



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 8, 2017

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### **Rutherford County Issues State of Emergency**

**Rutherfordton, NC** – Rutherford County Commissioner Chairman Bryan King has declared a State of Emergency for Rutherford County effective Friday, September 8, 2017 due to potential public safety hazards related to Hurricane Irma anticipating that Rutherford County may begin to feel the impact of this hurricane as early as Sunday. It is anticipated that this weather event will produce heavy amounts of rain and wind, which could disrupt public services and utilities as well as mobility.

“Declaring a State of Emergency proactively ensures that our emergency and public safety officials will be able to implement their respective protocols immediately and cooperatively and our citizens will have notice of the importance to prepare now for this historic weather event”, said Chairman King. County officials are advising the public to visit the County Facebook page and follow NC Emergency Management on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date information on the approaching weather event and for information on how to best prepare for some type of impact. Citizens can also get real-time traffic, weather, power outages and other updates by downloading the free ReadyNC mobile app or by visiting [www.ReadyNC.org](http://www.ReadyNC.org). Rutherford County Emergency Management Director Roger Hollifield has been actively engaging the various State and local public safety and human service providers and will continue to manage coordination of public safety activities until the State of Emergency is terminated.

The State of Emergency will remain in effect until key emergency services officials recommend that Chairman King sign a declaration to terminate the State of Emergency.

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## PROCLAMATION OF A COUNTY STATE OF EMERGENCY

- Section 1 Pursuant to the Rutherford County State of Emergency Ordinance and Chapter of North Carolina's General Statutes and Article 36A of Chapter 14 of North Carolina General Statute, I have determined that a State of Emergency as defined in the County's State of Emergency Ordinance does exist in the County of Rutherford because of Hurricane Irma beginning the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.
- Section 2 I, thereby, proclaim the existence of a State of Emergency in the County of Rutherford.
- Section 3 I hereby order all County law enforcement officers and employees and all other Emergency management personnel subject to my control to cooperate in enforcement and implementation of the provision of the County emergency ordinance set forth below.
- Section 4 County personnel are authorized to establish emergency shelters and to expend necessary County funds to provide temporary congregate care for Rutherford County citizens.
- Section 5 County agencies shall work cooperatively to assure the needs of Rutherford County. Citizens are met to the extent possible with those resources under my control.
- Section 6 **EXECUTION OF EMERGENCY PLAN.** All civilians and emergency management personnel are ordered to comply with Rutherford County's All Hazards, Emergency Operations Plan.
- Section 7 This proclamation shall become effective immediately. Proclaimed this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2017 at 9:00 ampm.

  
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Chairman, Rutherford County Board of Commissioners

*County Commissioners*

**Bryan A. King**, *Chairman*

**Alan Toney**, *Vice Chairman*

**Michael Benfield**

**Eddie Holland**

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**Steven W. Garrison**, *County Manager*

**Hazel S. Haynes**, *Clerk to the Board*

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