



Brooks County Georgia

Office of The County Administrator

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September 8, 2017 / 5:00 P.M.

Re: Hurricane Irma Statement
Saturday Afternoon

Dear Brooks County,

I understand from our local officials with law, fire and ems, that there are folks wanting additional information regarding the storm, including information about shelters. There are shelters opened in Lowndes County. Anyone who has their own transportation or a ride to Valdosta, is encouraged to use the Red Cross shelter at Cross Pointe Church on North Valdosta Road. Red Cross shelters are equipped to better handle people because they are equipped with food and cots. Other locations may not have cots, blankets, or expanded bathroom facilities for large crowds. In addition to the Cross Pointe Shelter in Valdosta, a Good Samaritan shelter at Valdosta Park Avenue Methodist Church (information for both churches below) is also currently open. In Quitman, the Quitman Church of God and the Wings of Eagles, Inc facility will be available on Sunday, at 2 P.M.

According to the National Weather Service in Tallahassee, they are predicting sustained winds speeds in our area no less than Tropical Storm force and possibly Hurricane strength. As the storms moves, the situation will change, and could be worse than what we are seeing at this time. Strong effects from this storm should be expected to arrive in our area starting Sunday afternoon. I again, can only plead with people to stay indoors before, during, and after the storm. If you need to check on loves ones in your area or friends, please do so when it is safe, then return home. Excessive traffic on the roadway only increases the difficulty for first responders.

A detailed press release with more information will be coming from the Brooks County EMA Director Mike Smith later this evening. Our staff is currently meeting with FEMA officials in our area, and when they have completed that assignment, we will have information for news outlets.

Again, those interested in assistance with storm shelters should continue checking with the 911 / EMA Office at their non-emergency 911 number, 229-263-4262, and also on Facebook pages for Brooks County Fire, EMA and the Brooks County, GA Facebook page. If you are concerned with your safety where you are, you should contact a family member or neighbor who lives in a stick-build or brick home and try to stay with them if possible.

The Brooks County Road Department has transferred its main telephone number, 229-263-8817 to a spare number (229-263-1038) at the Brooks County 911 Center as of 5 P.M. Friday. That number will be manned starting Sunday evening for non-emergency road calls. Again, you can also use the non-

emergency number for 911, at 229-263-4262. If all else fails, please call 911. Be prepared to report issues with an address, or approximate location. (I.e. – 500 feet north of address 1000 ABC Street, intersection of ABC Street and XYZ Road, etc).

Residents should also be advised to move any items outside that may blow away in high winds, such as trash cans and chairs, etc. These items become hazards in the roadway for emergency vehicles.

DO NOT GO NEAR DOWN POWER LINES OR ATTEMPT TO DRIVE THROUGH WATER ON FLOODED ROADS, THERE COULD BE WASHOUTS OR OTHER HIDDEN DANGERS.

Residents should continue to make plans and take action to protect life, first and foremost. We should continue to see an increase in traffic over the weekend from our friends coming up from Florida. Please be safe and don't make any unnecessary trips if possible.

LOWNDES COUNTY

Red Cross Shelter

Cross Pointe Church
4100 North Valdosta Road
229-242-7702

Good Samaritan

Park Avenue Methodist Church
100 East Park Avenue
229-242-3562

BROOKS COUNTY

Good Samaritan 2 PM Sunday Both Locations

Quitman Church of God
1405 East Screven Street
Quitman, GA
229-300-7061

Wings of Eagles, Inc.
300 South Madison Street
Quitman, GA
229-370-0268

God Bless,

Justin DeVane
County Administrator