

NC DENR Situation Report 9 a.m. for Thursday, Aug. 25, 2011

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Solid Waste Section

Division of Waste Management/Solid Waste Section: Solid Waste Section staff have completed calls to landfills with leachate collection systems and to some transfer stations that have the ability to receive stormwater into their systems. Facilities were reminded to lower leachate levels of tanks and ponds in anticipation of rain associated with the hurricane. Some transfer stations were reminded, as needed with regard to their individual structures, to pump tanks in anticipation of incoming stormwater. Care must be taken regarding amounts pumped. (This is specific to transfer stations with smaller above-ground leachate storage tanks.)

Solid Waste Section staff have a current list of Temporary Disaster Debris Storage sites. These are conditionally approved for this hurricane event and are usually activated at the request of local governments. As needed, a Solid Waste Section Environmental Senior Specialist will be calling Shawn McKee in the Solid Waste Section for assistance with activation of these temporary sites as that becomes necessary. Some of the counties are already activating their Temporary Disaster Debris Storage sites (TDDS).

All staff in the east attended the WEB EOC event last week and are very familiar with access to the website and our roles. The Solid Waste Section is ready for the storm. All staff have vehicle access and equipment necessary to carry on operations away from their work stations, and will remain in contact with its infrastructure contacts.

Thus far, the Solid Waste Section plans to be at the EOC on Friday from 9 a.m. through 6 p.m. Mary Whaley will be the first section staff at the EOC when it is activated that morning. The Solid Waste Section will expand its presence at the EOC if needed. Our point of contact at N. C. Emergency Management is Steve Davis, Infrastructure Manager.

Hazardous Waste Section

The Hazardous Waste Section has designated staff to work at the EOC if needed. The primary person is Steve Barron and the alternate is Robin Proctor.

Staff is contacting Large Quantity Generators and Treatment, Storage, Disposal facilities in the projected path to ensure that hazardous waste will be properly managed and manifested off-site if possible. Facilities are asked to review Contingency Plans to ensure they are up to date.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Campgrounds at eight state parks in eastern N.C. will be closed Friday and Saturday nights. One of those – primitive campsites on Bear Island at Hammocks Beach – will be closed Thursday and Sunday nights as well. The other affected state parks are: Lumber River, Jones Lake, Lake Waccamaw, Carolina Beach, Pettigrew, Merchants Millpond, Goose Creek.
- Field supervisory staff have determined what field staff throughout the state will be available for response through the weekend, including those available to be shifted from their normal duty station.
- Staff have inventoried response equipment to ensure necessary items are at hand and in good working order.

Operational Priorities:

- Operations supervisors will begin to determine which state parks in eastern N.C. may be closed to the public and the timing of those closings.
- Those state parks nearest the projected path of the storm will begin to secure equipment and facilities to the extent possible and devise a communications plan with park staff and district staff for after-storm response.

AQUARIUMS

NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island (NCARI)

Current Situation: Pre-Irene Preparation

Maylon White, director of NCARI held a Curators/Managers meeting to provide information for hurricane Irene on August 24, 2011 at 1400 hours.

- Director, public Relations, security and operations at NCARI are monitoring Irene. A follow up meeting is scheduled for August 25.

- Staff was instructed to prepare the grounds and building for the arrival of Irene.
- Key personal were identified for communications during the storm.
- Husbandry staffs were instructed to contact the NC Aquarium Division Director to get permission to stay at the aquarium during the storm. 2 persons were identified.
- Communications during a power outage was discussed (telephone-cell) if we lose power. All cell phones and radios are being charged.
- Frank Hudgins, director of operations & husbandry will decide who key personal are for re-entry passes.

Operational Priorities: NCARI is closed due to mandatory evacuation order and direction of our director.

- Under mandatory evacuation for visitors at this time.
- NCARI is closed to the public.
- Have notified all media of our current status.
- Expect a mandatory evacuation order for residents of Dare County by the Control Group later today.
- Continue to review animal and husbandry concerns if the power is lost to the aquarium.
- Generator tank is full and generator is operational.
- Staff was instructed to turn computers off and cover all electronic devices.

N.C. Aquarium on Pine Knolls

Current Situation:

The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores is implementing the Hurricane Action Plan to secure the building.

Operational Priorities:

The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores will finish hurricane preparation today.

We anticipate closing the facility to the public when Carteret County implements a mandatory evacuation of Bogue Banks.

N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Operations

- Cellular phones and radios are charged and readily available.
- Inventories supplies for prep and recovery, i.e., pails, tarps, rope, batteries, rakes, gloves, chainsaw chains and fuel.
- Checked and tested emergency generator (under full load).
 - o Filled main tank.
 - o Prepared “who to call” info regarding generator support/replacement, fuel, etc.
 - o Tested and have on standby two portable generators.
- Checked/cleaned roof drains.
- Sealed lift station panels, making sure control panels are secure.
- Backed up computer files and will cover computers and printers. Back up files will be taken off site for safe keeping.

Husbandry / Dive

- Checked animals and prepare them for possibility of extended period of time on their own.
 - Moved all Marine Enterprises salt inside.
 - Secured all outside tanks.
 - Secured freezer conditioning unit cover.
 - Filled outside tanks with water, weight down.
 - Filled all saltwater and freshwater holding/mixing/reservoir tanks.
 - Filled SCUBA tanks as reserve air source.
 - Filled all oxygen bottles; remove as needed.
 - Prepared 5 gallon buckets to make ice for salt and fresh water.
 - Checked all animal food freezers and refrigerators for tight fitting lids and doors.
 - Prepared aquarium systems as needed (gathered ext. cords) and for operation on emergency circuit.
 - Backed up computer files and cover computers and printers. Back up files will be taken off site for safe keeping.
- A second set of animal census files will be taken off site by a second person.

- Cellular phones and radios are charged and readily available.

Horticulture

- Checked cisterns and prepared for large rains.
- Placed concrete blocks on cistern lids.
- Secured greenhouse, bringing plants inside, and preparing for flooding under greenhouse.

Security

- Communicated Aquarium plans to Kure Beach police and EMS; coordinated post-disaster shelter operations with Town as needed.
- Cellular phones and radios are charged and readily available and secured extra batteries and flashlights for all staff.
- Backed up computer files and will cover computers and printers. Back up files will be taken off site for safe keeping.

Exhibits

- Secured exhibit materials that are outside.
- Cellular phones and radios are charged and readily available.
- Secured exhibit elements, signs, banners, easels, etc.
- Bring food deck umbrellas and signs inside.
- Backed up computer files and will cover computers and printers. Back up files will be taken off site for safe keeping.

Education

- Notified all scheduled, visiting groups and reservation program participants of cancellations/possible Aquarium closure.
- Notified volunteers scheduled to work during anticipated period of closure.
- Secured kayaks and canoes and trailer.
- Secured all loose paddles and PFDs, nets, buckets, clam rakes, crab pots, seine, etc.
- Backed up computer files and will cover computers and printers. Back up files will be taken off site for safe keeping.
- Cellular phones and radios are charged and readily available.

All Departments

- Assisted Operations.
- Counted and filled sand bags (100) for doors listed below and other areas as needed:
 - o Auditorium
 - o Eel cave
 - o East stairway
 - o High rate sand filter room
 - o Emergency exit by round window
 - o All overhead doors (4)
 - o Electric room 152

Operational Priorities: Potential activities, if necessary, in the next 24-48 hours.

Operations

- Prepare for potential flooding by relocating all state vehicles and collecting boats to Carolina Beach State Park Visitor Center parking lot prior to the park closing.
- Turn off generator building exhaust fan.
- Open drain holes in generator building east wall.
- If electric supply becomes unstable, start generators.
- Secure all exterior items:
 - o Remove lids and liners from concrete trash cans. Store in carpentry shop.
 - o Bring cigarette cans inside from all decks.
 - o Remove potential “missiles” from loading dock.
- Seal parking lot light control panel.

- Close all storm shutters immediately prior to evacuation.
- Tape blower room vents.
- Inspect and secure conservatory roof panels and windows.
- Move leaf blower, weed eater, mower and gator carts into building.
- Fill forklift propane tanks.
- Move cooling tower ladder to safe location. Seal manhole by cooling tower. Seal cooling tower distribution box covers.
- Secure condensing units.
- Turn off power and water in non-essential parts of building.

Husbandry / Dive

- Secure all loose objects around husbandry areas.
- Remove all animals from basking room. Close reptile basking room roof vents.
- Move Hazmat storage box to G.S. loading dock.
- Close husbandry office window and salt marsh window shutters.
- Secure holding tanks on north side of building.
- Prepare ray exhibit for airlift operations.
- Top up all aquarium systems.
- Turn up all air stones or replace if necessary.
- Install flood barrier doors on holding area under Admin. exit stairway.
- Make sure all windows are secured.

Horticulture

- Move plants from staging area inside.
- Move mosquito magnets inside.
- Turn off power to greenhouse.

Security

- Communicated Aquarium plans to Kure Beach police and EMS; coordinated post-disaster shelter operations with Town as needed.
- Secure all signs, cones, and moveable items (i.e. picnic tables) in parking areas.
- Remove flags.

Exhibits

- Bring food deck umbrellas and signs inside.

Administration / Visitor Services

- Deposit all receipts and secure safe.
- Seal ticket windows and exterior doors. Use backer rod or tape as necessary.
- Change message on answering machine (per Director).
- Back up computer files and cover computers and printers. Back up files should be taken off site for safe keeping.
- Cover cash registers.
- Make sure cellular phones and radios are charged and readily available.

Gift Shop

- Close gift shop storm shutters.
- Prepare for potential flooding.
- Back up computer files and cover computers and printers. Back up files should be taken off site for safe keeping.
- Cover cash registers, complete deposits.
- Make sure cellular phones and radios are charged and readily available.

REGIONAL OFFICES

Fayetteville

Current Situation:

1. Updated call tree distributed to admin staff.
2. Building emergency light checked and operational.
3. Admin emergency flashlights operational.

Operational Priorities:

- Informed staff of the need to move all Motor Fleet vehicles to higher ground.
- Unplug equipment
- Cover computers / printers (near windows) with plastic
- Ensure emergency numbers are correct
- Do not use ice in ice machine, as it is not safe for human consumption.

Raleigh

Current Situation:

- The divisions housed within the Raleigh Regional Office have met and outlined the procedures and actions appropriate to their areas in preparation for Hurricane Irene.
- State vehicles are being fueled.
- Instructions have been given to staff on how to protect equipment and state property in preparation for the storm.

Operational Priorities:

- Program staff are meeting to assign responsibilities and duties for responding to potential threats or damage due to the storm.

Wilmington

- Gregory Poole will be here Thursday morning at 8:00 AM. To do preventive maintenance will be performed on the generator this morning.

Operational Priorities:

Unplug all equipment (don't just disconnect)

- Cover all computers/printers etc. with plastic (we will hand out plastic until it is gone and then you will need to use your own.
- Leave emergency contact numbers on your phone
- Make sure all state vehicles are filled up
- Park all state vehicles in designated area
- Remember only the Annex is equipped with generator power (access doors included)
- **PLEASE DO NOT USE THE ICE** in the ice machine for your personal use as it may be needed for business.
- Plastic bags will be issued to all staff in preparation to cover equipment. State Vehicles will be filled and parked in designated area. All staff have been notified as to emergency contact personal and cell phone numbers.

WATER RESOURCES

The Public Water Supply (PWS) Section regional offices have downloaded current public water supply system contact information into Excel files from our database. Up-to-date hard copies will be made in advance of hurricane impact in case of a power outage. PWS Regional Engineers are reviewing the "North Carolina Emergency Response Plan for Public Water Systems" with staff.

As the storm approaches, regional staff are reminding water systems to fill water storage tanks, check the operation of back-up generators, top off fuel tanks and verify inventories of spare parts and sample bottles.

Central office staff have verified the functionality of the two web applications for "Event Assessment Tracking" (PWS Section data input site and public access site). Regional staff have confirmed they have password access to the data input site.

Operational Priorities:

The Public Water Supply Section has no "response" activities ahead of the storm impact. PWS has no "response" capability during the hurricane impact. After the storm has passed, PWS Section staff will attempt to contact water systems by phone to complete online "post-event assessments" according to established procedures documented in the "North Carolina Emergency Response Plan for Public Water Systems" (Appendix C). Staff will assist public water systems in preparing and issuing appropriate water use restrictions, advisories and notices.

PWS Section staff will be available for consultation and guidance (technical assistance).

AIR QUALITY

- DAQ staff monitoring storm progress and forecasted track.
- Staff assembling materials to protect computers, monitors and other electronic equipment from potential wind and water damage.

Operational Priorities:

- DAQ air monitoring staff are meeting this morning to assess the potential storm track and decide whether to deactivate any monitoring equipment that could potentially be damaged by high winds or flooding.
- Staff in Wilmington and Washington regional office plan to deactivate and secure any at-risk monitoring equipment by noon on Friday.
- Staff in all affected regions will take actions to protect computers and other electronic equipment before leaving work Friday.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Action taken: All DCM staff have been advised to review and update their emergency response manuals and have received updated emergency contact list and phone tree. Staff is on standby, preparing for post-storm activities. All regional offices and coastal reserve sites currently open and operational. Staff has been advised to have all vehicles fueled and ready for use. Staff is adhering to normal routine today; preparing for any needed recovery efforts.

Operational Priorities:

Preparing vehicles for use; preparing for post-storm recovery efforts. Will decide today (Aug. 25) on closure of coastal reserve sites in path of the storm.

LAND RESOURCES

- Dam Safety staff was briefed and a staffing plan for all personnel was established.
- Fifteen to eighteen, 2-person Dam safety response teams have been identified. (Teams are from regional offices as well as head quarters office.)
- Three regional offices expecting impacts (Fayetteville, Washington, Wilmington) were briefed on response to Dam safety emergencies

Operational Priorities:

Staff EOC with most of headquarters personnel to permit rookies to be better equipped to use equipment as well as obtain additional training on NC Sparta.