

State Lowers Emergency Status, Recovery Operations Expand

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Monday, October 12, 2015, 10:55 p.m.) –

The South Carolina Emergency Response Team is transitioning to the state's emergency operational status to level 3. OPCON 3 is the third lowest of five operational conditions and allows state agencies to continue actively monitoring potential effects from the historic flooding, while supporting local governments and residents in ongoing recovery efforts. Now heading into the 13th day of 24-hour operations, the state Emergency Operations Center remains activated.

While the immediate emergency subsides, the S.C. Emergency Management Division along with state and federal partners increasingly focus on disaster recovery efforts. The American Red Cross reports 308 people are staying in 10 shelters tonight.

More than 200 roads and nearly 100 bridges remain closed as S.C. Department of Transportation teams continue with inspections and repairs. Earlier today SCDOT announced that I-95 southbound reopened to through traffic. Northbound I-95 traffic continues to be routed through Columbia from I-26 to I-20. For the latest information on state bridge and road closings go to scdot.org.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control is offering no-cost tetanus vaccinations for South Carolinians affected by flooding at state health department locations, with mobile clinics in Florence, Georgetown, Lexington, Richland and Williamsburg counties. For a complete list of vaccination clinics and information on scheduling an appointment go to scdhec.gov.

Nineteen counties received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance to include direct financial help for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the flooding. People with flood losses should register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or call 800-621-3362.

FEMA and the State of South Carolina have established Disaster Recovery Centers in several counties, with plans to open several more throughout the state. Survivors who have been affected by the flood can visit the nearest DRC in their area to register for disaster assistance, ask questions about an open application and meet with multiple agencies offering aid. For a complete list of DRCs and more resources for flood survivors go to scemd.org.