: (910) 592-8996

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#FLORENCE

### COUNTY ANNOUNCES SHELTERS FOR HURRICANE FLORENCE

Hurricane Florence has maintained its track towards the North Carolina coast, resulting in increased confidence of widespread flooding and significantly damaging winds and power outages for Sampson County. Therefore, Sampson County officials have announced that the County plan for emergency shelters will be implemented. Emergency shelters will be opened at the following locations, effective **Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.**

<b>Clinton High School</b>	<b>340 Indian Town Road, Clinton</b>
<b>Union Elementary School</b>	<b>10400 Taylors Bridge Highway, Clinton</b>
<b>Hobbton Middle School</b>	<b>12081 Hobbton Highway, Newton Grove</b>
<b>Midway High School</b>	<b>15274 Spivey's Corner Highway, Dunn</b>
<b>Lakewood High School</b>	<b>245 Lakewood School Road, Salemburg</b>

Officials with the Sampson County Department of Social Services and the Sampson County Health Department will man the Red Cross shelters, along with other county agencies. County and municipal law enforcement will provide security.

All persons coming to a shelter are asked to bring bedding, medicines, foods (especially baby foods and baby supplies), personal hygiene items, and flashlights. Firearms and alcoholic beverages are forbidden; law enforcement will retain the right to search bags brought into the shelter as a safety precaution. Certain electronic devices, such as televisions, will not be allowed inside shelters.

Transportation to the shelters, particularly for the elderly and disabled, is available through Sampson Area Transportation, **unless worsening weather conditions necessitate that such services cease**. Those with transportation needs should call 910-299-0127 and ask for the Transportation Coordinator.

There will be a shelter opening for those with special (medical) needs. For more information about the special needs shelter, please contact the Sampson County Department of Aging at (910) 592-4653. Those persons who depend on home oxygen (or other medical resources

contingent on access to electrical power) should make arrangements to have an adequate additional supply on hand.

Service animals are allowed at general population shelters; however, other pets are not. For those going to a shelter and needing emergency pet sheltering for dogs or cats, pet sheltering is offered at the **Sampson County Livestock Arena** located at **93 Agriculture Place, Clinton**. This shelter is manned by County staff and those familiar with animal handling. Those who wish to have their pet sheltered must have proof that the animal's rabies vaccinations are current. If they are not, vaccinations will be made available *at a cost to the owner, with fees paid at the time the pet is presented for sheltering*. The pet shelter will have cages, food and water. Animals will be registered, photographed, and an ID tag placed on the pet before they are placed in a cage for their safety. Pets that become unruly and aggressive or show signs of a contagious condition, may be moved to the adjacent Sampson County Animal Shelter. All pets must be picked up from the pet shelter within three (3) hours after the general population shelters close.

The Sampson County Emergency Operations Center will be fully activated as of 7:00 am on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. It is anticipated that the County will enact a State of Emergency as of Monday evening.

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