

Executive Order No. 2017-22

WHEREAS, the National Hurricane Center has determined that the State of South Carolina may be vulnerable to the effects of Hurricane Irma, currently a category 5 storm in the Caribbean, and that it poses a significant threat to South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, I have been advised that Hurricane Irma may bring heavy rain, flash flooding and severe weather to include tornadoes that may represent a threat to the safety, security, welfare and property of citizens and transients living in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, I declared a State of Emergency exists in South Carolina as of September 6, 2017, at 12:00 noon, pursuant to Executive Order No. 2017-20; and

WHEREAS, heavy rain and flash flooding from Hurricane Irma pose a risk of overtopping erosion or destruction of dams or reservoirs that are capable of danger to life or property, as seen in the destruction of Hurricane Joaquin in 2015 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016; and

WHEREAS, I am authorized to order and direct any person or group of persons to do any act which I believe may prevent or minimize danger to life, limb or property pursuant to section 1-3-430 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

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 do hereby order all dam and reservoir "Owners," as defined in section 49-11-120(9) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, to evaluate the water level in their impoundment to determine if water levels can be safely lowered to accommodate incoming flows, and coordinate releases of water with dam owners and/or property owners downstream as necessary to prevent dam and reservoir failure in the event of heavy rainfall and flooding that is imminent in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

Further, I hereby order the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to post a copy of Executive Order No. 2017-22 on its website and email a copy to all dam and reservoir owners of record who have provided such contact information to the agency. DHEC should attempt contact with Owners it has currently placed under an Emergency Order pursuant to its ongoing statewide assessments. Additionally, DHEC should take any and all further remedial measures it deems necessary pursuant to the South Carolina Dams and Reservoirs Act, section 49-11-110, *et seq.* This includes DHEC utilizing its authority to enter and immediately take action necessary to reduce water held in dams and reservoirs in order to provide protection to life or property.

This Order is effective immediately. Further Proclamations and Orders deemed necessary to ensure the fullest possible 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 7th DAY OF
SEPTEMBER, 2017.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**