





Operating Conditions Explanation

Dorchester County has established a system of Operating and Readiness Conditions or, OPCONs

OPCONs were developed in coordination with the SC Emergency Management Division and SC County Emergency Managers. OPCONs represent the county's state of readiness on a scale from 5 to 1, with 1 being the highest state of readiness. Each OPCON level is declared when a pre-determined set of criteria is generally met. The Emergency Services Director assigns the OPCON level based on the situation.

Hurricane OPCONs are generally based on a storm's threat level and evacuation decision timelines in relation to forecasted landfall timing.

<i>Hurricane Operating Conditions</i>			
5	Hurricane Season	<p>June 1 - November 30.</p> <p>Review hurricane plans with all personnel including family preparedness plans. Special equipment and supplies should be inventoried. Contact and Alert Lists should be updated and verified. All Tropical Weather activity tracked and monitored.</p>	
4	ALERT	<p>A storm poses a Possible threat to SC. Key personnel notified. EOC may partially activate with Emergency Mgmt. staff.</p>	
3	STANDBY	<p>A storm poses a significant threat to SC. Limited Activation of EOC with Key Agencies. Primary operations are pre-evacuation actions and preparedness. State personnel may deploy to coastal areas for Evacuation Traffic Management. EOC and Public Official Briefings may be held.</p>	
2	FULL ALERT	<p>Move to OPCON 2 when Governor's Evacuation Decision (Voluntary or Mandatory) is made or is imminent. EOC goes to FULL Activation with agencies and personnel responsible for evacuation, public information, shelter operations and other support functions. Prepare to open shelters on short notice. A Hurricane Watch may be set during this time. Time at OPCON 2 may be short depending on storm timing. Usually occurs 24-36 hours before landfall.</p>	
1	EVACUATE	<p>When either a Voluntary or Mandatory Evacuation order is announced to the public the county moves to OPCON 1. SEOC (State EOC) and County EOCs coordinate evacuation operations. EOC's remain at OPCON 1 through storm landfall, re-entry and into the response phase. Hurricane Warning issued. Complete all preparations before arrival of hazardous sustained 40 mph winds.</p>	