

HURRICANE DORIAN

State of Georgia ESF-11 – Food Safety Information for FOOD INDUSTRY

Friday, Aug. 30, 2019

Hurricane Dorian is moving in a northwesterly direction and the National Hurricane Center is forecasting that the storm will impact the easternmost Florida coastline on Monday, Sept. 2. This forecast is subject to change as the storm continues moving and there is still a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the forecast. The latest weather information is available from the [National Hurricane Center](#).

Here in Georgia, the Georgia Department of Agriculture is preparing for the storm. The Food Safety Division encourages consumers and members of the food industry (retail stores, food processors, and wholesale distributors) to begin acting prior to the storm to be prepared for potential flooding, power loss, and structural damage.

It is expected that this hurricane will result in food-related incidents, requiring emergency response and recovery activities. Industry sectors most likely to be impacted include commercial facilities, communications, emergency services, energy, healthcare and public health, and transportation. Additionally, airport closures and damage to crops/farms could have far reaching impacts.

Potential Hazards & Impacts

- Localized Flooding
- Food Facility Structural Damage
- Water Interruption at Food Facilities
- Power Interruption at Food Facilities

Potential Response & Recovery Activities

- Assessing Food Facilities
- Issuing Control Measures
 - Temporarily Ceasing Operations
 - Voluntary Destruction of Foods
 - Embargos & Rejections
- Reopening Food Facilities

Food processors and retailers should closely monitor the storm's path and be ready to respond to changing threats. After the storm moves through Georgia early next week, food facilities may expect to be visited by a GDA Food Safety Inspector in areas of damage.

Inspectors will assess damage impacting food products; this would not be a formal "inspection," but a quick visit that allows inspectors to verify a facility is safe to be open for food sales and/or food processing. Please remember that once the storm hits, response and recovery activities do not begin for at least 48 to 72 hours after high winds have ended, to ensure responder and public safety. That means it could take several days before an inspector is safely able to reach a facility if it is in an affected area.

The GDA encourages ALL residents to take an assessment of their preparedness status. Find all the latest about food safety, livestock, shelters, fuel and other important disaster-related information for Georgia



at <http://agr.georgia.gov/gda-hurricane-response.aspx>, and follow us on [Twitter](#) @GaDeptofAg and @GDAFoodSafety. For any **non-emergent** questions or concerns relating to food (e.g., requesting an on-site witness for a voluntary destruction of product), please contact the GDA Food Safety Division at (404) 656-3627.

Visit the Georgia READY website, <https://ready.ga.gov>, for tips, checklists and other valuable information to assist with various types of disasters. Be mindful and take protective measures for you, your business, and your family to be prepared for this storm and the days following. The GEMA/HS website also has additional information: <http://www.gema.ga.gov>.