

N.C. DENR Situation Report 9 p.m. for Thursday, Aug. 25, 2011

WASTE MANAGEMENT PARKS AND RECREATION AQUARIUMS – R, PK, FF REGIONAL
OFFICES WATER RESOURCES WATER QUALITY AIR QUALITY COASTAL MANAGEMENT
LAND RESOURCES GENERAL COUNSEL MARINE FISHERIES

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Current Status

- The division’s Solid Waste Section has assembled its EOC staffing schedule as follows, through Monday at 6 p.m.
 - Friday 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Mary Whaley, Environmental Senior Specialist
 - Friday 6:30 p.m. – 6 a.m. Hugh Jernigan, Environmental Senior Specialist
 - Saturday 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. Robert Hearn, Environmental Senior Specialist
 - Saturday 6 p.m. – 6 a.m. Hugh Jernigan, Environmental Senior Specialist
 - Sunday 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. Shawn McKee, Compliance Officer
 - Sunday 6 p.m. – 6 a.m. Jason Watkins, Western District Supervisor
 - Monday 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. Mary Whaley, Environmental Senior Specialist
- The Solid Waste Section EOC staff can be reached at the EOC at the following phone number: 733-3797.
- The Solid Waste Section continues to maintain an Excel spreadsheet of conditionally approved Temporary Disaster Debris Storage sites- these are available through EOC staff and section staff.
- The Hazardous Waste Section’s eastern regional staff spoke to two hazardous waste facilities that are in the process of preparing by strapping down items and making arrangements for excessive amounts of stormwater. This is part of their routine preparation for such storms.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Current Situation:

Fort Macon and Jockey’s Ridge state parks and Bear Island at Hammocks Beach State Park are closed. All parks east of I-95 as well as Medoc Mountain in Halifax County and Raven Rock in Harnett County will close at 5 p.m. Friday.

The Central Reservations System for the state parks system is notifying those with reservations about closings and contingency closing plans. Detailed updates are posted on the website, Facebook and Twitter.

Supervisory staff have determined which 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. Those state parks nearest the projected storm path have secured equipment and facilities.

Operational Priorities:

Other state parks and state recreation areas farther inland could close as early as 5 p.m. Friday with a decision scheduled for Friday morning. Those include Jordan Lake, Kerr Lake, Falls Lake, Eno River, Umstead and Weymouth Woods. Conference calls are scheduled at 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Friday.

State parks throughout the system and supervisory staff will devise a backup communications plan and determine where manpower and equipment for response may be needed.

AQUARIUMS

N.C. Aquarium on Roanoke Island (NCARI)

Current Situation

- Curators and Managers held a meeting to update current preparations for Irene.
- NCARI is 100% complete in its preparations.
- All POS Systems and computers have been disconnected and covered.
- All dive equipment has been secured, compressor is secured.
- All dive and regular volunteers have been contacted.
- Jennette's Pier is closed due to mandatory evacuation of visitors and director's order.
- Only essential staff are working Thursday, Aug. 25 and Friday, Aug. 26.
- Key staff members plan to keep an eye on the pier Friday and over the weekend as long as it's not too dangerous to come by the oceanfront. They include JP Manager, Mike Remige, Daryl Law, public relations coordinator/asst. manager and Joe Streb, building and grounds supervisor.

Operational Priorities

- NCARI is closed due to mandatory evacuation order and direction of our director.
- These staff members have been approved by David Griffin, division director to stay at NCARI during the hurricane. Their responsibilities will be the welfare and care of animals and to report any problems the building may encounter.
 - Frank Hudgins, director of husbandry and operations
 - Connie Dobbs, aquarist
 - Matt Quattlebaum
- A majority of the NCARI staff have left for the day. Many will leave the area for points west of the Outer Banks.
- Maintain a presence if possible to keep Jennette's Pier secure from unwanted visitors; security will be the priority.

N.C. Aquarium on Pine Knolls Shore

Current Situation

- Action taken: Aquarium is closed.

N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher

No new information since previous situational report.

REGIONAL OFFICES

No new information from Fayetteville, Raleigh and Wilmington regional offices since previous situational report.

WATER RESOURCES

No new information since previous situational report.

AIR QUALITY

Current Situation:

- Staff assembled materials to protect computers, monitors and other electronic equipment from potential wind and water damage.
- Staff is completing the process of shutting down and securing all air monitors east of I-95.

Operational Priorities:

No new information since previous situational report.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

- DCM's Morehead City, Beaufort, Elizabeth City, Columbia and Kitty Hawk offices will be closed on Friday, Aug. 26.
- Five coastal reserve sites will be closed to the public until further notice: Currituck Banks, Kitty Hawk Woods, Buckridge, Buxton Woods and Rachel Carson.
- Closing offices have been secured and computer and electronic equipment secured/covered.
- Kitty Hawk: all items secure
- Columbia: site secure with access gates closed; boat and vehicle secure
- Beaufort: water quality monitoring equipment retrieved from Rachel Carson; Rachel Carson site and Beaufort office secure; boats and vehicle secure
- Wilmington: reserve office open, closure to be determined by UNCW; water quality monitoring equipment retrieved from Masonboro and Zeke's Islands; bird nesting area and temporary signs removed from sites; boats to be managed by UNCW with UNCW fleet; office and sheds/outside items will be secured tomorrow morning
- DCM Elizabeth City office has made arrangements with the town of Southern Shores to set up a satellite office at the Town Hall if needed for emergency purposes. This is instead of the temporary Nags Head office as reported earlier today.

LAND RESOURCES

Current Situation

No new information since previous situational report.

MARINE FISHERIES

Current Status

DMF General Activities, Staff, Equipment, Buildings:

- DMF notified staff that all offices (Morehead City, Elizabeth City, Manteo) will be closed on Friday (closed 5 p.m. on Thursday) except for some designated essential staff needed for final preparations.
- Drafted a news release sent to DENR for review and distribution announcing the office closures.
- Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality staff has drafted a press release for recreational water advisories to be issued after the storm passes for areas identified needing advisories.
- Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality staff has drafted proclamation to be issued after assessing rainfall and flooding that may prompt shellfish harvest closures in identified areas.
- DMF senior management staff was informed to provide situation updates to DMF management at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 7 p.m., if possible, throughout the storm and it will be assumed no information means no changes or communications have been cut. Most likely, staff will not have any updates during the storm (Friday afternoon through Saturday night).

Future Plans

- Identified essential staff will report Friday morning to complete final storm preparations.
- The IT system will be backed up and LAN shut down around 10 a.m. At that DMF staff in the regional offices will not have access to DMF servers and will not be able to perform any work.

- The HVAC and boiler will be secured to prevent equipment failure (i.e., power will be shut off). An emergency generator is available to operate communications equipment, server room air conditioner, office lights and freezer.
- Marine Patrol communications office will close at noon and will reopen when weather allows.
- All identified essential staff will vacate DMF facilities by noon on Friday.

WATER QUALITY

Current Status

No new information since previous situational report.

NC DENR GENERAL COUNSEL

Current Status

No new information since previous situational report.