



News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –
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UPDATE as of 11:30 a.m.

FAYETTEVILLE – The City of Fayetteville began running two FAST buses at 10:30 a.m. from the Westover Recreation Center to the Food Lion parking lot at Morganton and Reilly Roads. Residents only will be allowed on the buses. Residents will be allowed to access the LaGrange subdivision on foot. Those who are able to retrieve their personal vehicle will be allowed to exit LaGrange on Ingleside and Brockton Streets only.

Access to affected areas will be controlled until further notice. Andrews Road is open to vehicular traffic. Residential areas are restricted to foot traffic. Yadkin Road is closed from Santa Fe to the Fort Bragg gate. Reilly Road is closed from Morganton Road to the Ft. Bragg gate.

State and local damage assessment teams are on the ground to evaluate and report on the extent of damage in the affected area. Inspectors will identify and mark structures in imminent danger. Search and rescue teams will continue door to door until all areas have been assessed.

Concerned citizens wishing to assist in this effort are asked to stay out of the affected areas and to coordinate with the American Red Cross at 910-867-8151 extension 29 or to visit the Highland Chapter at 807 Carol Street. Families can check on the welfare of loved ones through the Safe and Well program link at www.redcross.org.

City and County services will be impacted as work crews assist in damage assessment and road clearing. Please check back on the City's website for more information as it becomes available.

There has been major structural damage at Ben Martin Elementary School on Reilly Road. The school will not open tomorrow. Pine Forest High School sustained some roof damage. School officials will be conducting an assessment this afternoon of all structures and will make an announcement by 6:00 p.m. concerning schedules for Monday.

The curfew expired 6:00 a.m. today but may be reinstated tonight.

UPDATE – Buses to Carry Residents Into Area

FAYETTEVILLE – The City of Fayetteville will start running two FAST buses at 9:30 a.m. from the Food Lion parking lot at Morganton and Reilly Roads to transport residents into the storm-damaged areas. Residents only will be allowed on the buses.

UPDATE as of 8:00 a.m.

As of 6 a.m. this morning, 4-17-11, there were 53 people at our three shelters.

The Spring Lake Middle School shelter is closing at 8:15 a.m. Westover Recreation Center and Seventy-First High School remain open until further notice.

Residents in some areas may be allowed back in by foot only. We will have a better idea later this morning as to the extent of the damage.

Assessors from the state Emergency Management Office will arrive later this morning and be partnered with personnel from the Cumberland County tax office and building inspectors and code enforcement from the City and County to begin assessing damage.

As of 7:10 a.m., the American Red Cross reports that they have delivered 1,200 bottles of water, 480 meals and 600 snacks to shelters and affected areas.

Monetary donations may be made to the American Red Cross Highlands Chapter at 807 Carol Street, Fayetteville, NC 28303. Call 910-867-8151 ex. 29.

There will be a press conference at 10 a.m. today, 4-17-11, in the Sheriff's Briefing Room on the first floor of the Law Enforcement Center.

Media should call the Emergency Operations Center at 910-321-6732 and 910-321-6822.

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