

City of Columbia Incident Response Brief



September 2, 2016 – 6 PM

Tropical Storm Hermine

The following is a status update for the City of Columbia's incident response to Tropical Storm Hermine. [Updates as of 6 p.m.](#)



1200 Shady Lane (Lake Katherine- Dam)

CURRENT & PLANNED OBJECTIVES: **No changes**

- Maintain continuity of services city-wide
- Maintain essential Public Safety response
- Maintain critical infrastructure
- Provide timely and adequate public information briefings
- Prepare to respond to transportation packages and evacuation centers*
- Establish and maintain situational awareness with partner agencies

**Responses to transportation packages and standby evacuation centers on "as needed" basis*

OVERVIEW OF CITY OPERATIONS: **Updates indicated in blue.**

09/02/2016 – 6 PM: The City of Columbia Emergency Operations Center maintains with partial activation due to an increase in Operational Condition (OPCON) to level 4.

POWER OUTAGES:

SCE&G reported the following power outages. They are working to restore service.

- Elmwood Ave. at Assembly St.
- Elmwood Ave. at Sumter St.

PUBLIC SAFETY



Police Department (CPD) - 6 PM Update



- CPD units are directing traffic around some downed power lines on Elmwood Ave. and Trenholm Rd.
- No pre staged barricades have been used to block know flood prone locations at this time.
- CPD officers continue to patrol and monitor ponding on the roadways and detouring traffic around roadway obstructions created by falling trees. CPD continues to notify EOC of all temporary road closures and openings.
- CPD will be notifying the homeless that Transitions is open and providing shelter. CPD will also be periodically patrolling Transitions during the remainder of this weather event.
- Propositioned barricaded verified and a plan is in place for deployment
- All road closures will be reported to Emergency Operations Center (EOC) via CPD Command channel
- CPD high water vehicles are prepped and on standby
- Region portable generators are deployed and on standby
- CPD prepared for early dismissal at Richland School District 1 schools
- Heavy traffic flow on Forest Dr. and Devine St.
- Water on the roadway on Timberline Dr. Tree on top of parked/unoccupied vehicle at 327 Whaley St. Officers on scene. Request to Public Works
- Car accident 1500 block of Taylor St. – Preliminary Info: Single car hydroplaned and hit two unoccupied/parked cars. No injuries reported/Driver did not require transport to hospital. Traffic Safety Officer is investigating
- Sunset Dr./North Main St. – Flooding reported. CPD Officer requested barricade also reports of downed tree partially blocking roadway. Dispatch is notifying tree division. Officer en route



Fire Department (CFD)

Current Conditions: **6PM Update**

- BAT 1
 - Collapse Structure no injuries minor damage
 - Multiple MVC
- BAT 2
 - 4 calls for service due to power outages
 - 1 MVC involving car v downed tree – no injuries reported
- BAT 3
 - Nothing to report at this time
- BAT 4
 - Multiple minor MVC
- BAT 5
 - 2 Collapse Structure no injuries reported (tree on house)
 - 1 adult, 2 children displaced-Red Cross assisting
 - 2 adult, 2 children displaced-Red Cross assisting
 - 4 structure fire responses due to power lines arching/threatening structures
 - normal med calls
 - Multiple MVC
 - Multiple Fire alarm activations
 - Station 11 was on generator power for 3 hours this morning, power has now been restored

- Maintain Fire Coverage
- Ensure Public Safety of Fire and Life Safety Issues
- Ensure readiness of storm related response (water rescues, flooding, downed power lines and trees)
- Ensure availability Food and Water for Essential Personnel in the event of a prolonged event
- Evaluating on an hourly basis and communicating with other fire departments to our South, to determine the timing of the need to provide additional staffing and manpower needs in the coming days

Operational Readiness:

- CFD is currently in Storm Mode & has assigned BAT aides to Suppression BAT
- CFD Operations is operational at CFD HQ, 2nd Floor (803-545-3702 or CFD ADMIN 1)



- All Water assets are readied
 - 4 boats operational in BAT 1 for deployment
- Additional Chain saws for light debris removal have been disbursed across response districts
- All Station generators, both City and County have been inspected for readiness (Stations 11 & 13 are currently running on generators due to power outages in area)
- Staffing and Resource Plans for OPGON levels have been developed
- Fire Department has enough MRE and Water for one 12 hour operational period (plans are being developed for extended operational periods)
- Fire Department making preparations for Mutual Aid Calls, Firefighter Mobilization or State EMAC requests
- Regional Search and Rescue Team have been alerted for readiness and availability. (NO ACTION TAKEN)



Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 Communications Center **6PM Updates**

- CRC 9-1-1 is currently operating under Emergency Standby Status.
- Staffing levels are elevated and will be adjusted accordingly based on call volume and demand.
- CRC has provided requested support to the COC EOC – 1 Tactical Dispatcher, and will continue coverage as needed.
- No significant increase in call volume.

Phones	(07:00 – 17:00)
911	717
Admin	784
Daily Total	1,501
Agencies	
CPD	282
CFD	105
RCSD	276
RCEMS	119
Daily Total	782 – Sept. 2, 2016

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - 6 PM Update

Animal Services

- Animal Service will be operating on a normal schedule and will respond as needed. Small staff remains to assist customers as needed, on call personnel available. [Animal Service on call personnel available.](#)

Forestry & Beautification

- Forestry & Beautification will be assisting with cleaning storm drain tops in flood prone areas. Crews are also prepared to respond for any trees/limbs which may fall during the event. There are current 4 calls for trees down. Staff remains on duty. [All roads clear, there are two locations with power line issues before they can be cleared, 1200 Shady lane and Old Woodlands and Indian Mound.](#)

Solid Waste

- Solid Waste crews are operating on a normal schedule with Garbage, Recycling, Trash Collection and Street sweeping occurring. They will assist Forestry with debris in the roadways if needed. Crews are still operating on a normal schedule. [A small group of Solid Waste staff members remains to assist forestry in debris removal](#)

Street Division

- Street Division staff will be operating throughout the City focusing on cleaning and maintaining storm drains. Staff is prepared if flooding occurs to set up pre-positioned barricades or deliver to additional locations if needed. Minor low lying areas (1) currently experiencing water on road. [No changes at this time.](#)

Traffic Engineering

- Traffic Engineering will be operating on a normal schedule and will respond as needed. No issues to report. [Traffic Engineering received two calls, one for a sign leaning and one for a traffic light that was turned. Down to on call only.](#)

UTILITIES & ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT – 6PM Updates

Water Plant(s) and Distribution System:

- Operation at both the Canal and Lake Murray WTPs is normal.
- Canal WTP experience a brief power outage at 13:10, switched to generator power for approximately 5 minutes. Utility power restored quickly. Finished water discharge pressure reduced from 125 psi to 75 psi for approximately 2 minutes, then restored to 125 psi.
- Canal levels are stable and within normal range. Visual inspection performed at 14:30 revealed no trees down or cause for concern.
- Distribution system operation normal.

Wastewater Plant and Collection System:

- Operation parameters are within range:
 - Influent flow to plant: 117.4 MGD
 - Effluent flow discharged: 50.6 MGD

- Influent Pump Station Level: 104.5
 - EQ Basin level: 120.75 ft. (approx. range: 115.5 – 132.5)
- Essential equipment is operational
- Chemical inventory sufficient
- Stations in High Level:
 - Atlas Road PS
 - Quail Creek PS
 - Harbison 4 PS
 - Broad River PS
 - WC PS
- Stations with No Power:
 - Bendale PS
 - Swandale PS
 - Green Lakes PS
- Collection system staff are checking critical manholes and monitoring smart cover manholes online. The following SmartCovers are showing high levels:
 - 2217 Greenwyche
 - 4201 Canal Place
 - 714 Santee Avenue
 - 25235 Risen Hopes
- Confirmed Sanitary Sewer Overflows:
 - 1548 Kathwood
 - 4546 Pine Grove Ct
 - 1721 West Buchanon
 - 22 Thistle Ct
- Metro WWTP reservoir is near empty in anticipation of needed storage
- Staff will be checking generators and fuel levels in anticipation of power outage
- Emergency vehicles fueled
- By-Pass pumps are staged and will be topped off with fuel today
- Extra emergency crews are on stand-by for call in as needed
- Updated telephone numbers for essential personnel will be prepared
- Smart cover test alarm was sent this morning
- We will continue to monitor the progress and weather forecast and make adjustments as necessary

Water Works Preparation:

Key personal have been briefed and readied for mobilization. Emergency contact list below:

Tropical Storm Hermine Emergency Contact Information		
	Office Phone	Cell Phone
WATER WORKS		
Clint Shealy	733-8682	240-6350
Jon Sherer	255-8160	917-5420
CANAL		
Canal Control Room	733-8336	
Canal Guard Shack	401-8845	
Gordon Alexander	733-8339	413-8281 / home 788-9917
Christopher Lampkin	733-8341	413-8990 or 1-843-991-8544

Gary Johnson	733-8336	673-3628
LAKE MURRAY		
Lake Murray Control Room	781-2181	
Lake Murray Guard Shack	749-5825	
Trey Varn	749-5854	727-0451 / 606-1053
David Sharpe	749-5858	600-2979 / home 781-8754

At both Water Treatment Plants the following activities have been completed:

- Chemical inventories verified
- Vehicles fueled and staged for deployment
- Construction areas and plant sites cleared of debris that may be wind blown

Columbia Canal preparation:

- Temporary pipe located and inventory in process
- Temporary pumping units located through supplier, supplier is on stand-by
- Canal will be inspected during and following storm event

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT - No changes

- Neighborhood parks and community recreation centers in the City of Columbia will not open Friday, Sept. 2.
- All activities and events including after-school programs, the outdoor pools and Pokémon Go in the Parks scheduled for Friday, Sept. 2 have been cancelled.

CUSTOMER CARE DIVISION - No changes

Date Implemented	Current Action
9/2/2016	Customer Care fully staffed until 5:00 p.m.
9/2/2016	Customer Care will revert to a skeleton crew at 11:00 p.m. (2 additional employees per shift of 2)
9/2/2016	Street Division established a storm event tree in Cityworks to track storm calls
9/2/2016	As of 12:55 p.m., 2 storm related calls have been received

Summary of storm related calls:

1. Tree on car – sent to 911
2. Fallen Tree
3. Dirty water

	Call Volume Report
9/2/2016	As of 12:59 p.m. 542 non-storm related calls

09/02/2016 -10 AM: The City of Columbia Emergency Operations Center began a partial activation due to an increase in Operational Condition (OPCON) to level 4.



OPCON 4 is the possibility of an emergency or disaster situation.

09/01/2016 – 3 PM: City Cautions Drivers to avoid Flood-Prone Streets and Intersections

The City of Columbia urges drivers to use caution when driving during severe weather. The

Main and Whaley	Wheat and Amherst	Harden and Read
Gervais and Laurens	Adger and Devine	Harden and Calhoun
Blossom and Henderson	Wheat and Sumter	Franklin and Marion
Blossom and Saluda	Wheat and Pickens	Franklin and Sumter
Harden and Santee	Heyward and Ravenel	Columbia College and N. Main
Monroe and Maple	Pickens between Wheat and Green	Bull and Laurel
Two Notch and Read	Barnwell and Pendelton	

Disclaimer: Locations above are places known to be flood prone. Actual flooding locations will depend on storm strength, duration and location.

following streets and intersections are prone to flooding during heavy rain events. Please avoid these areas during and immediately after heavy rains.

Safety Tips:

- If you encounter a flooded street or intersection, turn around; do not attempt to drive through it. Water may be deeper than it appears and can hide many hazards (i.e. sharp objects, washed out road surfaces, electrical wires, chemicals, etc). A vehicle caught in swiftly moving water can be swept away in a matter of seconds. Twelve inches of water can float a car or small SUV and 18 inches of water can carry away large vehicles.
- Stay away from storm-damaged areas to include damaged or downed trees and power lines to keep from putting yourself at risk from the effects of severe thunderstorms.
- Continue to listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or to local radio and television stations for updated information or instructions, as access to roads or some parts of the community may be blocked.
- Help people who may require special assistance, such as infants, children and the elderly or disabled.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them immediately.
- To assist with keeping the storm drainage system working properly we would ask that yard debris and other items not be placed adjacent or next to drainage structures.

For additional safety tips on driving when streets are flooded, visit <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/water/tadd/>.

If you notice a storm drain which is blocked by debris please notify the Public Works Street Division at 545-3780 during regular business hours and Customer Care at 545-3300 after 5:00 pm and on weekends. An alternate non-emergency number is 803-252-2911. For emergencies please call 911.