



PRE- EVENT SITUATION REPORT

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Sept. 4, 2008

1400 hours

Divisions:

Air Quality (DAQ)	Aquariums (AQU)	Coastal Management (DCM)
Customer Service Center (CSC)		
Environmental Health (DEH)	Forest Resources (DFR)	Land Resources (DLR)
Legislative/Intergovernmental Affairs (LIA)		
Marine Fisheries (DMF)	Museum on Nat. Sciences (DMNS)	
Parks and Recreation (DPR)		
Pollution Prevention (DPPEA)		
Radiation Protection (RP)	Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC)	
Waste Management (DWM)	Water Quality (DWQ)	
Water Resources (DWR)	Zoological Park (DZP)	

Event: Hanna Pre-Event

Pre-Event Actions:

Division of Air Quality:

DAQ administration advised employees to lift computers from floors and cover electronic equipment with plastic bags that will be distributed before the expected arrival of the storm. IT staff are taking steps to cover all servers, network equipment, PCs, laptops and printers. Prior to the event, all servers and network equipment will be shut down, and all important documents and backup tapes will be moved from floors and covered with plastic bags. Administration also sent an e-mail to all DAQ employees reviewing safety issues with regard to hurricanes.

Technical Services Section made plans to provide DAQ staffing for the state Emergency Operations Center during the event. Air Toxics branch prepared the Mobile Air Monitoring Lab and other emergency monitoring equipment for potential deployment. The branch also made plans to secure and shut down the air toxics laboratory and monitoring stations as needed. The mobile sources branch is under a tight schedule to meet an Oct. 1 revision of the N.C. Inspection & Maintenance Program for motor vehicles. Thus, the branch will continue operating as long as weather conditions permit, but the I/M launch date could be delayed under the worst case scenario.

Ambient Air Monitoring Section has initiated its hurricane preparation plan, which lists actions depending on the severity and route of the storm. Anticipated actions include securing monitoring sites, shutting down equipment, backing up and storing data, and covering equipment with tarps or plastic.

Planning section plans to issue an extended air quality forecast to cover the weekend, although good air quality (Code Green) is expected due to the rain and wind. The section made arrangements with a contractor to prepare and distribute air forecasts if power outages prevent DAQ from doing so. Planning also began working with the Governor's office and the Environmental Protection Agency to obtain a waiver from a federal requirement for low **RVP** gasoline (summer gas required to ease ozone problems) in the event that gasoline shortages occur due to supply disruptions associated with Hurricanes Gustav or Hanna.

Permits section reviewed safety issues with staff and advised employees not to travel if conditions are unsafe.

Regional offices scheduled meetings in advance of the storm to review safety issues and COOP. Made plans to refill vehicles with gasoline and move them away from potential falling trees, lift computers off the floors, cover electronic equipment with plastic bags, and save electronic files to backup discs. Individual regions will assess the weather situation on Friday morning to determine whether to shut down air quality monitors to prevent storm damage and cancel compliance inspections. Offices with counties expected to be affected by the storm are beginning to work with local governments to identify potential sites for storing and burning storm debris.

AQU:

Aquarium – Fort Fisher

- Initiated Emergency Operations Plan and hurricane preparations as of Sept. 2.
- Distributed NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher Hurricane Plan to all employees and discussed preparations at staff meeting on Sept. 2.
- Closely monitoring weather alerts.
- Generators tested on Sept. 3. Fuel oil for generators checked, status at $\frac{3}{4}$ (7500 gallons). Enough for 8-10 day fuel supply.
- All makeup water reservoirs filled. Emergency oxygen purchased Sept. 3.
- Sandbags filled and staged.
- Emergency storm shutters tested.
- Loose items on grounds secured Sept. 4.
- Collecting boat removed from marina Sept. 4.

Aquarium-Pine Knoll Shores

Tested generators. Fuel tank is full. Began securing watercraft, outdoor equipment. Dock area secured and pumps will be brought inside. Scheduled meeting of curators and managers for 11 a.m. Friday. Refreshed all staff on hurricane plan and preparation and evacuation procedures. Conducted several media interviews regarding how the Aquarium prepares.

Aquarium-Roanoke Island

At 9 a.m. Sept. 3, a meeting of the NCARI Safety Committee was held to discuss preparation for the arrival of Hanna. During the meeting, information was shared with key members of the staff and what their actions would be. Plans are in place for pre-event preparation, notification of staff, animal care by husbandry and the identification of staff who will implement the plan. Key staff members were identified as Joe Malat, director, Frank Hudgins, director operations and husbandry, Jason Wheeler, operations, Olivia Burrus, husbandry curator, Paul Corsino, Security Chief and Public Relations Coordinator, C.P. "Buster" Nunemaker, III. Operations was instructed by Frank Hudgins to make immediate preparations for Hanna's arrival on Sept. 6.

A follow-up meeting was discussed for Sept. 4 to reassess Hanna's track and any other preparations that may be necessary.

At 2:20 p.m. Sept. 3, N.C. David Griffin, NCA division director, Joe Malat, director NCARI, C.P. "Buster" Nunemaker, III, public relations coordinator NCARI and Frank Hudgins, operations and husbandry supervisor NCARI, participated in a video conference to discuss the pending arrival of Hanna. The video conference coordinated by division director David Griffin gave each of the director's of Fort Fisher, Pine Knoll Shores and Roanoke Island a chance to discuss preparation for Hanna. At the time of the video conference, it was expected that landfall would occur south of Wilmington, N.C. and Fort Fisher. Hanna then would move quickly up the coast after landfall and produce strong winds and rain in its path. Each aquarium was to continue preparations and communicate updates to the division director.

Customer Service Center:

Review Coop plan for activation if needed.

Division of Coastal Management:

All staff has been advised to review and update their emergency response manuals. Staff is on standby, preparing for post-storm activities. All regional offices are currently open and operational. Staff has been advised to have all vehicles fueled and ready for use.

Morehead City Office: Major permit's staff has volunteered to help the district in the case of an overload post-storm.

Elizabeth City Office: Staff has been advised that they may be temporarily assigned to help in other districts.

Wilmington Office: Securing office and equipment in case of storm impacts in the area.

Washington Office: Adhering to normal routine today; preparing for any needed recovery efforts.

Reserves Offices: All staff directed to secure equipment, boats and vehicles. Beaufort staff is required to vacate their building by 1 p.m. today. Kitty Hawk office will be vacant. Wilmington reserve office staff will follow Center for Marine Science closure procedures.

Raleigh Office: GIS staff sending periodic updates on storm track. Office is preparing to assist regional offices if needed.

Division of Environmental Health:

In general, division staff is on standby and ready to provide assistance as needed. Division staff members are attending EOC briefings and are manning the environmental health side of the EOC. Staff duties may include water testing, food service establishment/institution inspections, mosquito control, septic system inspections and technical support for public water systems potentially flooded by Hanna. Public education and outreach information has been provided to local health departments. The following is a breakdown of situations by section.

Environmental Health Services Section – The EHSS staff has developed communication protocols for regional staff within EHSS and revised emergency response county assignments to allow each regional staff to cover/assist with smaller concentration of counties, thereby maintaining constant coverage of affected areas. This information has been shared with health departments.

Public Health Pest Management Section – The Public Health Pest Management Section has begun contacting local mosquito control programs so that they would know that DEH staff is available for assistance.

Radiation Protection Section – The Radiation Protection Section is contacting Brunswick Nuclear Plant and Progress Energy to see what they are doing for storm preparation. Staff members have been notified to fill cars with gasoline prior to storm, and section management has implemented the Radiation Protection Hurricane Policy and Post Natural Disaster Policy. The section has also requested that reciprocity companies consider canceling work in affected areas.

Public Water Supply Section – In PWS, staff is working with IT to ensure that public water system tracking database/system is functional. We will receive our water system contacts lists to print out and have ready after the storm. The Washington Regional Office PWSS staff met with WaRO supervisors regarding local building, equipment, communications, vehicles, etc. concerns. The Wilmington Regional Office PWSS staff has stocked up on sample bottles to assessments after the storm. The WiRO PWSS staff has also been preparing their off-site locations for work access and has begun the process of contacting water systems in the forecasted track area.

On-site Water Protection Section – Regional staff are on stand-by.

Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality Section – Acting Section Chief Patti Fowler will meet with DMF deputy director and section chiefs today to coordinate preparations in the DMF building for Shellfish staff – both securing boats and IT equipment. Management will also meet with DMF Section Chief, David Taylor, to determine procedure for shellfish closure proclamations if necessary. The staffs in all offices (Nags Head, Morehead City and Wilmington) are working to fill all boats and trucks with gas, remove any outside equipment that could be a hazard or could be damaged. Boats will be secured away from trees and bows lowered, so that they will fill with rain to add extra weight if necessary and put in the DMF compound. The lab will be stocked with media and ready to go if necessary.

Division of Forest Resources:

Eight 13-person chain saw task forces are on standby.

Twenty 2-person chain saw crews are on standby

Five NCDFR Personnel are assisting in the Central Branch Operation Center in Butner.

NCDFR Representative is at the State EOC.

NCDFR central office operations room is manned.

All districts are checking and performing maintenance on equipment to assure readiness.

All personnel have been instructed to maintain situational awareness while in the field assisting with incident management and to adhere to the chain of command through the SERT.

The division will assist with emergency services functions and infrastructure maintenance as needed and personnel remain on alert should additional assistance be needed.

Division of Land Resources:

Conducted statewide web conference with all seven regional offices (09/02/08) to brief them on the upcoming tropical events and ensure their readiness. Topics addressed included vehicle and equipment readiness, assignment and use of personal safety equipment, emergency response procedures/safety policies, and flow of information.

Coordinating responsibilities as member of SERT with functional lead at EOC in anticipation of 24-hour SERT activation.

Division of Marine Fisheries:

- 1) Reviewed DMF Hurricane Plan and Continuity of Business Plan. Notified supervisors to review these plans with staff and notify staff of conditions. Broadcast an email to all staff on preparations to be made.
- 2) Updated and verified contact lists.
- 3) Requested via e-mail for all division employees access BEACON ESS and update their personal contact phone number information.
- 4) Notified staff of conditions through *This Week at the Fisheries* and advised staff to review hurricane plan.
- 5) News release sent out urging fishermen to monitor storms and be prepared to remove gear from water and get boats to safe harbor.
- 6) Marine patrol requested nine officers (three from each district) to volunteer to assist local agencies after landfall of the hurricane. Officers from the hardest hit district will not be deployed.
- 7) Large oyster vessels have been secured:
 - i. R/V West Bay secured at DMF South River Facility;
 - ii. R/V Crab Slough secured at Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park;
 - iii. R/V Shell Point secured on-the-hard at Jarretts Bay Boatworks;
 - iv. R/V Cape Fear secured on-the-hard at Wilmington Port; and
 - v. R/V stones Bay secured on-the-hard at Wilmington Port.
- 8) R/V CAROLINA COAST is en-route to be hauled out at Bock Marine.
- 9) Planning for polluted area proclamations if needed to close major areas.
- 10) Arrangements being considered for the mooring of large patrol vessel ROANOKE.
- 11) Small vessels and equipment are being secured.
- 12) All vehicles are being filled to capacity with gasoline or diesel.
- 13) Purchasing and warehouse staff were told they would need to
 - i. Keep an eye on needed stock as sections prepare for Hurricane Hanna (they will contact Fisheries Management & Marine Patrol to see what types of supplies are needed);
 - ii. Get the above-ground storage tank loaded with fuel (a fuel delivery was made last week); and
 - iii. Be prepared to move all new equipment (and other items) to shelves in anticipation of a possible storm surge and flooding in the warehouse.
- 14) Marine Patrol has ordered meals ready to eat (MREs) and water to future long-term deployment.
- 15) Staff with windows in their offices has been put on notice that they may need to move their furniture and equipment away from the windows in case of breakage. All staff home and cell phones have been verified to ensure they are current.
- 16) IT is planning arrangements to secure the servers, backups and computer equipment, if needed.

- 17) Plastic has been ordered and delivered to staff to place over equipment, furniture, etc. that near windows and other areas that may leak.

Division Parks and Recreation:

All state parks and recreation areas east of Interstate 95 will close at noon Friday. Visitors in campgrounds in affected parks are being notified. Parks personnel have been instructed to examine and prepare all response equipment (i.e. watercraft, chain saws, tractors, vehicles), and ensure that fuel is available and that park facilities are storm-proofed as per standard operating procedures. Park superintendents ensuring that commissioned and maintenance staff can be contacted throughout event period. Commissioned staff who can be available for deployment have been identified and are on standby.

Division of Soil and Water Conservation:

Staff is securing all vehicles and offices in preparation for the arrival of the hurricane.

Operation review staff are working with DWQ staff to identify animal operations with high lagoon levels that may be endangered by the hurricane.

Division of Waste Management:

Solid Waste Section: Municipal solid waste (MSW) facilities have been contacted and reminded about their disaster contingency plans, especially related to leachate capacity and emergency power supply. Field staff have the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and have checked field equipment (cell phones, GPS units, laptops, cameras, rangefinders, vehicles with full tanks). Staff have advised counties of our Web page, which provides technical assistance and guidance for addressing debris management and the temporary debris staging site-approval process (www.wastenotnc.org/swhome/emergencydebris.asp). Section field staff manning the EOC through the weekend.

Hazardous Waste Section: No issues or concerns have been reported at this time. Facilities have contingency plans. Staff will contact any facility of particular concern as needed. The field staff members are on call and ready.

Division Water Quality:

DWQ Regional Staff in all seven regions received training in safety and emergency response during the last two weeks of August.

Equipment Staging: Vehicles have been fueled, and moved to higher ground or pulled from the water (boats) as appropriate. Packs containing maps, sampling equipment, contact information and other materials and tools needed for safe recovery and monitoring duties have been assembled.

Staff Staging: Incident command assignments have been made at the central office and the regional offices. Contact information has been distributed for interagency and intra-agency information. Contact information for permitted facilities has also been collected and distributed as appropriate.

Procedures: Regional offices following their preparation plan. (document attached)

Facility (security, safeguards, data security/business continuity plan): Files and other equipment have been put in safe locations or covered for protection. In some offices, voice mail messages have been developed to direct callers to what information to provide to staff and additional emergency numbers.

Division of Water Resources:

DWR approved a grant today for Tyrrell County to remove blockages from ditches caused both by the Evans Road Fire itself and the efforts to extinguish that fire. Tyrrell County will issue an emergency contract today to remove the worst of those blockages, i.e., those that have the most potential to cause water to back up, prior to the arrival of Hanna.

Ecosystem Enhancement Program:

No action to report beyond notifying eastern regional staff of situation-reporting requirements.

Regional Offices-

Washington (Washington Regional Office):

- 9/4/08 10am Meeting with DENR Division Supervisors to learn what else is happening.
 - Admin staffer plans on being here on Saturday by noon.

- Storm projected to hit CapeFear R Sa. @ 2am. We expect to begin to get wind & rain Friday night.
- Call list made for with those who live in WaRO area.
- Admin will purchase additional plastic sheeting.
- Working on building tables for the disaster room.
- Gas up vehicles and move to higher ground
- Will e-mail COOP to leadership team (has call list).
- Division of Waste Management will supply a truck for staff use.
- Back up has been arranged for the LAN on Friday.
- Will power down the printers and cover them with plastic.
- All divisions aware of storm and planning on working through close of business Friday
- Adverse Weather leave has NOT been approved yet.
- The disaster room is operational with 6 data ports, 6 phone lines, and an analog line for the Fax machine (same number).

The following have no actions:

Natural Resource Planning and Conservation; Division of Environmental Education; Division of Pollution Prevention.

Anticipated Divisional Priorities:

Air Quality:

Review safety issues to ensure that staff take proper precautions.

Take precautions to ensure that vehicles, air quality monitors, computers and other electronic equipment are not damaged by potential flooding, leaks or winds.

Check ambient air quality monitors to ensure data are saved in case of power outages or storm damage, and shut down monitors if appropriate.

Aquariums:

Aquarium – Fort Fisher:

- Animal welfare
- Staff and visitor safety
- Building operating hours
- Security of irreplaceable animal records
- Protection of electronic/digital equipment from potential water and wind damage

Aquarium-Pine Knoll Shores:

Awaiting local decision on evacuation which could be made at control group meeting today at 3 p.m. Determination on closing the Aquarium is pending

Aquarium-Roanoke Island:

Submit action plan and implementation of same. Coordinate and report any mishaps that occur at NCARI to David Griffin, division director NCA.

Customer Service Center:

Have staff available to assist other programs and man hotline if needed.

Division of Coastal Management:

None at this time.

Division of Environmental Health:

All sections' staffs are on stand-by at this time. Contacting radioactive licensees in areas under watches and warnings and discuss security and inventories will be priority will more information on Hanna's projected track.

Division of Forest Resources:

Crews will be on standby to assist with infrastructure needs as needed

Division of Land Resources:

Fulfill responsibilities as member of SERT. Respond promptly to any dam safety emergencies that arise during event. Conduct after-event inspections on priority basis to identify any needed actions in anticipation of more tropical activity in the upcoming weeks.

Division of Marine Fisheries:

- 1) Priority with Warehouse operations functioning at full capacity.
- 2) Securing equipment, small vessels, and vehicles.
- 3) Inform staff of office preparations/securing routine.
- 4) Secure safe mooring locations for all barges and other large vessels – done.
- 5) Complete office and yard preparations/securing procedures in time to allow staff to evacuate safely.
- 6) Prepare to wrap computer equipment with plastic and move to inner halls.
- 7) Prepare to wrap un-entered trip tickets with plastic and move to inner halls.
- 8) Prepare to place plastic sheeting over desks and file cabinets, especially those close to windows.
- 9) If evacuate, close office and secure office doors, windows and lower window blinds.
- 10) If evacuate, notify public of office closures.
- 11) Ensure all preparations are completed to allow staff to evacuate safely.
- 12) Secure all buildings.

Division of Parks and Recreation:

Priorities are: Staff and public safety; protection of natural resources; and security of facilities and equipment.

Division of Soil and Water Conservation:

Securing and protecting state government resources.

Coordinating plans with DWQ for monitoring animal operations with high lagoon levels.

Division of Waste Management:

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Section Field Response Contingency Plan: Generally, regulated UST systems are not harmed by hurricane flooding. Fill ports are water-tight and vent lines extend higher than most flood water levels. There have been rare instances where a mostly-empty UST was improperly anchored and high water moved or rotated the tank, breaking distribution lines. After flood events, the inspectors and incident managers in the regions re-check those regulated UST systems in the flooded areas for damage. If damage is found or reported, we give the tank owner or operator instructions about how to check the system for damage and how to place the system back into operation. Those instructions include putting back into operation all leak detection devices so any releases caused by damage will be quickly identified.

Staff have been put on notice that after the storm, they may have to identify and inspect facilities in storm-damaged areas (esp. flooded areas) for possible spills/releases, damage to USTs, leak detection (LD) equipment, corrosion protection (CP) equipment and to report their findings. Also, they may have to issue letters informing tank owners of flooded sites of steps/testing to complete to bring tanks back into service.

Division of Water Quality:

Wastewater Treatment Plants – Staff has identified facilities in predicted path of storm and identified those that are likely to suffer impacts. Staff is also working Division of Environmental Health Public Water Supply staff to be able to quickly identify areas where spills could potentially affect drinking water supplies.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations – Staff has contacted operations, identified those that have had problems in the past and are visiting those to check on status.

Staff is mapping locations for junk yards, industrial areas and other potential hazmat contributors.

Water quality monitoring needs will be evaluated after the storm passes; monitoring needs have been prepped for easy access.

Division of Water Resources:

If necessary, DWR will assist units of local government after the passage of Hanna in efforts of cleanup of waterways.

Ecosystem Enhancement Program:

Individual staff safety in affected areas.

Regional Offices-

Washington:

None stated.

Resource Assessment:

Aquarium:

Aquarium – Fort Fisher

- Yes – divisional resources are adequate at this time.

Aquarium-Roanoke Island:

Recovery is not known until the storm event has occurred. All other parts of the plan are being implemented and put into place.

Aquarium-Pine Knoll Shores:

Sufficient at this time.

Customer Service Center:

Sufficient.

Division of Coastal Management:

Adequate supplies and resources are available at this time.

Division of Environmental Health:

None at this time. The division will continue to monitor the situation and assess additional needs as they arise.

Division of Forest Resources:

Currently, the division resources are adequate to fit the anticipated needs of event based on the current information. The division will continue to monitor the situation and assess additional needs as they arise.

Division of Land Resources:

Sufficient resources in place for this event.

Division of Marine Fisheries:

- 1) The warehouse will be contacting sections to see what supplies are needed for hurricane preparation.
- 2) The above ground storage tank for gasoline has been filled to capacity.
- 3) Marine Patrol requested nine officers to volunteer to assist local agencies after landfall of the hurricane.
- 4) Additional personnel and equipment may be required to access remote facilities due to storm/flood debris and to clear beaches of tires washed ashore from Atlantic Ocean artificial reefs.
- 5) 2 OH-58C helicopters and three fixed wing aircraft Search and Rescue, LE and security
38 boats available from 19'-26' long.

Division of Soil and Water Conservation:

Animal operations identified with high lagoon levels - **AQU – FF; AQU-RI:AQU-PKS**

- N/A

Aquariums

- N/A

Fayetteville Regional Office – 1 operation in Sampson County;

Raleigh Regional Office – 1 operation in Nash;

Washington Regional Office – no operations reported;

Wilmington Regional Office – 5 operations in Columbus County and 5 operations in Jones County; and

Winston-Salem Regional Office – 1 operation

Division of Waste Management:

Solid Waste Section: staff and equipment have been pre-positioned for response. No additional resources needed at this time.

Division of Parks and Recreation:

Divisional resources are adequate to fit anticipated needs.

Division of Water Quality:

Currently DWQ has adequate resources.

Division of Water Resources:

None at this time

Ecosystem Enhancement Program:

No needs to report.

G.I.S. Needs:

Air Quality:

None anticipated at this time.

Customer Service Center:

None.

Division of Coastal Management:

None at this time, Division GIS staff is on standby.

Division of Environmental Health:

None needed.

Division of Forest Resources:

None needed.

Division of Land Resources:

None

Division of Marine Fisheries:

None at this time.

Division of Parks and Recreation:

None.

Division of Soil and Water Conservation:

None.

Division of Waste Management:

None at this time.

Division of Water Quality:

Doing mapping of Public Water Supply intakes in some regions.

Division of Water Resources:

None at this time

Ecosystem Enhancement Program:

Program possesses in-house GIS capabilities.

**Regional Offices-
Washington:**

- We don't think we need to order porta-potties (PWS said the local toilets should operate ok).
- Tested the generator and it appears to work. The lights in the building all went off (except for emergency lights in the hallways) the Disaster room lights and power stayed on and the local phones appeared to continue to operate OK.