



Decatur County Emergency Management Agency

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RELEASE #1: Friday, September 08, 2017 4:00 p.m.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ADVISES HURRICANE IRMA IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN A MAJOR HURRICANE AT LANDFALL.

THE MAIN IMPACT FOR DECATUR COUNTY WILL BE WIND DAMAGE AND POWER OUTAGES!

Timing for this event for Decatur County is from Sunday evening through late Monday night.

DECATUR COUNTY IS INCLUDED IN THE STATE OF EMERGENCY ISSUED BY GOVERNOR DEAL.

Wind: Protect against DANGEROUS WIND having possible significant impacts across Southwest Georgia. **Tropical storm force winds are expected across our area. Sustained winds 39 to 57 mph with gusts of 46 to 73 mph are likely.** Prepare for uprooted trees and downed power lines with power outages. Power outages could last for several hours or days. Unsecured buildings and unsecured lightweight objects should be anchored or tied down, including toys, trampolines, trash cans and furniture.

Mandatory evacuations are NOT being made at this time. Residents should make preparations to protect life and property.

Residents in mobile homes should make preparations to stay with family and friends during this event. Seek shelter in reinforced buildings. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO PREPARE. ONCE THE WINDS START, IT IS TOO LATE.**

No local shelters have been opened; however, if you have sheltering needs, and cannot make alternative arrangements please contact Decatur County EMA at 229-248-3869 as early as possible. After hours, please leave a message and someone will return your call.

- **For power outages, contact your power company. DO NOT CALL 911 FOR NORMAL POWER OUTAGES.** If you have a medical condition and need power, 911 can only dispatch you an ambulance if you are having difficulties related to your medical condition. Power outages may be widespread and could last several hours or days.
- Be prepared to be without power for an extended period of time. Bottled water, canned food, manual can openers, batteries, and charcoal for grills are supplies to have on hand. Freeze water in Ziploc bags in case bottled water is hard to find.
- As winds increase through the evening hours, if possible, stay off the roads and inside a reinforced building.
- **DO NOT CALL 911 FOR WEATHER UPDATES.** LISTEN TO YOUR LOCAL NEWS OR VISIT www.weather.gov for the latest weather information
- Stay alert and be prepared.