



Office of Emergency Management and Fire Services

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NEWS RELEASE

GASTON COUNTY OPENS EVACUATION CENTER, BEGINS VOLUNTARY EVACUATIONS OF NEIGHBORHOODS IN LOWELL, MOUNT HOLLY

GASTONIA, N.C. – Effective at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 26, Gaston County has opened an emergency shelter at the Citizens Resource Center in Dallas, 1303 Dallas Cherryville Highway, in response to voluntary evacuations underway in neighborhoods in Lowell and Mount Holly.

Flood Warnings are in effect around the South Fork and Catawba Rivers in Gaston County, and voluntary evacuations are happening in the Catawba Run and Preston Park neighborhoods in Lowell and at apartments and homes near the Highland Street Bridge in Mount Holly. Those evacuations are occurring now, as both the South Fork and Catawba Rivers are expected to crest at major flood stage during the day on Friday.

Gaston County has activated its Emergency Operations Center and is closely monitoring the situation on the ground, in coordination with local law enforcement, GEMS, State Highway Patrol and local fire departments.

Emergency Management officials are encouraging residents to stay vigilant, keep their devices charged to monitor for severe weather conditions overnight, and heed any directives issued by the county's Emergency Management Director.

“The heaviest winds and rains are still to come, between probably 2 and 8 tomorrow morning,” GCOEMFS Director Scott Hunter said. “We will continue to keep residents informed of changing conditions, and we ask that everyone who can stay home and off the roads until this storm has passed us by.”

Residents with non-emergency concerns or needs are urged to utilize GCOEMFS' email or phone hotlines at GastonIncidentInfo@GastonGov.com or (704) 862-6281 and reserve 911 for true life-threatening emergencies.

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