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FEELING THE FORCE OF FLOYD

N.C. Residents Brace For Wet, Bumpy Ride

The Category 3 storm was expected to come inland at about midnight and drive toward the Triangle.

Staff and Wire Reports

WILMINGTON — As powerful Hurricane Floyd barreled toward North Carolina's coast Wednesday, thousands of fleeing island residents clogged highways and jammed shelters amid drenching rains and gusting winds.

The huge storm, with 115 mph winds and hurricane-force winds extending outward 125 miles, spun off several tornadoes along the southeast coast — one destroying a home and heavily damaging two others at Emerald Isle — and flooded streets and low-lying homes in Wilmington. Traveling at 17 mph, Floyd was expected to come ashore near Myrtle Beach, S.C., early Thursday.

Besides hurricane warnings for the entire coast, high wind and flash flood watches were posted through Thursday for the western Piedmont and the Fayetteville and Research Triangle Park areas. Evacuations were ordered for barrier islands up and down the coast, and only boarded-up businesses along empty streets remained by Wednesday afternoon in many beach towns from Nags Head to Sunset Beach.

Curfews were imposed in Wilmington and nearby Kure Beach and Carolina Beach. Many people who rode out earlier hurricanes left this time.

President Clinton declared the state a federal disaster area Wednesday in

anticipation of storm damage.

Terry Hurley, who went Wednesday to a Wilmington shelter with his wife and two young children, said his family stayed home for Hurricanes Fran and Bertha in 1996, but not Floyd.

"They talk like this one is going to be pretty mean. It's got everybody shook up," he said. About 110 people were in the middle school shelter an hour after it opened.

At Wrightsville Beach outside Wilmington, Pam Carroll and her husband Bernard nailed plywood to the door of their King Neptune Restaurant before leaving Wednesday afternoon.

"This is very nerve-wracking. We're all stressed," she said, holding her 2-year-old son, Patterson, in her arms. Her husband said, "My son's not quite 3 years old, and this is his third storm."

There were plenty of reasons to pay attention to Floyd. Forecasters said it was the most powerful hurricane to threaten the mainland in years.

"In terms of strength and speed and force of the wind, it looks to be a once-in-a-decade storm, or even longer," state Public Safety Secretary Richard Moore said at a news briefing in Raleigh. "I know that Florida and Georgia at this point feel like they've dodged a real bullet... This thing is not going to miss us."

At 6 p.m., Floyd was about 185 miles south-southwest of Wilmington, traveling north. It was expected to turn north-northeast sometime Thursday.

Because of this incredible strength, the effects of Floyd will be felt throughout most of the state. Winds in

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Survival 101: Braving the Hurricane

As Hurricane Floyd moves into the Triangle, area shelters and emergency resources are available for residents and students waiting out the storm.

University:

Decisions regarding Friday will be made late Thursday afternoon.

Dining Information:

- Lenoir Dining Hall:
Open: 7:30 a.m. Thursday. Regular hours.
- Chase Hall:
Open: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday.

Department of Public Safety:

- Will remain staffed and open 24 hours.
- For a non-emergency and information, call 962-8100.
- Updated news and information at www.dps.unc.edu.

Student Union:

- Open Thursday, but all meetings are canceled.

Student Stores:

- Closed Thursday.

Chapel Hill:

Shelter Information

- The Red Cross will have three shelters open:
- C.W. Stanford Middle School, Hillsborough
 - Chapel Hill High School, Chapel Hill
 - St. Joseph's C.M.E. Church, Chapel Hill

Orange County Authorities' Contact Numbers:

- Sheriff: 644-3050
- Police (non-emergency): 732-6300

Power Company Contact Numbers:

- Duke Energy: (800) 769-3766
- Piedmont Electric: (800) 222-3107

Fire Service:

- Citizens should call 911 in case of emergency. Please limit calls to emergency needs only in order to keep phone lines open for calls. The Chapel Hill Fire Department will continue to respond to emergency calls as storm conditions allow.

Police Service:

- Police will respond to emergency calls as weather conditions allow during the storm event. Non-emergency police services, such as investigations and traffic reports, will be suspended until further notice.

Transit Service:

- Chapel Hill Transit will make every effort to maintain regularly scheduled services. Standard policy is that services will operate as long as it is physically safe to do.
- For the latest announcements on service cancellations or detours patrons should tune their radios to WCHL 1360 am or WUNC 91.5.



Rodney Smith (left) and Antonio Cameron help prepare Lenoir Dining Hall for Hurricane Floyd. Employees will spend the night at the facility to be prepared to open after the storm Friday morning.

Students Tap UNC Services

Many students rushed out to buy food and other supplies in preparation for Hurricane Floyd.

By DERICK MATTERN
Staff Writer

Plans to batten down the hatches in preparation for Hurricane Floyd had campus officials opening makeshift shelters and students emptying shelves.

Lenoir Dining Hall is maintaining regular hours throughout the storm to provide meals for students who are not leaving campus.

"Getting (students) meals is the most important thing right now," said Christine Ziemak, marketing manager of Carolina Dining Services.

Ziemak said many Lenoir employees would be spending Wednesday night in Lenoir because the hurricane might disrupt bus schedules and transportation routes.

She said she wanted to make sure employees were working by 5 a.m. Thursday to open the hall for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Ziemak said she might spend the night on a cot in her office.

CDS employees have been stockpiling supplies of deli meats, soft drinks,

cookies and chips in case power failure makes cooking impossible, Ziemak said. As long as power is available, however, Lenoir will continue with all operations.

Employees also distributed "hurricane snack packs" to students Wednesday night so they would not have to leave their residence halls.

"We don't want (students) going out into the hurricane to eat," Ziemak said.

But junior Kendra Brock from Fayetteville said she did not plan to eat at Lenoir. "I have plenty of food in my room," she said.

Food will not be sold in the Student Union, but Union Director Don Luse said the main areas of the building would remain open today. "(Although it's not) a shelter, we won't turn anyone away," he said.

Since Tuesday, students have flooded on-campus snack areas and the South Campus Mini Mart to prepare for the storm. Shelves remained well-stocked in most. The only item Student Stores ran out of Wednesday was batteries.

Freshman Jane Khudyakov from Hickory said having enough food to get

through the storm was a priority.

"I am very concerned about food," she said. "More concerned than about my dorm blowing down."

Katye Aydtlett, a Student Stores clerk, said water had been the most popular item sold.

"Student Stores is the last place with water," she said.

Stockpiling water was one of the recommendations issued by the Department of Public Safety on Wednesday.

But not all students were concerned about getting food or water during the hurricane. "I'm not worried, I've been through hurricanes before," said Jennifer Artew, a freshman from Charlotte.

Student Health Service will also remain open today with a limited staff for urgent services, said SHS Director Dr. J. Robert Wirag.

Emergencies should be taken directly to UNC Hospitals.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

UNC Shuts Doors for Hurricane

University officials expect to announce a decision today regarding classes and services on Friday.

By AISHA K. THOMAS
Staff Writer

As Hurricane Floyd moves into the area, University officials will decide tonight whether classes will be held Friday.

Interim Chancellor Bill McCoy announced Wednesday that all classes would be canceled today.

Student Body President Nic Heinke said officials decided to close the University from 6 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday evening. But as weather conditions worsened, the closing time moved to 2 p.m. "The sole consideration was safety issues," Heinke said. "It was a very easy decision."

The administration's decision to cancel classes spread quickly by word of mouth Wednesday, leaving many surprised considering UNC's history of shying away from such closings.

In 1996, officials canceled class after the Hurricane Fran hit in the early morning hours of Sept. 6.

Nancy Davis, associate vice chancellor for University relations, said announcements were being sent to students and staff through e-mail, voice mail and on the University's Web site.

Director of Public Safety Derek Poarch said preparations were made for students to stay on campus and that they were urged to stay in Chapel Hill.

He said the emergency command center at the Department of Public Safety would work around the clock to ensure student safety. In addition, more officers are on shift, he said.

"The information we have received from the facilities office is that all campus dormitories have gone through previous storms without a problem."

Students were pleased with the unexpected day off and said they would spend the day relaxing and catching up on work. Most were not worried about the storm's arrival.

"I'm glad because I have a lot of work to do," said Erica Lane, a junior from Greensboro. Sophomore Lindsay Tygart of Jacksonville, Fla., had different plans in mind. "I'm excited about it," she said. "I can't wait to go party!"

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Towns Tout Readiness for Trouble

The Red Cross has opened emergency shelters to residents in Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

By MAC HEFFNER
AND JENNY STEPP
Staff Writers

As the Triangle lay in wait for the force of Floyd, local town officials said they had taken the necessary precautions.

While residents hit local grocery stores to stock up on last-minute items, Chapel Hill police called in extra officers and firefighters opened up two makeshift shelters.

Officials said their experiences during Hurricane Fran in 1996 helped improve their emergency response.

"I think they learned a lot from Hurricane Fran," Carrboro Alderman Jacqueline Gist said. "I think they'll be as prepared as they can be."

Nick Waters, director of Orange Emergency Services, said he expected downed power lines and fallen trees in addition to flooding in low-lying areas.

But Waters said he did not expect any structural damage due to wind.

Carrboro set up a command center at the fire station, and the police department and fire stations are keeping extra personnel on call all day today.

Carrboro police Capt. John Butler said he expected the entire police force to work Wednesday night.

Residents are encouraged to call the regular fire station number for non-emergencies and 911 for any emergency situations. The Red Cross set up three shelters in the area. C.W. Stanford Middle School will serve Hillsborough. Chapel Hill High School and St. Joseph's C.M.E. Church at 510 W. Rosemary St. will serve Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Alderman Hilliard Caldwell said town preparations began too late.

"I'm appalled that only two buildings in the county are set up for shelters," he said. "It's ridiculous that a Carrboro res-

ident has to drive to another part of the county."

But Waters urged residents to use shelters for emergencies only.

"Exercise other options before turning to public shelters," he said.

Carrboro officials are specifically concerned about the needs of the elderly and disabled community. They are responding by personally contacting the 26 special-needs individuals on their list.

Murray said 23 of the 26 had been contacted, and all were seeking shelter with family or friends in the area.

Officials said they were confident in their ability to handle the storm after the lessons they learned from Fran.

"(There has been) better coordination with the other municipalities," Alderman Joal Broun said.

But Town Manager Robert Morgan was a bit more cautious.

"Even though things look better, we're taking precautions, and individuals should do the same."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

INSIDE Thursday

Screen Screamers

Hollywood returned to the scary side of films with a string of psychological thrillers. Diversions looks into the phenomenon of why we like to be scared by movies like "The Blair Witch Project," "The Sixth Sense" and "Stigmata." See Page 5.

Still Workin'

Due to Wednesday night's weather, the DTH went to press four hours early. For in-depth campus and state coverage of Hurricane Floyd, pick up Friday's issue. Until then, check out our online site at www.unc.edu/dth. Feel free to contact the office with any storm-related news tips at 962-4086 or at nelson@email.unc.edu. Meanwhile, sit back and stay dry.

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind.

Bob Dylan