



Strategic Communications  
[stratcom@gemhsa.ga.gov](mailto:stratcom@gemhsa.ga.gov)  
(404) 635-2155  
[@GeorgiaEMA](https://www.facebook.com/GEMA.OHS)  
[Facebook.com/GEMA.OHS](https://www.facebook.com/GEMA.OHS)

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## **News Release**

### **Georgia to Receive Federal Assistance in Response to Hurricane Matthew**

(ATLANTA) – Effects from Hurricane Matthew are now impacting Georgia coastal communities and are expected to increase throughout the day and last until late Saturday. In response to Hurricane Matthew, the President has declared a State of Emergency in the State of Georgia and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local response efforts.

The action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures. The federal declaration applies to counties under Governor Deal's [State of Emergency](#) declaration.

“The Georgia coast hasn't seen a catastrophic disaster of this potential magnitude in 118 years. The state of Georgia is fully mobilized and with this federal declaration we are greatly intensifying our response efforts,” said GEMHSA Director Jim Butterworth. “The time to prepare has nearly passed. Take action now to protect yourself and your family.”

The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency continues to coordinate the state's preparation and response to the destructive storm. The Georgia National Guard has activated 365 soldiers and airmen as of this morning to support local law enforcement and public safety officials facilitating security, traffic control and other storm related needs.

#### Evacuation:

- A mandatory evacuation remains in effect for areas east of I-95 in the six coastal counties: Bryan, Chatham, Liberty, McIntosh, Glynn and Camden.
- A voluntary evacuation order remains in effect west of I-95 in the same counties.
- Information about evacuation routes and road conditions can be found at [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov).

#### Sheltering:

- Any residents that find themselves in the path of the storm and have not evacuated should take shelter in the interior of their home and remain indoors for the duration of the storm.
- Visit our site <https://godawgs.gema.ga.gov/shelters> for the latest information on shelters and animal-friendly shelters or call 1-800-Red-Cross.
- Information about state park closures, space availability and reservations can be found at [www.gastateparks.org](http://www.gastateparks.org).

Additional resources and information can be found at [www.gemhsa.ga.gov](http://www.gemhsa.ga.gov).

As part of the Office of the Governor, GEMHSA works with local, state and federal governments, in partnership with the private sector and faith-based community, to protect life and property against

man-made and natural emergencies. In addition, GEMHSA employees are on 24-hour call statewide to assist local authorities when disaster strikes. GEMHSA's *Ready Georgia* campaign helps Georgians prepare for disasters. Go to [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov) or download the free *Ready Georgia* app for information on developing a custom emergency plan and Ready kit.