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# Craven County



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Contact: Amber M. Parker  
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## **Craven County State of Emergency Continues**

NEW BERN, N.C. – Craven County Emergency Management remains in life-saving mode as the flooding aftermath of Hurricane Matthew continues to make its way into and through western Craven County. While Craven County is uncertain of the extent of flooding and related damage it will experience, preparations are already underway for recovery operations. “We are still trying to see how severe flooding will be. The latest forecasts predict flooding levels will exceed those we saw from Hurricane Floyd,” said Stanley Kite, Craven County Emergency Services Director.

Craven County Emergency Management has Swift Water Rescue teams, the U.S. National Guard, Vanceboro Fire and Rescue Squad and other first responders on standby to assist with emergencies. A map of flooded areas and road closures has been created to help citizens plan travel routes. The map can be accessed at [www.cravencountync.gov](http://www.cravencountync.gov).

“For the first time ever, Craven County government teams went door to door to provide important information about areas known for potentially devastating flooding. These notices were particularly helpful in allowing people to make decisions prior to the flooding event, which we understood at the time and still has the potential to be worse than Hurricane Floyd,” stated Jack Veit, Craven County Manager.

Craven County continued its State of Emergency declaration effective at 5:00 p.m. on October 12 and the Emergency Operations Center continues to be open and operational. The Farm Life Elementary Emergency Shelter also remains open for citizens living in low lying areas prone to flooding who have nowhere else to relocate. More than 100 Craven County employees and community volunteers are providing assistance to the affected communities.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has not activated a disaster Food and Nutrition Services Program at this time. The U.S. Department of Agriculture requires states to use the regular Food and Nutrition Services Program first in an effort to meet the needs of citizens impacted by the disaster. A Presidential Individual Assistance Declaration is required before a disaster program can be considered for recipients not currently receiving Food and Nutrition Services. Craven County has not received the Individual Assistance Declaration. Anyone not currently receiving Food and Nutrition Services may apply at any time with their local county department of social services office or apply using the online application at <https://epass.nc.gov/>. Anyone currently receiving Food and Nutrition Services who experienced a food loss must contact their local county department of social services within 10 calendar days from the date of the food loss and request a

replacement of benefits. Craven County citizens can call the Craven County Department of Social Services at 252-636-4900 or walk-ins are accepted at 2818 Neuse Boulevard in New Bern.

**For more information and resource referrals call the Craven County Emergency Operations Center at 252-636-6608.**

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