



County Issues State of Emergency and Island Evacuation

WOODBINE, Ga. – August 29, 2023 – Chairman Ben Casey signed a State of Emergency for Camden County. Additionally, an evacuation has been ordered for Zone A, which consists of Cumberland Island and Little Cumberland Island.

Earlier this year the Camden County Board of Commissioners approved [new hurricane evacuation zones](#) for Camden County. The county now features four zones to better reflect risk and evacuation management. Camden County residents, regardless of zone, should strongly consider voluntary evacuation in low lying areas. Locations that have flooded in the past are likely to flood during this tropical event. Residents in manufactured housing should consider relocating to a stronger structure.

The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners has exercised, for such periods as the State of Emergency exists, these emergency powers to perform and exercise such powers, and duties as may be necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the public, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-27 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT and Official Code of Camden County [Chapter 22: CIVIL EMERGENCIES \(PDF\)](#). This State of Emergency Declaration shall remain in effect until rescinded.

Based on storm speed and track, Idalia is forecast to impact our community beginning some time early, Wednesday, August 30, 2023. Impacts may include sustained strong wind, downed trees, loss of power, and an increasing threat of tornadoes. Households should review their emergency plans and check their emergency supply kits. It's now time to take necessary action to protect life and property. More preparedness information is available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's [ready.gov](#).

Local residents are also encouraged to visit the National Hurricane Center, [www.nhc.noaa.gov](#), and the National Weather Service Office in Jacksonville, [www.weather.gov/jax](#), as trusted sites for weather related information. In addition, Camden County residents are urged to sign-up for the CodeRED Emergency Notification System by visiting [www.camdencountyga.gov/CodeRED](#). CodeRED is critical during situations like this as a direct method of communication from Camden County EMA to your landline, cell phone, or email. TDD/TTY service is also available. Participants will be notified in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts.

Camden County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), the Camden County Sheriff's Office, and in partnership with the cities of Kingsland, St. Marys, and Woodbine, along with Camden County Schools, and the National Weather Service (NWS) will coordinate incident response and public communications. Local residents should continue to monitor [Camden County Website](#), [Public Information Hub](#), and [Camden County EMA Facebook](#) for updates.

LANNIE E. BRANT
Commissioner, District 1

MARTIN TURNER
Commissioner, District 2

TREVOR READDICK
Commissioner, District 3

JIM GOODMAN
Commissioner, District 4

BEN L. CASEY
Commissioner, District 5

SHAWN M. BOATRIGHT
County Administrator

JOHN S. MYERS
County Attorney



STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

BY THE CHAIRMAN:

WHEREAS: Camden County, Georgia anticipates the experience of a weather event of critical significance as a result of Hurricane Idalia on or about August 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS: The Governor has not declared a State of Emergency for Camden County; and

WHEREAS: In the judgment of the Chair of the Camden County Board of Commissioners, with advice from the Camden County Emergency Management Agency, there exists emergency circumstances located in Camden County, Georgia requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Camden County, including individuals with household pets and service animals; and

WHEREAS: To prevent or minimize injury to people and damage to property resulting from this event, certain actions are required; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the authority vested in me by local and state law; **IT IS HEREBY DECLARED** that a local state of emergency exists and shall continue until the conditions requiring this declaration are abated; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, IT IS ORDERED:

(1) That the Camden County Emergency Management Agency activates the Emergency Operations Plan, and all supporting emergency plans as deemed necessary by the Director of EMA.

(2) That the following sections of the Camden County Code be implemented:

Section 4. Authority to Waive Procedures and Fee Structures

Section 5. Registration of Building and Repair Services *(to be effective only if the Governor declares a State of Emergency)*

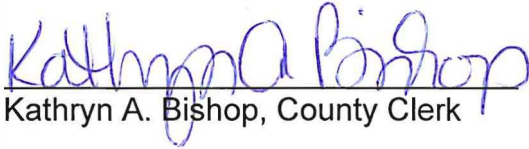
Section 6. Closed or Restricted Areas and Curfews

ORDERED: The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners may exercise, for such periods as the State of Emergency exists, these emergency powers to perform and exercise such powers and duties as may be necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the public. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-27 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT and the Official Code of Camden County Chapter 22: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, a State of Emergency is hereby declared. **This STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION shall remain in effect until rescinded.**

This the 29th day of August 2023.



Ben L. Casey, Chairman



Kathryn A. Bishop, County Clerk

