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## **News Release**

### **GEMA/HS prepares for Hurricane Irma, urges residents to plan now**

(ATLANTA) – Today, Governor Nathan Deal issued a [state of emergency](#) for six coastal Georgia counties, ensuring state resources are available for those potentially affected by Hurricane Irma. Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency is actively monitoring the storm, working with local governments, and coordinating with state, public and private sector partners to prepare for potential impacts. GEMA/HS urges Georgia residents to make necessary precautions and preparations in anticipation of Hurricane Irma.

“Though it’s too soon to tell just how Hurricane Irma will impact Georgia, we are urging everyone to take steps to prepare now,” said GEMA/HS Director Homer Bryson. “We will keep the public updated with new information, but we encourage Georgians to ensure their plans are in place.”

It is critical for residents to monitor their local media reports, register for county emergency alerts, and download the *Ready Georgia* app to stay informed. Residents should pay attention to local authorities for advice and be prepared to take action.

Coastal residents should prepare by:

- Creating a [Ready kit](#). This information can be found on the [Ready Georgia app](#) or website.
- Making a communications plan and discuss it with your family.
- Staying informed by monitoring local media reports, county alerts, and weather alerts.

Additional information on preparedness and updates from GEMA/HS is available through GEMA/HS’s website at [www.gema.ga.gov](http://www.gema.ga.gov).

*As part of the Office of the Governor, GEMA/HS works with local, state and federal governments, in partnership with the private sector and faith-based community, to protect life and property against man-made and natural emergencies. In addition, GEMA/HS employees are on 24-hour call statewide to assist local authorities when disaster strikes. GEMA/HS’s Ready Georgia campaign helps Georgians prepare for disasters. Go to [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov) or download the free Ready Georgia app for information on developing custom emergency plans and Ready kits.*

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