St. Johns County Emergency Management

October 6, 2016
For Immediate Release

St. Johns County Urges Residents in Evacuation Zones to Evacuate Immediately

St. Johns County, FL – As Hurricane Matthew approaches St. Johns County, Emergency Management wants to emphasize to residents the impending impacts the storm will have on our County. According to the most recent information released by the National Weather Service, the County is expected to experience tropical force winds beginning by 5 a.m. on Friday, with wind speeds reaching hurricane force in excess of 100 mph after 4 p.m. With the combination of hurricane force winds, devastating storm surge, and wave heights projected to be in excess of 20 feet, Hurricane Matthew has the potential to cause severe property damage and loss of life.

Residents living in Ponte Vedra Beach, Vilano Beach, Anastasia Island, the City of St. Augustine, the Town of Hastings, and along the St. Johns River are in a mandatory evacuation zone and are especially at risk for severe flood and wind damage. These residents are strongly recommended to evacuate those areas immediately. In addition, residents living on the barrier islands have no guarantee of water or sewer services beyond Thursday evening. A curfew for the City of St. Augustine Beach, the City of St. Augustine, and those portions of St. Johns County east of the Intracoastal Waterway on the barrier islands will be in effect from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily until further notice.

Residents who remain within the evacuation zones during Hurricane Matthew could experience an interruption in first responder services as weather conditions deteriorate. In addition, once wind speeds reach approximately 40 mph, conditions will become increasingly unsafe to cross bridges to and from the barrier islands. St. Johns County anticipates emergency response will be impacted and potentially unavailable in certain areas of the County until weather conditions improve.

Due to building storm conditions, residents living in evacuation zones are strongly recommended to evacuate immediately. For the most up-to-date storm information, including bridge closures, shelters and supplies, and evacuation updates, please visit www.sjcfl.us or follow the County on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SJCFL. Residents can also call the Citizen Information Line at 904.824.5550 for storm-related questions or concerns.

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For additional Information, please contact:

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