Hurricane Frances – Advisory 18

Date:         September 4, 2004
Time:         8:00 PM
From:         E.R. Ashton
               Director of Emergency Management
Subject:      Hurricane Frances Advisory 18

Large Hurricane Frances Drifting Slowly Toward Florida East Coast

A Hurricane Warning remains in effect for the East Coast of Florida from Florida City Northward to Flagler Beach, including Lake Okeechobee. A Hurricane Warning also remains in effect for Grand Bahama, Abaco, Bimini and the Berry Islands.

A Tropical Storm Warning remains in effect from North of Flagler Beach to Altamaha Sound. A Hurricane Watch remains in effect from North of Flagler Beach to Fernandina Beach.

A Tropical Storm Warning remains in effect for the Florida Peninsula, on the West Coast from St. Marks Southward around the Southern end of the Peninsula to just South of Florida City on the Southeast Coast, and for the middle and upper Keys from South of Florida City to the Seven Mile Bridge and for Florida Bay.

A Tropical Storm Watch remains in effect along the Florida Panhandle from West of St. Marks to Panama City.

At 8:00 PM the large eye of Hurricane Frances was located near Latitude 27.0 North, Longitude 79.4 West or about 50 miles East-Northeast of Palm Beach Florida. Frances has been drifting slowly West-Northwestward near 5 MPH. A slow West or West-Northwest motion is expected tonight. On this track, the strongest winds surrounding the large eye of Frances should reach the Florida East Coast in the next several hours.

Maximum sustained winds are near 105 MPH, with higher gusts. Some strengthening is possible before landfall. Hurricane Force winds extend outward up to 75 miles from the center and Tropical Storm Force winds extend outward up to 205 miles. Strong winds are already affecting the East Coast of Florida and will be spreading inland where warnings for Hurricane and Tropical Storm force winds have been issued.

Coastal storm surge flooding of 4 to 6 feet above normal tide levels, along with large and dangerous battering waves, is expected near and to the North of where the center makes landfall in Florida. Rainfall amounts of 8 to 12 inches, with locally higher amounts to near 20 inches are expected over the Florida Peninsula in association with Frances. Isolated tornadoes are possible over Central and South Florida tonight.

Swells generated by Frances are affecting portions of the Southeastern Coast of the United States. These swells could cause dangerous surf and rip currents.

St Johns County – Shelters Opened

Special Needs Shelters
St. Johns County Agricultural Center
3125 Agricultural Center Drive
St. Augustine

Hastings Community Center
6195 South Main Street
Hastings

Public Shelters
Pedro Menendez High School
600 SR-206 West
St. Augustine

Residents need to be aware for their personal protection planning that fuel supplies in the State of Florida are at a low level.

Even though there are continuous variations in Storm Track and Watches / Warnings, St. Johns County is going to continue working and preparing to be sure that the citizens of St. Johns County are protected to the fullest extent possible.

For more information you may call us at 904-824-5550 or visit our website at www.sjcemergencymanagement.org