

Alabama Hurricane Sally September 14, 2020

The Office of Governor Kay Ivey

600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130
(334) 242-7100

<https://governor.alabama.gov>

The governor has proclaimed a state of emergency based upon the imminent threat of Hurricane Sally. Effective today September 14 at 3pm all beaches are to close, including private and public owned beaches and all beach access points. Effective today September 14th all persons (excepting personnel needed to ensure public health and safety) living in low lying areas, flood prone areas, and mobile and manufactured homes in Mobile and Baldwin Counties South of I-10 are strongly recommended to evacuate to other

Alabama Emergency Management Agency

P.O. Box 2160
Clanton, AL 35046
(205) 280-2312
(800) 843-0699

<https://ema.alabama.gov>

By Jim Stefkovich, Meteorologist, Alabama Emergency Management Agency
CLANTON –Monday, 8 am September 14, 2020

Impacts from wind, storm surge and a potentially historic flooding event is increasing across Alabama. Everyone across the state needs to monitor this unfolding situation. A Hurricane Watch and Storm Surge Warning are in effect for Mobile and Baldwin counties with a Tropical Storm Warning as well, including Washington county. Flash Flood Watches will be in effect for a large portion of the state by Tuesday or Wednesday.

Unfortunately, a forecast shift towards the east (closer to Alabama) occurred last night and additional track changes are still possible over the next 36 hours. The Alabama coast is back in the forecast cone of uncertainty and the center of circulation/landfall could still occur in our state. I want to again stress the forecast cone is where the center of circulation may be. Actual impacts WILL occur well outside the cone.

Sally will become a hurricane later today and make landfall with sustained winds around 85 mph on Tuesday afternoon or evening. As of right now, tropical-storm-force winds extend 125 miles from the center.

Rain bands will move onshore today with potential gusts of 40-50 mph, very heavy rain with rates of 2-3 inches per hour in spots, and a couple of tornadoes. The likely arrival time of sustained tropical-storm-force winds will occur along the coast after 8 pm today. Conditions will rapidly deteriorate from south to north on Tuesday. Storm surge of 4-6 ft above ground level is expected for the coast and Mobile Bay.

There is now a 30-40% chance of sustained tropical-storm-force winds all the way to I/20 and west of I65 by late Tuesday afternoon or evening. However, rain bands with gusts of 40-50 mph are possible earlier in the day. These kinds of winds can down trees and powerlines. In addition, the tornado threat will also move inland on Tuesday, and especially Wednesday into Thursday. All preparations should already be completed along the coast and completed by tonight farther inland.

In southwest Alabama, total rainfall by Friday morning is forecast to be 10-20 inches with some spots nearing or exceeding 25 inches. Elsewhere across the state, 6-12 inches are forecast as far north as I20/59 with some spots nearing or exceeding 15 inches. Significant river flooding will occur into next week.

This amount of rain will likely produce widespread and life-threatening flooding. It is likely some roads will be flooded and/or washed-out. Flooding of homes, especially in low-lying areas, will occur. Never drive into water of unknown depth, especially at night when it becomes even more difficult to know the depth of water or road condition. Finally, even if your location is not flooded, surrounding areas may be for a significant amount of time making travel or escape impossible. It's important to continue to keep up to date with the latest forecasts from the National Hurricane Center <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov>, your local NWS office, and local information from both media and especially Emergency Management. For NWS information, go to <https://weather.gov> and click on the area of the state you live. You will be directed to the office that serves you and they will provide specific impact and safety information.

School Closures

<https://www.al.com/news/2020/09/usa-campus-gulf-shores-schools-closing-ahead-of-tropical-storm-sally.html>

Gulf Shores schools will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, September 16th. The Board of Education and school offices will also be closed.

Baldwin County Public Schools will remain open but has cancelled extracurricular activities Monday.

Update: ALL students will be released at 3:00 p.m. today and buses will roll immediately after. For those students who attend After School Care, it is not canceled to help accommodate those parents who are working.

As for the rest of the week, Baldwin County Public Schools will be closed Tuesday, Sept. 15 and Wednesday, Sept. 16. This includes extended care, extracurricular activities, athletic games and practices. A decision for Thursday and Friday will come later as we evaluate the impacts to our area after the storm makes landfall.

“Realizing the storm surge and rain this storm may bring, we will have difficulty running bus operations on Wednesday in low lying areas and we are making the decision today to cancel school for Wednesday, too,” according to the Baldwin County schools announcement.

Clarke County Schools and Washington County Schools will be closed Tuesday.

ACCEL Day and Evening Academy will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

Satsuma City will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, with virtual school cancelled on Wednesday.

Saraland City Schools will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday and will reopen Thursday. The system will also maintain a scheduled learn-at-home day Friday.

Chickasaw County Schools will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

The American Red Cross of Alabama and Mississippi

114 22nd St.

Birmingham, AL 35203

(205) 795-8700

<https://www.redcross.org/local/al-ms.html>

To locate an open shelter: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter.html>

Open Shelters: None listed.

Alabama Department of Transportation

1409 Coliseum Boulevard

Montgomery, Alabama 36110

(334) 353-6554

<https://www.dot.state.al.us>

Roadway flooded US 90 near Exit 30-I-10

Slide at US 231 at AL 36

Slide at US 231 at Apple Grove Rd.

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please call and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals.

Alabama 211

<https://www.211connectsalabama.org>

For assistance please call 2-1-1 or (888) 421-1266.

NATIONAL RESOURCES:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472
(800) 621-3362

<http://www.fema.gov>

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit <http://www.fema.gov/apply-assistance> to apply online.

DISASTERASSISTANCE.GOV

<https://www.disasterassistance.gov>

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>

AMERICAN RED CROSS NATIONAL

National Headquarters
2025 East Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 303-4498 or (800) 733-2767

<http://www.redcross.org>

Please call or visit the website to locate your local chapter and open shelters.

AMERICAN RED CROSS SAFE AND WELL LIST

<https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>

Residents affected can notify their friends and family that they are safe by visiting the website and selecting “*List Myself as Safe and Well.*” Individuals can also search for loved ones by selecting “*Search Registrants.*”

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Weather alerts by state are available at <http://www.weather.gov/alerts>.

THE WEATHER CHANNEL

Local forecasts and severe weather alerts, available at <http://www.weather.com>.

NATIONAL TRAFFIC AND ROAD CLOSURE INFORMATION

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo>

SAFE TRAVEL USA

<http://www.safetravelusa.com>

Free Help Line: Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, **866-342-6892**, will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for as long as necessary. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>