



Contact: Bill Crabtree  
Telephone: (919) 554-6196  
Email: [bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov](mailto:bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov)  
Web: [www.wakeforestnc.gov](http://www.wakeforestnc.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **WAKE FOREST READY FOR HANNA**

**WAKE FOREST, NC – September 5, 2008** – The Town of Wake Forest is prepared for Tropical Storm Hanna. Town crews have completed safety briefings and secured Town facilities, and Town staff will be standing by throughout the event to deal with whatever comes our way.

Hanna is expected to produce sustained tropical storm-force winds (between 39 and 73 mph) beginning around 2 a.m. Forecasters also say our area could receive as much as six inches of rain between midnight and noon tomorrow, which may cause flash flooding and hazardous driving conditions.

Motorists are advised to avoid driving during and immediately after the storm. If you must travel, do not drive through flooded roadways. Instead, turn around and take an alternate route. If there is no alternate route, head to higher ground and wait for the water to subside. Do not attempt to cross over a flooded road even if it seems shallow. Fast-rising waters can wash out roadways, and just one foot of water can float many vehicles, while two feet of rushing water can carry away vehicles including SUVs and pick-ups.

As is always the case in severe weather events, the Town is reminding citizens to call (919) 554-6724 for storm-related, non-emergency issues, such as power outages and downed trees and power lines. Please do not call 911 unless there is an emergency posing an immediate threat to life, health, or property.

Wake Forest Power works to minimize storm impacts year-round through preventive maintenance, including trimming of trees around Wake Forest's 70-plus miles of electric distribution lines. Wind-blown trees and limbs are the leading cause of power outages during storms.

Whenever citizens encounter trees downed during storms on roads, sidewalks or other public areas, they should always contact the Town rather than trying to handle them on their own. In addition to being heavy and difficult to manage, trees and limbs often come into contact with dangerous, live electrical wires which can cause serious injury or death.

Residents are urged to bring in rollout garbage and recycling carts and other light-weight items early this evening to ensure that the items don't become unintended and harmful Hanna projectiles.

All Wake Forest Parks & Recreation baseball and softball games scheduled for this weekend have been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Wake Forest Bus Service, including the Wake Forest Loop and the Express to downtown Raleigh, continues to operate on normal schedule. If you have questions regarding schedules in case of inclement weather, please call Triangle Transit at (919) 485-RIDE to confirm that service will be available.

Wake County Emergency Management has no plans to open any emergency shelters over the weekend. For updated information, call (919) 856-7044.

Visit the Town's Severe Weather page at <http://www.wakeforestnc.gov/severeweather.aspx> for detailed emergency preparedness information.

The Town of Wake Forest offers the following storm safety tips:

**When a storm threatens:**

- Check supplies and make sure you have the following items: portable radio with fresh batteries, flashlight, candles or lamps, matches, first aid kit, canned or packaged food that can be prepared without cooking or refrigeration, several days' supply of drinking water (one quart per person, per day), a full tank of gas in your car and cash.
- Unplug major non-vital appliances. Advanced surge-protection systems will protect your home from most power surges, but will not prevent damage from a direct lightning strike.
- Pay attention to local television and radio broadcasts for storm position, intensity and expected landfall.
- Prepare for high winds by boarding up or taping windows and other glass, anchoring objects outside and bracing garage door.
- Secure boats and trailers located near homes and check mooring lines of boats in the water.
- Put important papers in watertight containers (take them if you evacuate) and move valuables to upper stories of your home.
- Fill your bathtub with water for sanitary purposes. Because water conducts electricity, it is not safe to run water during a storm.
- If you know someone who relies on electric-powered life-support equipment, be prepared to move that person to a facility outside of the storm's projected path to avoid the risk of an extended power outage.

**When a storm hits:**

- Stay indoors in an inside room away from doors and windows, electrical outlets and water pipes. Don't go out in the brief calm during the eye of the storm.
- Keep television and radio tuned for information from official sources. Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- If you evacuate, shut off gas, water and electricity. Electricity can be shut off at the breaker box. Take blankets, first aid supplies and other essential items to the nearest shelter.

**After a storm has passed:**

- Never go near downed power lines. Always assume they are energized and extremely dangerous. If someone suffers an electric shock from coming in contact with a power line, call 911 or your local rescue squad immediately. Even minor shocks may cause serious health problems later.
- Check for electrical damage inside your home, such as frayed wires, sparks or the smell of burning insulation. If you find damage, don't turn your power on until an electrician inspects your system and makes necessary repairs.
- Walk or drive cautiously. Watch out for debris-filled streets and weakened bridges. Snakes and insects can be a problem.
- Use your emergency water supply or boil water before drinking it until local officials deem the water supply safe. Report broken sewer or water mains.
- Make temporary repairs to protect property from further damage or looting. Beware of unscrupulous contractors.

**If the power goes out:**

- To report power outages: Wake Forest Power customers call (919) 554-6724; Wake Electric customers call (919) 863-6499 or (800) 743-3155; Progress Energy customers call (800) 419-6356.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Food usually stays frozen about 48 hours. A refrigerator can keep food cold for about four hours. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out.
- Do not connect a generator directly to your home's electrical system. It is dangerous to you, your neighbors and utility workers. Follow manufacturer's directions regarding connecting appliances directly to your generator.
- In any power outage, utility crews restore service as quickly as possible, starting with the largest lines and facilities serving the most people.

Source: Progress Energy

###

For more information on the [Town of Wake Forest](#), contact [Bill Crabtree](#), Public Information Officer, at (919) 554-6196.