



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Dee Griffin

Public Information Officer/Fire Safety Educator

Augusta Fire Department/Augusta-Richmond County Emergency Management Agency

(706) 825-1076

[dgriffin@augustaga.gov](mailto:dgriffin@augustaga.gov)

### **The Augusta-Richmond County Emergency Management Agency Prepares For Possible Record Setting Rain**

AUGUSTA, Ga. (October 2, 2015) – The Augusta-Richmond County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the city of Augusta are working to brace for higher than normal rain levels that may result in flooding rivaling what the area experienced in 1990. Today, Augusta-Richmond County EMA Director Chief Chris James led a meeting with city department leaders to assess the resources in place to help residents who may be negatively affected by the significant amounts of rain that are projected over the next 48 hours.

As the rain intensifies, the Augusta-Richmond County EMA will closely monitor areas of highest risk. Augusta Fire Department firefighters are armed with rescue equipment, life jackets and boats to aide residents who become trapped in their homes by rising water. Shelter locations have been identified and will be activated for residents who are displaced by high levels of water. Red Cross volunteers have been placed on standby to assist with the shelters. Salvation Army leaders have committed their efforts to providing food for the shelters. The East Central District Department of Public Health has secured staff and nurses to assist with possible medical needs at shelters.

The Richmond County Sheriff's Office is also providing deputies and staff to help maintain the safety of residents. 911 emergency dispatchers have been placed on standby and backup equipment has been tested. The Augusta Transit will operate its normal schedule, but, will suspend operation if needed to respond as emergency transportation. The Richmond County

Marshall's Office has committed its personnel to assisting with blocking flooded areas so no one enters the endangered area.

As city personnel prepare to help the area successfully weather the storm, residents are asked to take extra precautions when faced with flooding in their neighborhood or while driving by following this advice:

- Avoid flooded low areas, dips and bridges.
- Do not attempt to drive through a flooded area.
- Do not drive around barricades.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising water, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.
- When walking, do not cross water that is above your knees.
- Never try to outrace a flood. Instead, quickly move to higher ground.

Residents can get immediate information and updates at <http://www.augustaga.gov/flood>. Anyone wishing to share pictures of harsh weather in their area can post them on the Augusta-Richmond County EMA's Facebook page. Please include #seflood. Updates will also be provided on Twitter at arc\_ema.