



---

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

Tel: 404-635-7000

[stratcom@gema.ga.gov](mailto:stratcom@gema.ga.gov)

## News Release

### **GEMHSA Monitors Tropical Storm Hermine**

(ATLANTA) -- The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency is updating local governments as it receives forecasts today concerning Tropical Storm Hermine. GEMHSA is closely monitoring the storm along with the National Hurricane Center, and is coordinating preparation and response with local officials.

The greatest impact to Georgia could be heavy rainfall, with predictions of up to six inches in South Georgia. Residents in low-lying areas should stay alert for possible flooding. Sustained tropical storm force winds and isolated tornadoes are possible along and southeast of a line from Cairo to Fitzgerald to Vidalia to Statesboro between late Thursday evening and early Friday afternoon. Area residents should stay tuned to local radio or television for current weather information.

"While we monitor the path of the storm, we are also working with partners to prepare the state and our citizens for the potential impacts," says GEMHSA Director Jim Butterworth. "Even if the storm does not make landfall in Georgia, it could bring extensive flooding, tornadoes and power outages. Now is the time for Georgians to prepare themselves and their families for Tropical Storm Hermine."

As of 4:00 p.m. today, a Tropical Storm and Flood Watch is in effect for the following counties: Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Pierce, Ware and Wayne until further notice.

As of 4:00 p.m. today, a Tropical Storm and Flash Flood Watch is in effect for the following counties: Berrien, Brooks, Colquitt, Cook, Decatur, Echols, Grady, Lanier, Lowndes and Thomas until 8 a.m. Friday.

As of 4:00 p.m. today, A Flash Flood Watch is in effect for the following counties: Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Crisp, Dodge, Dooly, Emanuel, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Houston, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Montgomery, Oglethorpe, Pulaski, Putnam, Taliaferro, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Twiggs, Warren, Washington, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkes, and Wilkinson until 8 a.m. on Saturday.

GEMHSA's preparation and response activities include actively monitoring Tropical Storm Hermine in close coordination with the National Weather Service. The agency is in close communication with local emergency management agency directors in the potentially affected areas, agency partners and neighboring states or Florida and South Carolina.

GEMHSA encourages citizens in the affected areas or who may be traveling into the Florida Panhandle for Labor Day weekend to monitor local weather reports closely and begin to make necessary storm preparations.

- Listen to local authorities for advice and protective actions
- Prepare a disaster supply kit with food, water, a battery-operated radio and medicine to last at least three days
- Don't forget to include pets in your preparations
- Create a family evacuation plan that details how and where you will evacuate and where you will meet if you are separated

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. Go to [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov) or download the free Ready Georgia app to get information on preparing for a disaster and developing a custom emergency plan and Ready kit.

###