



Georgetown City Fire Department

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**City Of Georgetown
Local Weather Statement
Tropical Storm Hanna
12:00 Noon September 5, 2008**

(updates times and dates)

This is official information from the City of Georgetown issued by Mayor Lynn Wood Wilson's Office.

The National Weather Service Office in Wilmington is forecasting potential tropical storm conditions for the Georgetown area later today, with the approach of Tropical Storm Hanna.

You are urged to wrap up your preparations for this storm as quickly as possible.

Flooding is likely in low-lying areas and flood prone areas. Residents are urged to take precautions to protect property and materials subject to flooding.

A voluntary evacuation has been issued by Governor Sanford and is in effect for areas east of Highway 17. If you live in low lying flood prone areas or in a mobile home, you should consider evacuation at this time. You are encouraged to evacuate to a family or friends home further inland. However, if necessary you may evacuate to the Pleasant Hill Elementary school shelter. The school is located at 127 Schoolhouse Drive. From Georgetown use Hwy 701 north towards Conway. Cross Blackriver and turn left onto the Choppee Highway. About 12 miles later turn left onto Pleasant Hill Drive, at Carter's Crossroads. After about 3 miles the school will appear on your right directly across from Georgetown County Fire Station 4. You should be wrapping up evacuation plans very soon.

If you decide to seek shelter please remember to bring the following items with you. Blankets, sleeping bags; toiletries; prescription medications; games for children; diapers and baby food. Do not bring pets or weapons.

If you decide to remain in your home during the storm please use caution with candles and lanterns. Keep them away from combustibles and children. Check your smoke detector and consider installing a fresh battery. Put new batteries in flash lights and keep flash lights in places you can find easily if the electrical power goes out.

You should also put fresh batteries in a battery operated radio so you can listen to important information from radio stations.

An important commodity to have is ice. Consider filling one or more coolers with ice. Do not open refrigerators or freezers more than absolutely necessary. Food will remain cold for several hours if the doors stay closed.

City departments are prepared for strong winds and possible flooding conditions. Motorists are urged to avoid areas that commonly flood like Fraser Street from Front to Highmarket, Front from Fraser to Cleland, Prince from Fraser to Cleland, Dozier from Church to Highmarket. Areas known to flood during thunderstorms should be avoided. Motorists are cautioned not to drive through water, as it may be likely the roadway has washed away, and not to drive around barricades. Anticipate the south bound lane of Fraser street to be closed due to flooding.

Interruptions in electrical service will be handled promptly as long as weather conditions permit safe operations; widespread outages normally associated with tropical systems are not anticipated. If you experience an outage, please call 545-4600 and report your address and telephone number.

Electric crews are on duty to handle any interruptions in service. Please do not connect an electrical generator to your household electrical service without the proper switching system. Electrical generators improperly connected to your home can create an electrical shock hazard to linemen.

Water services are supported by electrical generators and interruptions in water service are not anticipated.

Police and Fire crews are at full strength to handle any emergencies. Please dial 911 only for emergencies. The City's radio station, WGEO FM 105.7 is broadcasting storm information. Areas damaged by the storm will be restricted to access without proper identification.

City and County officials continue to monitor the progress of Hanna from the Georgetown County Emergency Operations Center. The Center will remain open until the storm subsides and any recovery effort is concluded.

The City of Georgetown Administrative offices, City Hall, and Georgetown County Administrative offices will close at 2 pm this afternoon.

After the storm has passed, Public Works crews will begin clearing any debris. Please be extremely careful to avoid downed power lines as they could result in an electrical hazard.

City officials will continue to monitor the storm very closely and will issue additional information as conditions warrant. Additional weather information is available on the Fire Department's Web Site at <http://www.georgetowncityfire.org/Wcenter/index.htm>