

FEMA UPDATE BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 3, 2010
11:30 AM EASTERN

Summary of Key Updates

- On September 2, President Obama issued an emergency declaration for Massachusetts
- Rhode Island declaration request under review
- On September 2, 12 counties were added to the NC emergency declaration.
- All warnings south of Cape Lookout and the western Albemarle Sound, NC have been discontinued
- Earl still currently a Category 2 hurricane

FEMA's hurricane website is maintained with Regional updates, response information and media releases.

- For the most recent coordinated response information, see:

www.fema.gov/hurricanes

The National Hurricane Center's mission is to save lives, mitigate property loss, and improve economic efficiency by issuing the best watches, warnings, forecasts, and analyses of hazardous tropical weather and by increasing understanding of these hazards.

- For the most up-to-date storm tracking, please visit the NHC website at:

www.nhc.noaa.gov

The American Red Cross has prepared to open shelters in North Carolina, New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

- To find a shelter, please visit:

www.redcross.org and click on "Find a Shelter."

HURRICANE EARL

Declaration Status

- On Wednesday, September 1, President Obama signed a pre-landfall emergency declaration for North Carolina at the request of Governor Perdue for Category B, including direct federal assistance under the Public Assistance program at 75 percent federal funding. Additional counties were added on September 2. This assistance is for Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties.

- On Thursday, September 2, President Obama signed a pre-landfall emergency declaration for Massachusetts at the request of Governor Patrick, for Category B, including direct federal assistance under the Public Assistance program at 75 percent federal funding. This assistance is for the counties of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester.
- On Thursday, September 2, Governor Carcieri requested an emergency declaration for the entire state of Rhode Island, and also requested 100 percent federal funding for the first 72 hours. The Governor's request is currently under review.

FEMA Actions

- Deputy Administrator Serino has been in Boston since Thursday, September 2 to oversee New England preparation and response.
- FEMA has deployed teams to states across the East Coast to support local efforts to prepare for the storm, before landfall. As of September 2, these teams, called Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT), are now in place in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine. IMAT teams remain in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. IMAT teams are also on standby for New York, New Jersey and Delaware.
- FEMA has activated the National Response Coordination Center and its Regional Response Coordination Centers in all four of its regional offices in the eastern United States, located in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Atlanta.
- FEMA has deployed an Urban Search and Rescue Incident Support Team to Boston, Massachusetts.
- FEMA has prepositioned commodities for rapid delivery, including water, meals, tarps, blankets, generators and other essential items. FEMA has moved 400,000 liters of water, 300,000 meals, 54 generators to an Incident Support Base (ISB) location in North Carolina. FEMA has also moved 162,000 liters of water, 213,120 meals, 41 generators and 12,500 tarps to an Incident Support Base in Massachusetts.
- FEMA continues to take action to support the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Puerto Rico islands of Culebra and Vieques. We have teams on the ground in close contact and coordination with the Puerto Rico Governor and his team, and likewise in the U.S. Virgin Islands, should assistance be needed. Preliminary Damage Assessments for Puerto Rico have been completed and no federal aid is needed. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, joint territorial-federal Preliminary Damage Assessments for Hurricane Earl will begin on Friday, September 3rd.

Storm Activity

- Hurricane Earl is located about 85 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and 465 miles south southwest of Nantucket, Massachusetts. According to the National Hurricane Center, Earl maximum sustained winds have remained to near 110 miles per hour. Earl has been downgraded to a Category 2 storm with hurricane force winds extended outward up to 70 miles and tropical storm force winds outward up to 205 miles.
- A turn toward the North Northeast with an increase in forward speed is expected in the next 24-36 hours. On the forecast track, the center of Earl will approach southeastern New England Friday night.

- FEMA is also monitoring tropical storm Fiona. According to the National Hurricane Center, Tropical Storm Fiona is located 310 miles south southwest of Bermuda with an steady maximum sustained winds near 50 miles per hour and moving at 13 miles per hour northwestward. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 105 miles mainly to the northeast of the center. On the forecast track, Fiona is expected to pass near Bermuda late Friday or early Saturday.
- Tropical Storm Gaston has been downgraded to a tropical depression and is located about 1015 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands with decreased steady maximum sustained winds near 30 miles per hour and moving slowly at 5 miles per hours to the west. The National Hurricane Center has issued its last public advisory on Gaston unless regeneration occurs.

Status and Evacuation Updates

- All warnings south of Cape Lookout and the western Albermarle Sound, NC have been discontinued.
- A **hurricane warning** means that hurricane conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area. Hurricane warnings are typically issued 36 hours before the anticipated first occurrence of tropical storm force winds – conditions that make outside preparations difficult or dangerous. Preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion. A hurricane warning is in effect for the following areas:
 - For the coast of Massachusetts, from Westport eastward around Cape Cod to Hull, including Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket Island.
- A **hurricane watch** means that hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area. Hurricane watches are typically issued 48 hours before the anticipated first occurrence of tropical storm force winds – conditions that make outside preparations difficult or dangerous. A hurricane watch is in effect for the following areas:
 - For Nova Scotia, from Medway Harbor to Digby.
- A **tropical storm warning** means that tropical storm conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area within 36 hours. A tropical storm warning is in effect for the following areas:
 - From New Haven, Connecticut to west of Westport, including Block Island.
 - From the North Carolina/Virginia border to Sandy Hook, New Jersey, including the Delaware Bay south of Slaughter Beach and the Chesapeake Bay south of New Point Comfort.
 - For the coast of Long Island, New York, from Fire Island Inlet eastward on the South Shore and Port Jefferson Harbor eastward on the North Shore.
 - From Cape Fear to west of Bogue Inlet, North Carolina.
- A **tropical storm watch** means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the 48 hours before the anticipated first occurrence of tropical storm force winds. A tropical storm watch is in effect for the following areas:
 - From north of Hull, Massachusetts, to Eastport, Maine.
 - For the coast of Long Island west of Fire Island Inlet on the South Shore and west of Port Jefferson Harbor on the North Shore.
 - For Nova Scotia, from Ecum Secum to Medway Harbor and from Digby to Fort Lawrence.

- For New Brunswick, from just west of Fort Lawrence westward to the U.S.-Canada border.

Federal Coordination

- Beginning Monday, August 30, FEMA has held daily video teleconferences with federal, territorial and state officials to assess needs and readiness, including White House staff.
- Since the weekend, FEMA has been in constant contact with the White House and Department of Homeland Security to provide regular updates on the storm's developments.
- On Wednesday, September 1 and Thursday, September 2, President Obama was briefed directly by Administrator Fugate.
- On Tuesday, August 31, Wednesday, September 1 and Thursday, September 2, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano was briefed directly by Administrator Fugate.
- On Thursday, September 2, Deputy Administrator Serino deployed to Boston to oversee New England preparation and response.
- Federal and other support includes:
 - **Department of Health and Human Services** has transported and is pre-positioning caches of medical equipment and supplies in the northeast, and additional caches of medical equipment and supplies are prepared for deployment. Seven National Disaster Medical Teams and hundreds of U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers are on alert.
 - **Department of Defense (DoD)** has positioned a Defense Coordinating Element in the FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center in New York. DoD also has a Defense Coordinating Officer in St. Thomas, Massachusetts and Georgia. State Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers are in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands.
 - **U.S. NORTHCOM's** Hurricane Hunters continue to conduct weather flyovers.
 - **U.S. Coast Guard's** First Coast Guard District Units are assessing their storm readiness to ensure and rescue capability is preserved. This is being done to make sure that the Coast Guard can effectively respond to rescue cases in the immediate aftermath of the storm. The Coast Guard is conducting extensive public outreach to remind boaters to properly secure vessels, beware of dangerous surf along the shoreline which has the potential to sweep storm watchers into the water, and beware of strong rip currents.
 - **American Red Cross** has deployed more than 350 workers to North Carolina, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, along with more than 60 emergency vehicles. Red Cross shelters are expected to open in North Carolina today and additional shelters are poised to open in New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, with emergency planning continuing in ten other states along the coast. Up-to-date shelter location information is readily available on www.redcross.org by clicking "Find a Shelter".

State and International Action

- On September 1, local officials in **North Carolina** issued mandatory evacuations for visitors on Hatteras Island (Dare County) and Ocracoke Islands (Hyde County). As state and local officials continue to make decisions today on evacuation orders, we urge all East Coast residents to pay close attention and heed these orders. Additional mandatory evacuations have been issued today for Pine Knoll Shores Emerald Isle and all of Bogue Banks, Atlantic Beach and Indian Beach in Carteret County.
- **Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Virginia and Maryland** have declared states of emergency, and have begun preparations to increase their readiness in response to the storm.
- The **Canadian Hurricane Centre** has issued a hurricane watch for Nova Scotia, from Medway harbor to Digby. The Canadian Hurricane Centre has also issued a tropical storm watch for New Brunswick from just west of Fort Lawrence westward to the U.S.-Canada border.