



**American
Red Cross**

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News Release
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MEDIA ONLY

Hurricane Matthew: Red Cross Urges People To Get Ready for the Storm Now

ATLANTA – Wednesday, October 5, 2016 — Hurricane Matthew is headed toward coastal Georgia with strong winds and heavy rain and the American Red Cross urges people who may live in the path of the storm to get prepared now. Matthew is a dangerous storm expected to drop as much as 7 inches of rain and bring high storm surges, damaging winds and dangerous rip currents to the region.

“This is a powerful storm and people should get ready now,” said Chris Baker, Disaster Officer for Georgia’s Red Cross. “If someone is asked to evacuate, they should leave. We’re collaborating with our local emergency partners and will have shelters available where they can escape the dangers of the storm.”

6 Red Cross Shelters Open Tonight (10-5-16) in Georgia:

TIME:	COUNTY:	LOCATION:	ADDRESS:
7pm	Bibb	Hephzibah Children’s Home	6601 Zebulon Rd. Macon, GA 31220
7pm	Colquitt	First Baptist Church	400 Main St. Moultrie, GA 31768
9pm	Emanuel	Swainsboro Rec. Dept.	632 McLeod Bridge Rd. Swainsboro, GA 30401
7pm	Lowndes	Park Avenue Methodist Church	100 E. Park Ave. Valdosta, GA 31602
7pm	Peach	Peach County Fire Station 6	1770 U S Hwy. 341 Fort Valley, GA 31030
6pm	Richmond	Trinity on the Hill United Methodist Church	1330 Monte Sano Ave. Augusta, GA 30904

If someone is coming to a shelter they should bring any prescription medications, extra clothing, pillows, blankets, hygiene supplies, important documents and other comfort items. They should also include any special items for children such as diapers, formula and toys, and items needed by family members with unique needs.

[DOWNLOAD EMERGENCY APP](#)

Everyone should also download the Red Cross Emergency App to have safety information available on their mobile device, including emergency weather alerts and information on what to do in the case of a hurricane and other emergencies. The app also displays shelter locations. Red Cross apps are available in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

HAVE A DISASTER KIT

People should get their disaster kits ready. Include a gallon of water per person - enough for three days, three-day supply of non-perishable food, a flashlight and extra batteries, a hand crank weather radio, first aid kit, medications, personal hygiene items, extra cash, cell phone and chargers, family and emergency contact information, copies of important papers and a map of the area. [More details on what to include are available here.](#)

HURRICANE SAFETY

People living in the path of the hurricane should keep informed about weather conditions and listen to the advice of local officials. They should also listen to local media or a NOAA weather radio for critical information from the National Weather Service. Other steps include:

- Check disaster supplies and replace or restock if needed.
- Bring in anything that can be picked up by the wind.
- Close doors, windows and hurricane shutters. If you don't have shutters, close and board up all windows and doors with plywood.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Obey evacuation orders and avoid flooded roads and bridges. Turn around, don't drown.

MAKE A DONATION

Help people affected by disasters like hurricanes, floods and countless other crises by making a donation to the Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small across the United States. Visit redcross.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

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