



Chatham County Board of Commissioners

124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 28, 2022

Chairman Chester A. Ellis Issues a Local State of Emergency and CEMA Enters the Storm Readiness Phase

Chatham County, GA (September 28, 2022) – Chairman Chester A. Ellis has issued a local State of Emergency for Chatham County as of 8am this morning and the Chatham County Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) has entered the Storm Readiness Phase (Operating Condition 2) ahead of the arrival of Hurricane Ian.

The greatest potential for impacts to Chatham County Thursday night into Friday could be heavy rainfall, with predictions of 4-8" inches in 24 hours and Tropical Storm force wind gusts. There is also a potential for coastal flood due to elevated tides and possible storm surge. Residents in low-lying areas should stay alert for possible flooding. A risk of severe weather, including tornadoes also exists.

Residents can sign up for CEMA Alerts at chathamemergency.org or text CEMA to 77295 to receive up-to-date information as it becomes available. Residents are also encouraged to stay tuned to local radio or television for current weather information, or visit <https://ready.chathamcountyga.gov/>

CEMA's storm readiness activities include:

- Conducting coordination calls with the Command Policy Group, County and Municipal leaders, surrounding Emergency Management Agencies, State officials, volunteer and private sector partners, and the National Weather Service for in-depth discussion of the latest forecasts and storm scenarios.
- The County's Emergency Operations Center will be at a Level II Activation with staffing specifically dedicated to monitoring storm conditions, predictions, and potential impacts as well as ensuring information is shared with stakeholders.

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