

# **EXTERNAL EVENTS**

*The  
WILDCARD  
of  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT*

**Impact of Hurricane Evacuation on  
the Savannah River Site**

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# Background

- During September 1999, over 500,000 South Carolinians evacuated from 6 coastal counties due to Hurricane Floyd.
  - 9/14, 7 a.m. voluntary evacuation order issued
  - 9/14, 12 noon mandatory evacuation order issued
  - 9/14 over 350,000 people evacuated
  - 9/15 approximately 160,000 evacuated









# SRS Planning Post-Floyd

- Coordination meetings with DOE-SR, WSRC, WSI-SRS and State and local officials were held.
- Graded ERO Response procedure was revised to integrate SRS hurricane response activities with the State's response.



# Planning Considerations

- SRS shift change takes approximately 2 ½ hours (approximately 5,000 vehicles).
- All roads exiting SRS cross identified hurricane evacuation routes.
- Highway 125 passes through SRS. Four SRS roads intersect Highway 125.



# Hurricane Response Actions

- OPCON 5: Hurricane Season – Normal Operations
  - *Track hurricanes*
  - SRS maintain a heightened awareness
- OPCON 4: Alert – Storm Poses Possible Threat to SC
  - *Notification of key personnel*
  - SRS will monitor State activities
  - Senior Management notified
  - Control Rooms notified; review shutdown procedures
  - Core ERO briefings as needed



# Hurricane Response Actions

- OPCON 3: Stand-by – Storm Poses Significant Threat to SC
  - *Limited Activation of State and Affected County EOCs*
  - *Discuss potential coastal voluntary or mandatory evacuations*
  - WSI-SRS Law Enforcement will maintain close coordination with South Carolina Highway Patrol
  - Watch storm's path and intensity
  - Take timely predetermined protective actions at and around facilities
  - Review essential vs. non-essential personnel requirements for continued operation



# Hurricane Response Actions

- OPCON 2: Preparation -
  - *Voluntary or Mandatory Evacuation Imminent*
  - *County EOCs Full Activation*
  - SRS finalize staffing/habitability requirements and planned shutdown/limited operation activities
  - Complete activities that cross evacuation route prior to initiation of evacuation, i.e. non-alarmed sampling points
  - SRS Senior Management briefed on State/County activities
  - SRS Core ERO activation and timing will be discussed



# Hurricane Response Actions

- **OPCON 1: Evacuation**
  - *Voluntary or mandatory evacuation announced by Governor*
  - *EOCs remain at OPCON 1 through storm landfall, reentry and into the response phase*
  - SRS timed early release of personnel or change in report time for workers so SRS traffic will not impede evacuation traffic
  - Expected ten hours before crossing evacuation routes
  - WSI-SRS will assist with emergency crossing of evacuation route
  - WSI-SRS will monitor traffic density and report to SC Highway Patrol
  - SRS media messages prepared and broadcast at appropriate times



# Evacuation

Two types of Evacuations:

- Voluntary Evacuation
  - Normal traffic patterns at SRS
  - Keep eye on traffic situation
  - Prevent traffic jams
- Mandatory Evacuation
  - Extremely heavy traffic
  - Implement SRS traffic control restrictions



# Conclusion

Prior planning and coordination with State and local agencies is essential to:

- Ensuring evacuation of the population from coastal areas is not impeded by site response actions.
- Minimizing the impact of an evacuation on site operations.

