

THE CITY OF  
**ELIZABETH CITY**  
NORTH CAROLINA



**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors  
**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager  
**REF:** FYI ~ Week Ending August 26, 2011  
**COPY:** Email Distribution

1. Today's FYI will be strictly related to Hurricane Irene. As previously reported to you, the City issued a State of Emergency proclamation this morning at 8 a.m. This order does not provide for the suspension of alcoholic beverages or the establishment of a curfew, which will be done by separate order if and when needed. City staff has completed its preparations for the arrival of Hurricane Irene. The Police and Fire Departments are in emergency operations mode. The Public Works Department has completed pickup of all residential garbage today. All storm catch basins and most ditches in town have been cleaned of debris. Unfortunately, residents are still bringing things out to the street for pickup. City employees have been embedded into the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and will stay there thru the hurricane event, which we hope will conclude by noon on Sunday. The Council may remember that several weeks ago we executed a debris management contract with Unified Recovery Group, LLC. We have been in contact with them and they have been placed on standby should we need their services.

Our biggest concern continues to be flooding caused by both the forecasted heavy rain and the coastal surge. At this time, we believe that those areas that were flooded during Hurricane Isabel will be affected again during this storm event. Fire Department, EMS and Electrical Department personnel have a great deal of concern about individuals using improperly connected generators. Generators should not be placed in a garage because of the high probability of carbon monoxide poisoning. In addition, emergency generators can, if improperly connected, cause feedback onto the City's electrical system causing injury to electrical personnel. All downed wires should be considered "HOT" and will cause injury. The contact phone number to use in reporting downed wires is 337-6870.

As with most storm events, there is a great deal of rumors being spread. If a citizen wants to know what is going on, they should call the EOC hotline number, which is 331-7474. The City still has a few sandbags left, which citizens can receive by calling the public works facility at 337-6628.

Speaking from experience, I would like to remind everyone not to drive thru high water.

Our latest advisory this morning revealed that the impacts for Pasquotank and Camden from Hurricane Irene could be major. The weather should go downhill tonight. We should see Tropical Storm conditions begin after midnight with gusts to 40 mph. The worst of it should come during the day on Saturday and into Saturday night. Sustained winds of 55-75 mph, with gusts of 75-95 mph or higher, will be possible at the peak. We should see an 8-14 hour period of peak winds. Rainfall amounts of 8-12 inches will be possible, with locally higher amounts. A storm surge of 3-8 feet will be likely and this could produce significant flooding.

We will continue to post notices on Channel 11 throughout the storm event as long as cable service is available.

RCO/vdw