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Media Advisory

Updates on Severe Weather Impacts to Georgia

The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency is working with local, state and federal agencies to coordinate response and recovery efforts in the affected areas of Georgia. GEMA/HS will continue to provide updates as additional information is available and confirmed.

Update: January 23, 2017 12:30 p.m.

- Sixteen Georgia counties are under a declared State of Emergency by Governor Nathan Deal.
 - On Sunday, January 22, 2017, Governor Nathan Deal [declared a State of Emergency](#) for seven counties in South Central Georgia: Atkinson, Berrien, Brooks, Colquitt, Cook, Lowndes, and Thomas.
 - The Governor [expanded and extended the SOE](#) on Monday, January 23, 2017 to include nine additional counties: Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Crisp, Dougherty, Mitchell, Turner, Wilcox, and Worth.

- The following agencies and resources are assisting in response efforts:
 - Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency
 - Georgia Department of Transportation
 - Georgia Department of Public Safety
 - Georgia Forestry Commission
 - Georgia Department of Natural Resources
 - Georgia Department of Public Health
 - Georgia Search and Rescue Task Force Teams
 - Georgia Department of Corrections
 - Georgia Department of Defense
 - Georgia Department of Human Services
 - Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
 - Georgia Department of Community Services
 - American Red Cross
 - Georgia Mutual Aid Group
 - FEMA

- State and local resources continued to work through the night in the storm-damaged areas. The priorities for state resources today are:
 - Search and Rescue/Recovery
 - Public Safety
 - Debris removal

- With these priorities in place for today, we are working with local officials to complete preliminary damage assessments.

- Power outages have been reported in several counties. The EMCs are reporting approximately 16,000 residents without power and Georgia Power has confirmed that 5,000 of their customers do not have power service. Power crews are working to restore power but must wait until it is safe to work in certain areas.

- Three Red Cross shelters and Reed Bingham State Park are open to citizens in need of shelter. Other south and central Georgia state parks and Red Cross shelters will be made available if needed.
- Information in this advisory is current, based on reports received from the storm-damaged areas. Any updates or adjustments will be provided in the next media advisory.
- The **official number** of fatalities confirmed by the state is below.

<u>County</u>	<u>Fatalities</u>
Berrien	2
Brooks	2
Cook	7
Dougherty	4

Total	15

As new information is available, GEMA/HS will provide updates via media advisory. To receive future advisories, email public.affairs@gema.ga.gov.

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