

**SPECIAL WEATHER ADVISORY: (UPDATE #1 – 11:00 P.M. – 7 SEP 2017):**

Dear Residents, Property Owners and Friends:

I wanted to provide you with an update after receiving the latest report from Brunswick County Emergency Services and the National Weather Service (NWS). The official track has the center of Hurricane Irma located about 55 miles WSW of the Grand Turk Island as a Category 5 (157 + Mph) with maximum sustained winds of 175 Mph moving WNW at 16 Mph. The current track has shifted slightly westward since the last update with Irma expected to reach the Florida Keys and south Florida early Sunday morning as a Category 4 (130 -156 Mph) hurricane.

Earlier this afternoon as part of a county-wide conference call with other municipal officials, the NWS emphasized the following key points:

- (1) The timing of the projected northward turn of the system, likely to occur sometime Saturday morning, will provide increased confidence in the track for planning and decision making purposes as the system heads north towards Georgia and the Carolinas.
- (2) The turn will be a defining point relative to the severity of impacts to our region and coastal Carolinas.
- (3) Uncertainty remains, especially if/where Irma makes the move to the north. If the northward shift takes longer allowing the storm to get farther west, then expect less in the way of impacts to this part of the Carolinas.

**FUTURE PROJECTION:** In looking at the latest 5-day Hurrevac Advisory beyond the systems initial projected landfall, the track looks to continue a northward migration through central Florida quickly downgrading to a Category 2 (96 – 110 Mph) system as it passes through Jacksonville and enters southern Georgia as a Category 1 (74 – 95 Mph). The path continues in a NNW direction crossing into western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee with winds downgraded to 45 Mph.

Having said, given the number of days projected this far out, any slight shift in one direction or the other can have a significant effect on this projection so there still could be a chance of direct impacts..., it is again too early to specify the magnitude and location so we must continue to closely monitor Irma's forecasts and plan for a worst-case scenario.

**POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO BHI TRANSPORTATION FERRY & BARGE:** BHI Transportation officials passed along late this evening that given current forecasts that it is likely tomorrow (Friday) will be the last full day for barge runs and they would continue to monitor the system in deciding as to when it might be possible to resume barge service.

Additionally, they indicated that the USCG Captain of the Port initiated Port Condition Whiskey earlier this afternoon and with the potential for closure of the river, depending on the track and severity of the system, there could be ferry service disruption. Transportation officials indicated at the time a potential for disruption of ferry service as early as Sunday evening throughout Monday and resuming service at some point Tuesday. Please know that the Village will

continue to be in communication with BHI Transportation officials as they make preparations based on guidance received from the USCG and will pass that along.

At this time, we will continue to monitor the system and look to follow up with another update likely tomorrow afternoon or early evening. In the meantime, I would recommend that folks continue to closely monitor the storm and make any necessary arrangements they feel are necessary.

Thanks and be safe!

Chris McCall  
Village Manager