



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: October 14, 2016

Wayne County Updates

Wayne County, NC – As Wayne County continues to respond to this historical flooding event, the Wayne County Emergency Operations Center wanted to share the following updates:.

Boil Advisories

Boil advisories remain in effect for the customers of the Southwestern Wayne Sanitary District and the Southern Wayne Sanitary District until further notice.

High Water

High water remains an issue in Wayne County. While flooding is receding county-wide, there are still high water issues in many areas of the county and motorists are encouraged not to drive around road closure barriers or drive through areas of high water. As a reminder, all watercraft is banned from flooded waterways unless being used for emergency response.

US 117 officially opened over the Neuse River at 7 PM yesterday evening in both directions, one lane north and south. Rumors did surface this afternoon that NCDOT will be closing US 117 this evening. This is untrue. NCDOT plans to keep US 117 open from this point forward. If any changes occur that would result in detours, a public notice will be given by the Wayne County Emergency Operations Center.

Please note: Many residents in the county are returning to their homes to find a red or orange “X” painted on them. During the flooding, water rescue teams checked homes for residents who were unable to get out. The red or orange “X” signifies that no residents were home at the time. Other marking may have been painted along with the “X” for use by the water rescue teams. These marking do not mean that a home is condemned, which some residents could potentially think when they first see it.

Evacuation Shelters

The three evacuation shelters, located at Carver Elementary, Carver Heights Elementary, and Eastern Wayne High, remain open. Yesterday evening, approximately 150 residents were staying in the three shelters. It is worth noting that rumors have surfaced on social media stating that residents staying at shelters were not receiving meals. These rumors are not true and meals and supplies are being distributed on a regular basis to the evacuation shelters.

Please note: The Wayne County Emergency Operations Center is looking ahead to next week and is actively working to relocate and/or consolidate shelter sites in order for the school district to resume operations. Information will be shared with the public as those decisions are made.

GWTA Special Bus Route to Eastern Wayne High shelter:

As there is typically not a GWTA bus route for Eastern Wayne High (EWH), GWTA has setup a special pick-up/drop-off for evacuees to and from the Transfer Station, located on N. Carolina Street in Goldsboro. The following schedule is in place until further notice:

Friday, October 14: Pick-up on the :30 at EWH every hour until 3:30 PM with pick-ups at the Transfer Station to return to EWH on the :00 every hour until 4:00 PM

Saturday, October 15: Pick-up on the :30 at EWH every hour from 10:30 AM until 3:30 PM with pick-ups at the Transfer Station to return to EWH on the :00 every hour until 4:00 PM

Sunday, October 16: Pick-up on the :30 at EWH every hour from 9:30 AM until 2:30 pm with pick-ups at the Transfer Station to return to EWH on the :00 every hour until 3:00 PM (Note GWTA does not typically run on Sundays and only purple & blue routes will operate during these special hours.)

Monday, October 17: Pick-up on the :30 at EWH every hour from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM with pick-ups at the Transfer Station to return to EWH on the :00 every hour until 4:00 PM

GWTA will continue working with the Wayne County Emergency Operations Center to assess the transportation needs for the EWH shelter. Route schedules for Tuesday and beyond will be announced on Monday, October 17.

Landfill Update

Residents who are cleaning up from Matthew, or who will later be cleaning up after the flooded rivers recede, can take any storm debris, such as carpet, furniture, or other damaged household items, to the Wayne County Landfill, located at 460 S Landfill Rd in Dudley. As a reminder, the landfill will waive all disposal fees for storm related materials taken to the landfill.

The landfill will stay open all weekend and will operate on the following schedule:

Saturday, October 15: 7 AM until 5 PM (Regular hours of operation)

Sunday, October 16: 8 AM until 5 PM (Special hours of operation)

Monday, October 17 - Friday, October 21: 7 AM until 5:30 PM (Special hours of operation – Open Wednesday, October 19)

Please note: FEMA is in charge of storm related debris removal operations in the county and the Wayne County Office of Emergency Management is awaiting further direction from FEMA regarding these operations.

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