



## Emergency Public Information Center News Release

**Date:** September 4, 2008  
**To:** All Media  
**From:** Mark Boyer, Public Information Officer  
Telephone: 910-798-7493  
Fax: 910-798-7494  
maboyer@nhcgov.com  
Also posted at <http://www.nhcgov.com>  
**Re:** **TS Hanna Briefing #1**

(New Hanover County)— All residents are asked to pay close attention to the progress of Tropical Storm Hanna. The storm is expected to increase in intensity to hurricane strength by tomorrow. The latest advisory from the National Weather Service calls for tropical storm forced winds reaching the Cape Fear coast Friday afternoon with conditions expected to improve by Saturday afternoon. Hurricane force winds may skirt the area during the early morning hours Saturday

A state of emergency will be in effect beginning at 6:00 a.m., Friday. Voluntary evacuations for residents of mobile homes and low lying areas are suggested. The New Hanover County Emergency Operations Center and Emergency Public Information Center will open at 7:00 a.m., Friday.

Current forecasts anticipate 4 to 5 inches of rain with the storm. Residents are urged to make preparations for the possibility of low lying area and urban street flooding. Beach erosion will continue to be a problem as the storm passes through the area. The threat of tornadoes will also exist. Strong rip currents are also expected to continue and swimmers should be aware of how to escape a rip current.

While the area is expected to experience only minimal winds and rain, three emergency evacuation shelters will be open for the public. The three shelters will open simultaneously at 12:00 noon for those who voluntarily evacuate. Persons with pets should go to Noble Middle School. All other evacuees should go to either Dorothy B. Johnson or Eaton Elementary Schools.

All New Hanover County schools will be closed for classes on Friday. Classes at Cape Fear Community College will be cancelled at 3:00 p.m. Friday. Saturday classes at CFCC will be

cancelled. Classes at UNC Wilmington will also be cancelled on Friday. On campus housing will remain open.

The Cape Fear Memorial Bridge should remain open to vehicle traffic at all times, however the Snow's Cut Bridge may be closed for a short period while high winds progress through the area Friday night or Saturday.

Residents should continue to monitor local news media, or the New Hanover County website for updated information.

MB