The governor has proclaimed a state of emergency for the imminent threat of Tropical Storm Zeta, which may become a hurricane, with the potential to make landfall in or near Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

Zeta is now expected to make landfall in southeast Louisiana with sustained winds of 100 mph by early evening, then move rapidly northeast through Alabama tonight. Zeta will produce impacts all the way to I20/59, including downed trees with power outages, flash flooding, and potentially a few tornadoes. The good news is the threat of high wind and heavy rain will exit the state by 5 am Thursday.

All preparations should have been completed by 8 am near the coast, as rain bands with heavy rain and gusty winds are already affecting the area. Farther inland, all preparations should be completed by 4 pm as this will be a very fast-moving storm. This includes securing loose outdoor items.

Make sure you have flashlights with fresh batteries overnight and can receive warning information from at least two sources that does NOT include an outdoor warning siren. If you have a weather radio, now would be a good time to change the batteries. Due to heavy rain, high winds and numerous tree limbs/trees being downed, you should remain off the road from sunset tonight through sunrise Thursday anywhere near or south of I20/59. Driving will be dangerous after dark.

The main impacts are expected to begin this morning near the coast, spreading inland during the afternoon and evening, and end by 5 am Thursday in the northeast sections. Unfortunately, Zeta will likely remain a Tropical Storm with high winds as it moves through the state.

By Thursday afternoon, showers are still possible in northeast Alabama, but the remainder of the state will be dry. However, southwest winds of 10-20 mph with gusts to 30 mph are expected statewide. No rain is forecast through the remainder of the weekend and winds by Friday afternoon will increase to 10-20 mph with gusts to 25 mph.
Many injuries and some deaths occur during clean-up after significant wind events, especially those on ladders, roofs or other elevated surfaces. The gusty winds on Thursday afternoon and Friday will only make it more dangerous, so please use caution.

Finally, keep up to date with the latest forecasts and information from your local officials throughout the day.

Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency
23100 Mcauliffe Dr
Robertsdale, AL 36567
(251) 972-6807
https://baldwincountyal.gov/zeta
Due to the impending weather related to Tropical Storm Zeta, the Baldwin County Commission has declared a State of Local Emergency. A voluntary evacuation is recommended for residents and visitors in low-lying, flood prone areas and those in mobile homes or comprised structures including RVs and campers in Zone 1 and Zone 2. The Baldwin County Commission, with the concurrence of Baldwin County Sheriff Huey Hoss Mack, has also issued a travel advisory to all residents and visitors countywide. The travel advisory will be effective from Wednesday at 8:00 p.m., October 28, 2020 until Thursday at 5:00 a.m., October 29, 2020. All residents and visitors are encouraged to follow this advisory, continue monitoring local media and stay well informed of changing weather conditions.
The Baldwin County Commission and the Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency will activate the Baldwin County Coliseum as a shelter. The Coliseum will open tomorrow, October 28, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. and will remain open until 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2020.
Baldwin County Coliseum
19477 Fairground Rd.
Robertsdale, AL 36567
At this time, the Baldwin County Courthouse in Bay Minette will remain open for absentee election voting only. All remaining Baldwin County facilities, including courts, will be closed from 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 28, 2020 and will reopen on Friday, October 30, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. Magnolia, MacBride and Eastfork landfills and the Bay Minette Transfer Station will continue normal hours of operation from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please bring any special dietary needs, medication, prescription glasses or other comfort items such as pillows, sleeping bags, etc. Service animals only will be allowed into the facility, no family pets. Alcohol and weapons are prohibited at the shelter.

Mobile County Emergency Management Agency
7350 Zeigler Blvd. Mobile
Mobile, AL 36608
(251) 460-8000
https://www.mcema.net
Wednesday, the Mobile Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) will open one shelter, for Mobile County residents who do not feel safe staying in their homes during the threat of Hurricane Zeta. The shelter location will be:

Theodore High School
6201 Swedetown Road
Theodore, AL 36582
Registration will begin on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 11:00 am.

Residents who live in areas prone to flooding or storm surge and those living in mobile homes should take advantage of sheltering in a safe location.

The Mobile County Health Department will open a Medical Needs Shelter at:
Burns Middle School
6175 Girby Road
Mobile, AL 36693
Registration will begin on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 11:00 am.

Medical Needs Shelter admittance message:
The Medical Needs Shelter is a shelter of LAST RESORT for patients. Due to COVID, extra restrictions will be in place this year. A mask will be required for entry unless a medical condition prohibits wearing one. Masks are required for the duration of the stay in the shelter at all times. Temperatures will be checked prior to admission and screening questions will be asked related to COVID.

In order to be admitted patients must have the following:

1. A caregiver (MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER) – patients will NOT be admitted without one.
2. Valid ID
3. Medical Supplies and medications for at least 72-96 hours
4. Food if a special diet is needed for at least 72 hours.
5. Water, hygiene supplies, anything needed on a daily basis.

Patients with certain medical conditions will be admitted on a case by case basis. Examples of these conditions include:

1. CPAP, portable ventilators needing power
2. Wound care
3. IV therapy
4. Stable oxygen, nebulizer, or sleep apnea treatment
5. Foley/supra-pubic catheter
6. Functional and access needs patients
7. Wheelchair bound requiring minimal assistance with daily living
8. Ostomies

Each patient will be triaged and admitted on a case by case basis. Admittance is on a first come first serve basis due to space limitations.
Shelter Supplies
Due to COVID-19 protocols ALL clients are required to wear a mask and will be screened prior to entering the shelter. Shelters offer little more than a safe place to stay as the storm rages outside. Residents wanting a little more comfort should bring with them any medications they need, blankets or sleeping bags, a flashlight with extra batteries, any special non-perishable food items, infant formula, diapers and food, small toys, puzzles and books for small children.

Alcoholic beverages, any type of weapon and food other than special dietary requirements will not be allowed. Pets will not be allowed except at the shelter designated for them.

Transportation
People without ways and means to evacuate need to try and coordinate a ride with:
Family
Friends
Neighbors
Church
Those who have their own methods of transportation are encouraged to assist those individuals without means of transportation. However, local officials will coordinate evacuation of residents and visitors who do not have access to private transportation resources with the support of public-school transportation buses.
When an evacuation is ordered, WAVE Transit will reduce service in non-evacuation areas and institute their Hurricane Plan. This will consist of activating the pre-identified Hurricane Bus Pick-up stations within the evacuation zones. Residents/visitors will be transported to designated shelters.
Please note that there is a limited supply of buses. Do your best to secure transportation from the area without relying on WAVE so that people who have absolutely no other means to leave may be evacuated, including Special Needs persons and the elderly.

Evacuation Routes
The general evacuation road network consists of the following:

Mobile County: I-65 North, Highway 43 North, Highway 45 North.
Dauphin Island and Alabama Port: take Highway 193 North to I-10 East to I-65 North.
Bayou La Batre and Grand Bay: take Highway 188 or Mobile County Road 19 to I-10 East to I-65 North.
Saraland, Satsuma, Creola and Mount Vernon: use Highway 43 North or I-65 North.
Citronelle: use Highway 45 North or Highway 43 North.
Mississippi or Florida residents evacuating into Alabama: use I-65 North, Highway 43 North or Highway 45 North.

Please Note:
If necessary, the Governor can direct lanes to reverse on I-65

All southbound traffic will be halted, and all four lanes will be used for norther traffic.

High winds and damaging rains are a danger to automobiles on raised highways and bridges. Drivers of RV's, buses and other high-profile vehicles should use extreme caution. 
Road closures and condition information will be available on local media and at https://algotraffic.com. Please do not contact the Alabama State Troopers office unless you have an emergency or accident to report due to congestion on their phone systems as they need to keep access to all available telephone lines open.

If you need help immediately, please call 911.

Open Shelters:
TROY - Troy University’s Trojan Center will open as student storm shelter Wednesday night. The Troy Recreation Center will open as a shelter Wednesday at 7 p.m. Guests are asked to bring blankets, pillows, toiletries and light snacks
MONTGOMERY - The Montgomery EMA will open Sheridan Heights Community Center and Montgomery Therapeutic Center as shelters at 9 p.m. Bring a blanket. Pets must be in carriers.
ECLECTIC - The Baptist Church will open as a safer area by 7 p.m. The entrance will be on the West College Street side.

Red Cross-Alabama
https://www.redcross.org/local/al-ms.html
The Alabama-Mississippi Region is comprised of eight geographical Chapters – Central Alabama, Mid Alabama, North Alabama, South Alabama, West Alabama, Southwest Mississippi, Southeast Mississippi and North Mississippi. Find your local chapter at https://www.redcross.org/local/al-ms/about-us/locations.html

Alabama Department of Transportation
1409 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama 36110
(334) 353-6554
https://algotraffic.com

Weather - Storm Debris
AL25 NB @ MP153.9 before Hwy 57 in Shelby County.
Start 10-28-2020 11:52
Debris with lane blockage. Please use caution when traveling through this area.

Weather - Roadway Flooded
I-459 SB @ MP13.0 ramp to Exit 13B: US31/Montgomery Hwy in Hoover.
Start 10-28-2020 5:00
Flooding on roadway. Please use caution and seek an alternate route if possible.

**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.

From all local numbers, dial 2-1-1. Or call 888-421-1266

Resource assistance is also available from the website at: [https://www.211connectsalabama.org](https://www.211connectsalabama.org)

**NATIONAL RESOURCES:**

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)**
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472
(800) 621-3362
[http://www.fema.gov](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](http://www.fema.gov/apply-assistance) to apply online.

**DISASTERASSISTANCE.GOV**
[https://www.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](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](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**
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**

**THE WEATHER CHANNEL**
Local forecasts and severe weather alerts, available at [http://www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com).

**NATIONAL TRAFFIC AND ROAD CLOSURE INFORMATION**

**SAFE TRAVEL USA**
[http://www.safetravelusa.com](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](https://www.liveandworkwell.com)