

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: 12 September 2018**

**Media Contact:** Meagan Utsey

**Phone Number:** 843-908-2143

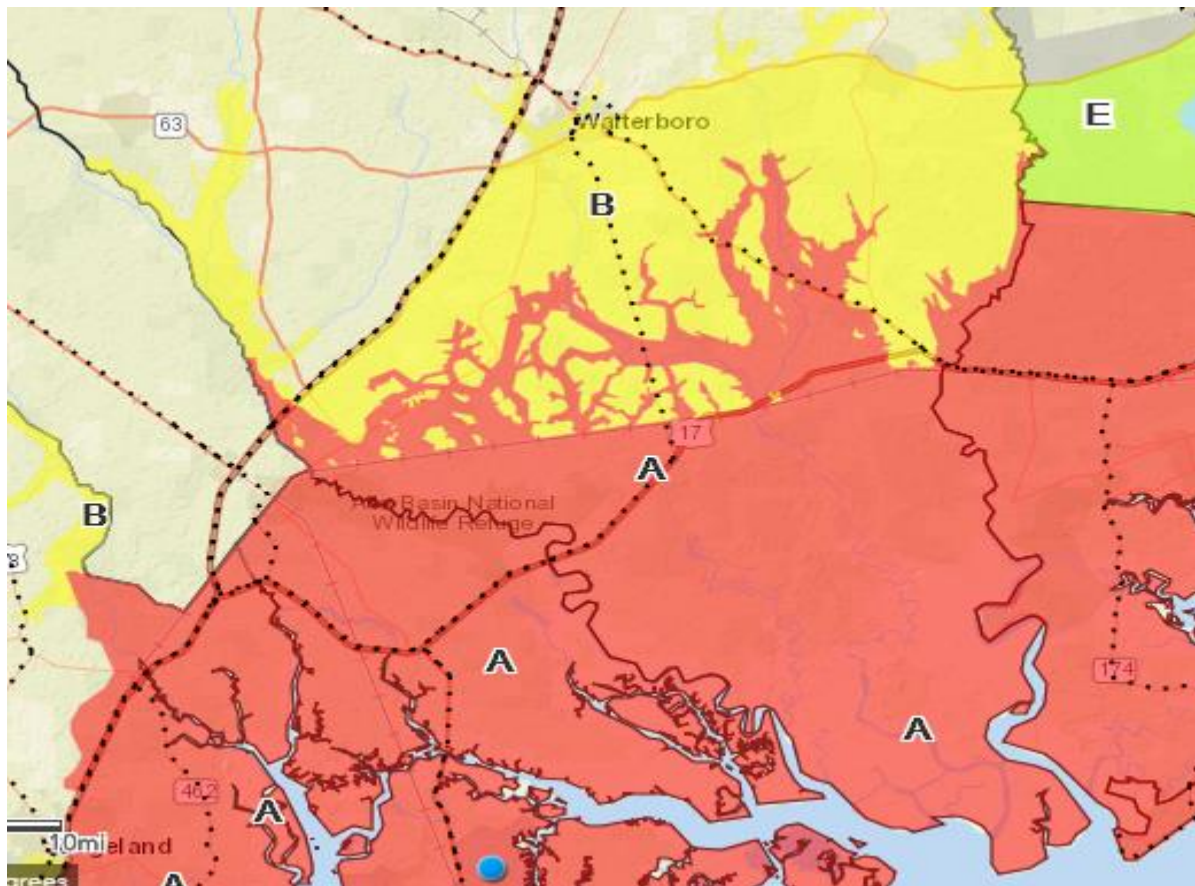
**E-Mail:** [mutsey@colletoncounty.org](mailto:mutsey@colletoncounty.org)

## **Colleton County Officials Urge Evacuation**

Due to the approach of Hurricane Florence, Colleton County Council, Administration, Fire-Rescue and Sheriff's Office are **HIGHLY RECOMMENDING** that citizens in Zone A of Colleton County evacuate. Due to the approaching conditions, emergency services may not be able to reach you in the event of an emergency. We have already experienced storm-related flooding which made roads impassable in Zone A.

Zone A consists of anyone living south of the CSX railroad tracks in the southern portion of Colleton County and includes the communities of Edisto Beach/Island, Jacksonboro, Green Pond, Bennetts Point, Wiggins, White Hall areas (between the CSX railroad and Ace Basin Parkway / U.S. Highway 17) the Bonnie Doone and Maybank/Prices Bridge communities. Fire-Rescue personnel and the Sheriff's Office will be going door-to-door tomorrow in Zone A urging citizens to evacuate.

The map below illustrates Evacuation Zone A (in red):



If you are unsure of your home's location, you can go to the following website from any computer or smartphone: [www.scemd.org/knowyourzone](http://www.scemd.org/knowyourzone) . In the top left corner of the map, there is a place to type your address and the map will display your home's location. If it does not appear in an area shaded red, then you are not in an evacuation zone.

It is essential and perhaps even a matter of life and death that you comply with this recommendation. If you do not evacuate, Fire-Rescue, Police, and Emergency Services may not be able to reach you in the event of an emergency. Please follow Colleton County's recommendation and evacuate now.

Before you leave your home, you should:

- Know where you will go.
- Make arrangements for pets. Pets are not allowed in most shelters.
- Turn off gas, electricity, and water.
- Stay tuned to your local television and radio stations for emergency information.
- Charge your cell phone and mobile devices. (Have an extra charger for your phone, etc.).
- Leave early. Take your time.

The emergency evacuation shelter at Colleton County High School (150 Cougar Nation Drive, Walterboro, SC 29488) is open. Before heading to the evacuation shelter, first consider staying with family and friends or in a hotel out of the evacuated area as the shelter will lack many of the comforts of home. If those options are unavailable, the evacuation shelter will be a safe place to stay when you have no other place to go. Cots and blankets will only be provided in the public shelter after hurricane conditions subside. Although some food may be provided, specialty items for infants and individuals on restricted diets may not be available.

During declared emergency evacuations, all citizens with medical conditions that are treated by electricity-dependent medical equipment are encouraged to evacuate until it is safe to return to their home. However, if you, a family member, or a friend use electrically-dependent medical equipment, it may be possible to be admitted to the Special Medical Needs Shelter. It is important to note that wheelchair-bound persons and those that are on home oxygen do not necessarily qualify for admittance to the Special Medical Needs Shelter. Additionally, if you or they do qualify for admittance but cannot manage your/their own medical care, a caregiver must remain with you/the patient in the shelter for the duration of your/their stay. To find out who qualifies for admittance and stay at the Special Medical Needs Shelter, please contact the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control at 800-578-2031.

If you plan to evacuate to a shelter or you are planning on evacuating out of the county, you will want to carry the following supplies:

- South Carolina Hurricane Guide
- Flashlight(s) with extra batteries
- Portable radio with extra batteries
- Mobile device chargers
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Non-perishable food for at least 3 days
- Bedding and clothing for each family member
- Blankets and towels
- Plastic dishes/eating utensils
- Rain jackets/pants

- Sunscreen/sunglasses/mosquito repellent
- Baby supplies (food, diapers, medications)
- Toothbrush, toothpaste
- Soap, shampoo and other personal hygiene items
- Driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records (particularly important for those who plan to access residences that are not their primary – vacation homes, rentals, etc.), medical records, family pictures, etc.
- Cash, enough to fill up your vehicle with fuel
- Sanitary supplies
- First Aid Kit, including any prescription medications
- Bottled water (2 gallons per person per day)
- Pet supplies (food, leash & carrier, vaccination records)
- Blankets, sleeping bags, pillows and cots (if evacuating to a shelter)
- Special foods, if you are on a restricted diet (if evacuating to a shelter)

During an evacuation, pay attention to emergency alerts via media and road signs for information about the nearest open shelter in case you need it.

If you have any questions or do not have transportation out of an evacuation zone, please contact the County's Emergency Operations Center at (843) 549-5632.