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THE FERVOR BEFORE THE FURY

Following Floyd: Storm Gets Ready to Go Inland

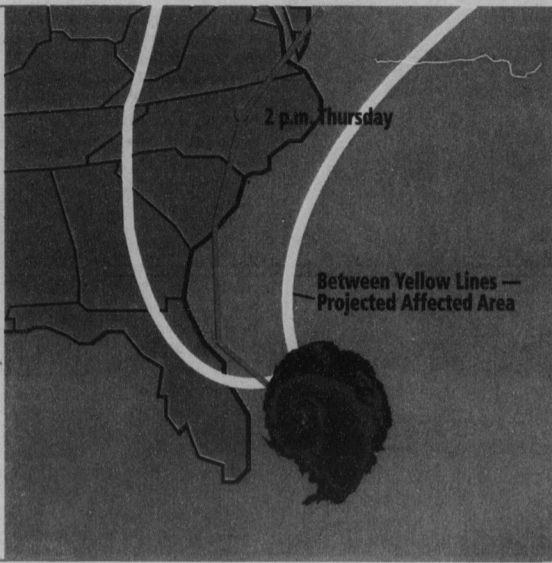
Hurricane Floyd ravaged the Bahamas on Tuesday, leaving in its wake destroyed houses and toppled palm trees. It should reach the Triangle on Thursday.

Hurricane Floyd Statistics:

■ A Category 4 storm, Floyd meandered across the Caribbean this week, kicking up winds of 140 mph and storm surges. Heavy rains and pounding surf tore up Bahamian beaches. Radar images show a torrential storm the size of South Carolina.

■ Two million people along the southeastern coast escaped from Floyd's potential path, backing traffic up from Florida to South Carolina. As Triangle residents braced for the storm, area stores reported running out of bottled water supplies immediately.

■ Meteorologists expect Floyd to downgrade to a Category 3 storm by the time it reaches the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area Thursday.



SOURCE: THE WEATHER CHANNEL

DTH/MEGAN SHARKEY

Governor Declares State of Emergency As Floyd Thunders Toward Carolinas

Associated Press

Gov. Jim Hunt declared a state of emergency Tuesday and warned North Carolinians to prepare for swift, powerful Hurricane Floyd, which he said could be one of the worst storms ever to hit the state.

"We hope and pray for the best, but this looks real mean," Hunt said after a briefing in the state Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh. "Protect yourself and your families. Get out of harm's way. Don't tempt it." At 11 p.m. Tuesday, the National

Weather Service reported that the Category 4 storm was about 130 miles east-southeast from Cape Canaveral, Fla., with maximum sustained winds of up to 140 mph.

Emergency management officials said the storm's eye might pass directly over Raleigh on Thursday afternoon. A hurricane watch was posted Tuesday for the entire North Carolina coast and high wind and flash flood watches for Wednesday night and Thursday for the western Piedmont and the Fayetteville and Research Triangle Park areas. A flood watch was issued for the coastal plains through Thursday. The National Weather Service said 40-mph winds gusting to 60 mph and more than 5 inches of rain were possible

across a wide swath of the state. State Public Safety Secretary Richard Moore said Floyd's powerful winds likely would arrive Wednesday night ahead of the main storm.

"Please think about where you're going to put your family down to sleep Wednesday night," Moore said. Batteries, bottled water and generators vanished from store shelves from Charlotte to Wilmington as North Carolinians braced for another hurricane to its midsection. Three years ago, Hurricane Fran inflicted about \$6 billion worth of damage when it raced up Interstate 40 and into Raleigh.

"We're completely out of generators,"

See FLOYD, Page 9

Chapel Hill on Heels For Hurricane's Hit

As the giant hurricane gets ready to make its track up the East Coast, local leaders say Chapel Hill is prepared.

By TRICIA BARRIOS
Staff Writer

As residents prepare for a monster hurricane barreling towards the Triangle, Chapel Hill officials say they are confident the town can withstand the force of the storm.

Hurricane Floyd, currently a Category 4 storm, is predicted to hit the town by Thursday afternoon.

Mayor Rosemary Waldorf said there was no way to tell what type of damage the storm might do. "I think we're really well-prepared," Waldorf said. "But we could be facing something very bad."

Nick Waters, director of emergency management for Orange County, said his response would be normal until the weather reached the point at which more emergency support was needed. In the event of an emergency, he assured town residents that more staff would be on hand.

Waldorf said she believed the town learned a great deal from the damage resulting from Hurricane Fran in 1996. Trees blocked major roads, water was undrinkable and the town's sewage treatment plant flooded.

The Orange Water and Sewer

Authority has allocated generators for both the water and sewer treatment plants to avoid a repeat situation, she said.

Waldorf said an emergency management protocol plan was in effect, involving emergency officials from UNC, Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

County fire and police departments will be on alert, and the town of Chapel Hill will be connected to emergency management systems in the state.

Bob Godding, Chapel Hill transportation director, said the town's bus system would run as usual unless prevented by weather conditions.

"If it's safe to operate on the street, it will be operating," Godding said.

Duke Power, which provides power for most of the area, would handle any electrical power problems, Waldorf said. She said the city was working with Duke Power and would step in to help residents if necessary.

Waldorf said the city would implement some of the same emergency plans that were used after Hurricane Fran. Police will visit town neighborhoods after Floyd hits, telling residents about the existing water situation, shelter information and other important emergency news as needed.

Anticipating significant problems in the area, Town Manager Cal Horton activated Chapel Hill's emergency response system.

See PREPARATION, Page 9



DTH/RACHEL LEONARD

Customers line the aisles at Harris Teeter by University Mall in preparation for Hurricane Floyd. It is forecasted to hit the Triangle on Thursday.

UNC Preps For Tango With Storm

Director of Public Safety Derek Poarch says students should avoid leaving Chapel Hill before the hurricane.

By BETH O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

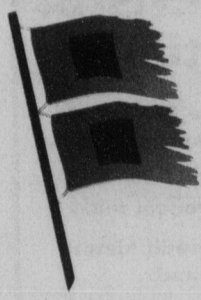
University officials met Tuesday to hash out plans in preparation for Hurricane Floyd, which is expected to pound Chapel Hill sometime Thursday.

Director of Public Safety Derek Poarch said officials spent most of the day trying to map out preliminary action plans.

Officials from several campus organizations, including Carolina Dining Services and the Facilities Planning Department, met with Poarch and

Storm Warnings

Hurricane experts recommend staying inside during the storm and staying away from doors, windows and skylights. Stock up on essentials like batteries, canned food and bottled water.



SOURCE: THE WEATHER CHANNEL

DTH/DAN HELIAS

- Listen constantly to a battery-operated television or radio for breaking reports about the storm.
- Check emergency supplies. Stock up on bottled water, canned foods and dry goods that won't spoil.
- Turn refrigerators to their lowest possible settings and leave the doors closed.
- Avoid elevators.
- Fuel up your car.
- Stay away from windows, skylights and glass doors. Before the storm hits, tape them up to prevent shattering.
- Check batteries and flashlights for possible outages. Stock up on candles and matches or lighters.

South Building officials to outline steps to prepare for the storm's arrival.

The group will meet again today to track the latest developments of the storm and nail down more detailed safety plans.

"The students, faculty and staff are the top priority here," Poarch said. "We are going to spend most of the evening on the Internet trying to figure out what is going on."

Poarch said students should remain on campus and avoid trying to leave

Chapel Hill.

"We don't think it's wise for students to start for home," he said.

"This storm is surrounding us in all directions."

He said the University would work to provide appropriate housing for all on-campus residents before the storm hits, although he did not know whether evacuations from any campus residence halls would be necessary.

See SAFETY, Page 9

New ONE Card Option Delayed for 2 Months

Officials say problems with UNC and Wachovia Bank's software compatibility forced a later target date.

By JAMILA VERNON
Staff Writer

Students might have to put new UNC ONE Cards on their Christmas wish lists.

The new feature that would allow students to use their ONE Cards as Wachovia ATM cards will not be available until December, despite an original October deadline, officials said Tuesday.

Wachovia Bank was chosen as the vendor for the ATM function in July.

Mike Freeman, ONE Card service director, said the December target date resulted from problems in changing UNC's computer software to make it compatible with the bank's software.

Joy Marshall, manager of digital con-

sumer services for Wachovia, said the initial dates were always tentative.

The computers at the UNC ONE Card Office must be able to communicate with the Wachovia system so the bank recognizes the account and can trace it to the individual's ONE Card.

Issues concerning the design of the card have also added to the delay.

Marshall said the office was looking at several designs until officials found one that "feels right."

Freeman said there were at least 15 different card designs the office was considering. For the student card, the interlocking "NC" design is the most popular, he said, adding that ONE Cards for the faculty would only have the University seal.

"The same information will be included that was on the old card — the picture of the Old Well and the student's name. However, the bar code and PIN number will now be on the back,"

See ONE CARD, Page 9

INSIDE Wednesday

Marital Bliss

Philosophy Professors Jeanette and Bernard Boxill are an example of UNC faculty members who have the chance to both live and work with their spouses. See Page 11.

Free at Last

The efforts of UNC Amnesty International Group 84 over the past 12 years aided in the release of political prisoner Nabil Ibrahim from the Syrian government. See Page 2.

Open for Suggestions

Until Thursday, seniors can offer their input on the class gift at the DTH's online site at www.unc.edu/dth. Results will be published Friday. Ballots are also available in the DTH office.

Today's Weather

Rain and Wind;
Low 80s.
Thursday: Rain;
Low 70s.

The afternoon never knows what the morning never suspected.

Swedish Proverb