

Executive Order No. 2017-25

WHEREAS, the National Hurricane Center has advised that Hurricane Irma may impact the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Irma, and the associated wind, heavy rain, localized flooding, and other severe weather, represents a significant threat to the State of South Carolina and requires that the State take timely precautions to protect property, critical infrastructure, communities, and the general safety, security, and welfare of the people of this State; and

WHEREAS, on September 6, 2017, I issued Executive Order No. 2017-20, declaring a State of Emergency due to Hurricane Irma and placing into effect the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors located in the threatened areas; and

WHEREAS, as the Chief Executive of this State, pursuant to section 25-1-440 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, I am authorized to direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the populace from any stricken or threatened area if such action is deemed necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery; and

WHEREAS, I have determined that the evacuation of certain barrier islands specified herein is necessary for the preservation of life in and surrounding the threatened areas or for other emergency mitigation, response, or recovery efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby order the evacuation, effective 10:00 a.m., September 9, 2017, of all persons located in the specified barrier islands in Jasper County (Knowles Island and Tulifinny Island), Beaufort County (Hunting Island, Fripp Island, Hilton Head Island, Harbor Island, and Daufuskie Island), and Colleton County (Edisto Beach), with the exception of those critical or emergency response personnel, as designated by the appropriate municipal, county, or special purpose district officials, necessary to provide essential services during or immediately following the event. All other persons outside of these areas who have safety concerns should voluntarily relocate to areas of safety. Specific details regarding the areas for evacuation are attached to this Executive Order.

Any persons or non-Emergency Management personnel who remain in the evacuation zones, and any medical facilities, nursing home facilities, businesses, or other organizations or entities, who allow persons under their charge to remain in the evacuation zones, thereby become responsible for their own safety and well-being and for the safety and well-being of those under their charge. Any such persons or entities are charged with the knowledge that should they need the assistance of emergency personnel or services, those personnel or services may not be available or capable of coming to their aid.

FURTHER, I hereby direct that specified units of the South Carolina National Guard, at the discretion of the Adjutant General in consultation with the Director of the Emergency Management Division (EMD), may remain on duty to assist civil authorities in these areas, including Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 13 and 16, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), taking all reasonable precautions as necessary for the preservation of life and property. The South Carolina National Guard may supplement units as needed. DPS will remain to assist with all traffic control points as assigned and needed. Persons in other areas near the projected path of Hurricane Irma, or in inland areas near the barrier islands identified herein, should take all precautions necessary to ensure their protection from potential high winds, heavy rain, localized flooding, and other severe weather.

This Order is effective immediately. Further proclamations and directives deemed necessary to ensure the fullest protection of life and property during this State of Emergency shall be issued orally by me and thereafter reduced to writing within the succeeding 24-hour period.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 8th DAY OF
SEPTEMBER, 2017.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**