

COVID-19 and Hurricane Season Shelters

Columbus County

Press Release

July 31, 2020

County shelters will be very different this hurricane season, if needed, due to social distancing guidelines and guidance from the American Red Cross. The capacity of county shelters for the 2020 hurricane season will be determined and limited by the number of square feet available and required per person. Residents should plan now where they will go if a storm impacts our area. ***County emergency shelters will be very limited and should only be considered as a last resort.***

County shelters should be considered a last resort with very basic provisions for a safe, dry environment, and limited meal capabilities. Cots will not be available the first two days after County shelters open. The need for cots will be reevaluated at the end of the first two days. For residents who choose to stay at a County shelter during an emergency, please review the information at <https://www.ready.gov/shelter>. Bring sleeping bags, blankets, and pillows. Plan to take your disaster supplies kit with you to the County shelter. Suggestions for a disaster supply kit can be found at <https://www.ready.gov/kit>. Keep in mind that alcoholic beverages and weapons are forbidden in emergency shelters, and smoking is restricted.

CATS AND DOGS

At least one shelter will be designated a pet co-location shelter where residents can evacuate with their cats or dogs. If you plan to bring a pet to a co-location shelter, please note:

- Only cats and dogs can be accepted at the pet co-location shelter
- Owners must stay at the shelter with their pets
- Pets will be housed in a separate area of the shelter due to health and safety concerns
- Bring your pet(s) vaccination records and at least a 5 to 7 day supply of food

SHELTER LOCATIONS

East Columbus High School

32 Gator Lane

Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450

West Columbus High School

7294 Andrew Jackson HWY SW

Cerro Gordo, NC 28430

Edgewood Elementary School

317 E Calhoun Street

Whiteville, NC 28472

South Columbus High School

40 Stallion Drive

Tabor City, NC 28463

Guideway/Nakina/Old Dock Areas TBD