

South Carolina Flood Assistance Information and Resources Available

At <http://scemd.org>, South Carolina Emergency Management Division (EMD) is continuously updating information on the state's flood response. SCEMD.org also provides links to resources for those seeking assistance and those who want to help. EMD's SC Severe Flood Line is 1-866-246-0133

Emergency Assistance

Shelters currently open in Richland, Lexington and Orangeburg Counties:

Shelter Location	Address	County	Phone
7 Oaks Complex	200 Leisure Lane Irmo, SC	Lexington	571-271-2071
Lexington Leisure Center	108 Park Rd. Lexington, SC	Lexington	571-205-3160
Temple Baptist Church	806 Universal Drive Columbia, SC 29209	Richland	803-776-3913
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church	6952 St. Andrews Road Columbia, SC 29212	Richland	803-732-2273

BOTTLED WATER DISTRIBUTION

Bottled water will be distributed at these sites from 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. until the drinking water emergency has ended.

Distribution Location	Address
Dutch Square (former Belk parking lot)	421 Bush River Road
Former Sam's Club Parking Lot	1401 Sunset Drive
Wal-Mart Parking Lot	5424 Forest Drive
Lower Richland High School	2615 Lower Richland Boulevard
Near Richland Mall	3700 Landmark Drive
Midlands Shopping Center	2638 Two Notch Road
Gadsden Community Center	1660 S. Goodwin Circle
Eastover Park	1301 Main Street, Eastover, SC

FOOD

Community food pantries are providing food, water and baby supplies to residents affected by the flooding.

- **Harvest Hope Food Bank (HHFB)** - (<http://www.harvesthope.org> or 803-254-4432) Located at 2220 Shop Road in Columbia and 1775 12th Street Ext in Cayce from 9 am to 3pm.
- **Lexington Interfaith Community Services (LICS)** – (<http://www.licssc.org> or 803-351-3681) 216 Harmon Road, Lexington, SC will assist Lexington County residents.

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BULK DISTRIBUTION CENTERS

Red Cross is distributing bottled water, snacks, bleach, storage containers, and clean-up kits from 3-6 pm on Wednesday, October 12 at the following aid stations:

Aid Station	County
633 Camden Rd Vance, SC 29163	Orangeburg
Neece Town Hall 6357 Savannah Hwy Livingston, SC 29107	Orangeburg
Old Marwin Warehouse 1709 Atlas Road Columbia SC 29209	Richland

FREE VACCINATION CLINICS

DHEC is offering more free tetanus vaccination clinics this week. The vaccine is recommended if it's been 10 years or more since your last tetanus vaccination or you have experienced an injury and your shot is more than five years old.

Date	Mobile Clinic	Address	Hours
Tuesday, 10/13	Richland County Sheriff's Department Columbia Place Substation	7201 Two Notch Road Columbia, SC	9 am – 5 pm
Wednesday, 10/14	Lexington County Library Cayce Branch	1500 Augusta Road West Columbia, S.C.	9 am – 5 pm
Thursday, 10/15	City of Columbia Distribution Center Dutch Square Mall	421 Bush River Road Columbia, SC	9 am – 5 pm
Friday, 10/16	Lexington County Main Library	5440 Augusta Road Lexington, S.C.	9 am – 2 pm

BUS SERVICE

Through Sunday, October 18, The COMET is running **free of charge**. All regular routes except 88 Crosstown are operational. There will be weekend service for Route 47 Lower Richland, which does not typically run on weekends.

Insurance Claim Filing

The South Carolina Department of Insurance (DOI) (<http://doi.sc.gov/858/October-Flood-2015> or 1-800-768-3467 for DOI's Office of Consumer Services) has information on what flood victims will need to know to file claim for losses and how claims are processed, as well as general insurance FAQ.

- List of Insurance Companies and Claims Contact Numbers:
<http://www.doi.sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7029>

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- Making the Claims Process Easier – What to Know When Facing A Loss: <http://www.doi.sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8507>
- FEMA tips for filing your insurance claim: <http://www.doi.sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8503>
- FAQ on Flood, Homeowners, and Automobile Insurance: <http://www.doi.sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8510>

SC Legal Services (<http://www.sclgal.org/> or 803-799-9668) answers insurance FAQ for both homeowners and renters in the wake of the flood:

- [What Homeowners Need to Know in a Disaster](#)
- [What Renters Need to Know in a Disaster](#)

The SC Bar (<http://www.sctbar.org>) is providing free legal assistance to flood victims. Flood victims facing legal issues who are unable to afford a lawyer may call **1-877-797-2227 ext. 120** (toll-free) or (803) 576-3815 (local) between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, to request assistance. For other disaster-related legal advice, victims can visit <http://www.disasterlegalaids.org/>.

Federal and State Assistance

Residents of Berkeley, **Calhoun**, Charleston, Clarendon, Darlington, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Lee, **Lexington**, **Orangeburg**, **Richland**, Sumter and Williamsburg Counties who suffered losses due to the flood are eligible for assistance programs through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (<http://www.disasterassistance.gov/>).

FEMA representative will help flood victims file for assistance at their newly opened Disaster Recovery Centers.

Recovery Center Location	Address	County	Hours
Richland Library Southeast (open now)	7421 Garners Ferry Road Columbia, SC 29209	Richland	Monday-Sunday 8am – 7pm
Lexington Main Library (open now)	5440 Augusta Rd Lexington, SC 29072	Lexington	Monday-Sunday 8am – 7pm
Richland Library Main (opening 10/13)	1800 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201	Richland	Monday-Sunday 8am – 7pm
Richland Library Eastover (open now)	608 Main Street Eastover, SC 29044	Richland	Monday-Sunday 8am – 7pm
Orangeburg County	8423 Old State Rd Holly Hill, SC 29059	Orangeburg	Monday-Sunday 8am – 7pm

- List of federal aid programs available to residents: <http://www.fema.gov/news-release/2015/10/05/federal-aid-programs-state-south-carolina>
- **Before** you begin your application for assistance, have the following info handy: https://www.scthrive.org/FEMA_Assistance/FEMA_Checklist.pdf
- **Apply online for assistance:** <http://www.disasterassistance.gov/get-assistance>

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- **Apply over the phone for assistance:** 800-621-3362 or (TTY) 800-462-7585. If you use Video Relay Services, call 800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 24 hours a day until further notice. Multilingual operators are available.
- Small business owners may apply for loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration: <https://www.sba.gov/taxonomy/term/99>

Residents affected by the flood may be eligible for other types of assistance, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, commonly known as food stamps) designated for disaster victims, and disaster unemployment assistance. According to the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW - website <http://www.sces.org/claim-important-information.asp>), residents eligible for unemployment benefits include:

- *Individuals who are unemployed due to the disaster, and do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits.*
 - *Self-employed individuals and small business owners who lost income due to the disaster.*
 - *Individuals who were prevented from working due to an injury caused by the disaster.*
 - *Individuals who have become the major supplier of household income due to the disaster-related death or injury of the previous major supplier of household income.*
 - *Individuals who are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster.*
 - *Individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented by the disaster.*
- **November 5th is the deadline to apply for disaster unemployment assistance.** For more information, visit the DEW website <http://www.sces.org/claim-important-information.asp> or call **888-834-5890**.
 - [SC Legal Services D- SNAP Insurance](#)
 - [SC Legal Services - Disaster Unemployment Insurance Information](#)

Clean-up and Repair Work

Stay safe when cleaning up your home or business. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC - <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/index.asp>) has tips for how best to approach cleaning your home to keep you and your family safe:

- Re-entering your home: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/reenter.asp>
- Working in flood water: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/cleanupwater.asp>
- Mold after a disaster: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/>

When it's time for repair, South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) (<http://www.consumer.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx>) wants to ensure residents hire either licensed SC

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contractors or contractors who have obtained the **required Emergency Construction Registration** from South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR). You may also be required to obtain permits from your local building department for some types of reconstruction.

- Here are LLR's Tips on obtaining property repairs after flooding:
<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/AboutUs/MediaCenter/news/2015/FloodingScam20151007.pdf>
- On LLR's website, you can look up your contractor's license:
<https://verify.llronline.com/LicLookup/LookupMain.aspx>
- DCA offers tips on avoiding being scammed by home repair companies:
<http://www.consumer.sc.gov/consumer/PressRelease/Documents/2015/018-HomeRepairScams-Flood.pdf>

Tax Relief for Disaster Victims

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and DEW have extended filing deadlines for flood victims. Victims may also be able to claim deductions for their losses on their taxes, and make early withdrawals for hardship from their retirement plans.

- Extensions granted by the IRS: <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Relief-for-Victims-of-Severe-Storms-and-Flooding-in-South-Carolina>
- DEW is granting tax extensions to businesses affected by the flood:
http://dew.sc.gov/news/NR_tax_extension.pdf
- For assistance in calculating losses, here is the IRS Casualty, Disaster and Theft Loss Workbook:
<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p584.pdf>
- The IRS has produced a short video on tax relief for disaster victims:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Yz2nWI5Zyk>
- Depending on the retirement plan, disaster victims may be able to make early withdrawals for hardship. Here is the IRS' FAQ on the subject: <http://www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Retirement-Plans-FAQs-regarding-Hardship-Distributions>

Supporting Flood Victims

Individuals, organizations, and businesses in SC and around the US are responding to our state's crisis with enormous generosity. Donations (both monetary and in-kind donations) and volunteers are very much in need.

- Visit **United Way of the Midlands'** website <https://www.uway.org/news/give-help-get-help-flood-disaster-relief> to make a tax-deductible donation and to volunteer for flood relief and recovery efforts in the Midlands. 100% of donations received will go directly to disaster recovery.
- SC EMD <http://www.scemd.org/recovery-section/donations-and-volunteers> has links and numbers for organizations around the state that are in need of donations and volunteers

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- NECHAMA Jewish Response to Disaster is volunteering and accepting donations to support SC Flood victims: <http://nechama.org/index.php/news/247>
- Shandon Baptist Church is working to assist flood victims: <http://www.shandon.org/scflood-disaster-relief/>
- DCA reminds donors to direct their gifts to responsible, well-known charities in the wake of the disaster: <http://www.consumer.sc.gov/consumer/PressRelease/Documents/2015/15019.pdf>