



COUNTY OF HYDE

30 Oyster Creek Road
PO Box 188
SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA 27885
www.hydecountync.gov
252-926-4400

Hyde County, NC

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CONTACT: Donnie Shumate, Public Information Officer
252-542-0842, dshumate@hydecountync.gov

Mandatory Visitor Evacuation Order to be Lifted at Noon Tomorrow

Recent news from Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative (CHEC) and Tideland EMC regarding the status of the main transmission line supplying electricity to Ocracoke and Hatteras Islands is very positive. We are happy to report that the transmission line repair has been a success, and both islands are receiving power from the mainland. As such, the Mandatory Evacuation Order for Ocracoke Island shall expire on Friday, August 4th, 2017 at 12:00 PM. This means that there will be no restrictions on who may travel to or from Ocracoke Island, nor shall any individual need to seek authorization from the Hyde County Department of Emergency Services to enter the island. The Hyde County Board of Commissioners has determined that the State of Emergency will, however, remain in effect due to the personal and economic losses faced by members of the Ocracoke Community.

On Thursday, August 3rd, 2017, at 5:00 PM, The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, County Commissioners, County Manager, Ocracoke Deputy Control Group, Tideland EMC, and representatives from the NC DOT Ferry Division and Emergency Services Department convened a telephone conference to discuss the lifting of the Mandatory Evacuation Order for Ocracoke Island. As the call's membership agreed that the threat to public safety and security from an increased population on the Island was no longer enhanced, the decision was made to discontinue the evacuation. Just prior to the Hyde County conference call, officials in Dare County also decided to lift the Mandatory Evacuation Order for Hatteras Island tomorrow at noon.

For residents and business owners on the Island, there will be multiple resources available tomorrow. The Hyde County Manager, Director of Planning and Economic Development, and the Public Information Officer will be at the Ocracoke Community Center at 10:00am to collect information on financial loss from residents and business owners to help the county begin building a case for restitution of economic losses. There will also be a Mobile Crisis Counselor from Trillium Healthcare Services at the Community Center starting at 10:00am. The counselor will be in a private office so that individuals who need someone to speak to about their experiences with this event can do so in confidence. The Ocracoke Community Center is located at 999 Irvin Garrish Hwy, Ocracoke, NC, 27960.

The County of Hyde wishes to extend its deepest thanks to those organizations and individuals who have donated their time, money, and resources to the Bread of Life food bank at the Ocracoke Assembly of God. Today alone, volunteers from the food bank distributed over 4,000 pounds of donated food to residents of Ocracoke Island who were in need. Among others, The Food Bank of the Albemarle, The Source Church, Lake Comfort Farms, Mattamuskeet Seafood, Manns Harbor VFD, and the NC DOT Highway Division all contributed to this effort. Anyone that would like to contribute to the Bread of Life food bank is encouraged to do so. The County also wishes to extend our thanks to the residents, business owners, vacationers, and others who have patiently waited for the County, Tideland EMC, and CHEC to ensure that the power situation on Ocracoke Island was safe and secure enough for all who wish to come and enjoy beautiful Ocracoke Island. The County also wishes to extend our thanks and praise to the employees and representatives of the NC DOT Ferry Division who have, once again, calmly and professionally helped the County to perform its evacuation of Ocracoke Island. We also appreciate our regional partners in Dare and Carteret Counties, and state partners with the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and North Carolina State Highway Patrol, and our federal partners with the US Coast Guard who have worked around the clock to ensure that Ocracoke Island's evacuation and following re-entry ban went smoothly.

The NC DOT Ferry Division will begin full summer operations tomorrow, Friday, August 5th, 2017, replacing the modified schedule that they have been running the past few days. For any additional information about the re-entry of Ocracoke Island, please contact the Hyde County Emergency Operations Center at 252-926-4374. For any inquiries regarding re-entry to Hatteras Island, please Contact Dare County Emergency Management at 252-475-5655. Information regarding ferry operations or reservations should be directed to the NC DOT Ferry Division by calling 1-800-ByFerry or by visiting www.ncferry.org

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