

# Chatham County

## PHASED RE-ENTRY GUIDELINES

**I. PURPOSE:** The purpose of these guidelines is to establish consistent re-entry phase definitions and descriptions for those counties likely to be impacted from an Atlantic Hurricane, so local and state personnel with responsibility for emergency management, access control and public information will understand the differences between each phase and be able to better support local operations. Once agreed upon these defined re-entry phases will be included in the 2012 edition of the Georgia Hurricane Plan and will be immediately incorporated into the GEMA Disaster Critical Workforce Re-Entry Permits SOP, for use this hurricane season.

**II. SCOPE:** GEMA Officials and more importantly, Coastal County EMA Directors have defined and developed four phases of re-entry following a hurricane landfall in Georgia. It is further recognized that each of these phases may be subdivided or have additional restrictions based on current conditions.

The Chatham County Command Policy Group will make the determination following a partial or full evacuation of the County, as to when conditions in the affected area(s) allow for citizens to return (re-enter). The affected area(s) may be limited in size; could include all Chatham County; or possibly extend into several counties in the region. When announced, a Progressive, three-phase plan will be initiated to ensure an orderly re-entry into the affected area(s) of Chatham County.

### III. Re-entry “Phases” – Definitions:

#### PHASE I- Render Safe Task Force Team Entry

**ID Requirements: First Responders and other designated Emergency Response Personnel re-entering during Phase I must be in possession of an official Local, State, or Federal Government/Department Photo ID Card.**

**Phase I Defined:** This phase is the initial phase of re-entry in which teams from state and local response agencies as well as private sector utility providers will gain access to impacted areas. The primary objective of personnel operating in this condition is to render the area safe for follow on first responders conducting life safety operations.

**Planning Assumptions for Phase I:** In most situations members of the Render Safe Task Forces will be co-located immediately before re-entry operations begin in defined staging areas inland. These teams will be the first officials to enter restricted areas, therefore **re-entry passes are not required** as law enforcement officials restricting access will be imbedded in this response element or will not be posted to restrict access due to operating conditions. Nearly all elements of this group will likely be operating emergency response type vehicles with obvious agency or company markings.

Re-Entry into Chatham County during Phases I and IIA will be restricted to First Responders and other designated Emergency Response Personnel to include but not limited to:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Services
- Search and Rescue Resources
- Emergency Medical Services
- Government Officials

**DETERMINING ACCESS.** Law Enforcement and other designated security personnel will exercise discretion at County Re-Entry Control Points. If personnel at the control point are not able to make an appropriate determination regarding access, the Emergency Operations Center will be contacted for resolution.

**Being in possession of a Re-Entry Permit *WILL NOT* allow access into Chatham County prior to Re-Entry Phase IIB.**

## **PHASE II- Emergency Response and Life Safety Critical Workforce**

### **IIA - Critical Workforce Conducting Life Safety Operations**

**ID Requirements: First Responders and other designated Emergency Response Personnel re-entering during Phase IIA must be in possession of an official Local, State, or Federal Government/Department Photo ID Card.**

**Phase IIA Defined:** This phase will likely consist of personnel conducting life safety operations such as search and rescue, emergency medical services, fire suppression; hazardous materials control and containment, preliminary damage assessment, essential relief staff to critical medical facilities and immediate utility restoration to critical incident facilities.

**Planning Assumptions for Phase IIA:** Personnel entering during this phase that are responding in non-marked public safety or local utility vehicles should be expected to present employment credentials as well as a valid state issued identification card to public safety personnel controlling access. In limited situations, private sector personnel may be required to have State of Georgia Critical Workforce Re-Entry passes. These passes are issued to local private sector personnel through the Local Emergency Management Agency Director.

### **IIB - Essential infrastructure emergency support personnel**

**ID Requirements: First Responders and other designated Emergency Response and Support Personnel re-entering during Phase IIB must be in possession of an official Local, State, or Federal Government/Department Photo ID Card; OR Disaster Critical Workforce Re-Entry Permit.**

**Phase II B Defined:** This phase should consist primarily of those individuals from the public and private sector that support the re-establishment of critical infrastructure to support the re-entry of the general public. These critical infrastructure systems include but are not limited to petroleum and food distributors, non-emergency medical facilities such as dialysis centers, pharmaceutical providers, members of the media, medical facility support staff and local government essential workers.

**Planning Assumptions for Phase IIB:** This phase will require close coordination between county emergency operations centers, as well as local public safety officials controlling access to ensure the appropriate individuals are allowed into damaged areas.

## **PHASE III- Local Residents, Property and Business Owners**

**ID Requirements:** Local public safety officials will likely ask those attempting to gain access to show a valid state issued identification card as well as some type of document or proof that they have a reason or interest to enter the impacted area. Types of documentation to validate the need for entry for these individuals include but are not limited to driver's license or state issued identification with an address in the impacted area, property deed, recent utility bill verifying address, current voter registration card, recent property tax statement, business credential or pay stub from local business.

**Phase III Defined:** This phase includes all residents, property owners and business owners.

**Planning Assumptions for Phase III:** This phase may come one week or more after phase I and may be the hardest to control for various reasons. Residents and individuals entering during this phase should expect to have their residency or affiliation with a local business challenged.

\*Phase III may have specific restrictions in place such as:

- Limited to portions of the impacted county
- Restrictions allowing access only during day-light hours

## **PHASE IV- Open to Public with Limited Access**

**ID Requirements: NO SPECIAL ID REQUIREMENTS**

**Phase IV Defined:** This is the final phase of re-entry in which local officials may determine all or portions of their county are relatively safe for the general public to enter.

\*Phase IV may likely have specific restrictions in place such as:

- Limited to portions of the impacted county
- Restrictions allowing access only during day-light hours