

# HURRICANE IRENE STATUS UPDATE

Friday, 8/26/11 at 2:00 pm

**VAMC STATUS:** The VAMC is operating under normal operations. *Charleston County has not announced any area bridge closings.* Surgeries and out of OR procedures have been cancelled for today, but employees in those areas should report for work as scheduled. In the event of weather/flooding impact, VA staff and government vehicles can utilize the Bee Street garage after 12:00 pm today. All VA staff and government vehicles MUST be removed before 6:00 am on Monday, 8/29/11.

**CBOC STATUS:** CBOCs are operating under normal conditions. *Goose Creek Primary Care Clinic is operating under emergency power and Joint Base Charleston-Weapons is closed to non-essential personnel.*

**EMPLOYEE STATUS:** *All employees, including those who have procedures cancelled in their areas, should report to work for their scheduled tours of duty.* Employees should review facility and service line Hurricane Emergency Preparedness plans and make plans to ensure the safety of their families. For home and family safety planning, go to [www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org) for 2011 Hurricane Preparedness Guide.

**PATIENT STATUS:** Patient appointments will be held as scheduled today at the VAMC and all CBOCs.

**HURRICANE STATUS:** At 2:00 pm the center of Hurricane Irene was located near latitude 31.2N, longitude 77.5W. Irene is moving toward the northwest near 14 mph. This motion is expected to continue during the next 24 hours. A turn toward the north-northeast should begin by Saturday. The core of Irene will approach the coast of North Carolina tonight and pass near or over the NC coast Saturday. The hurricane is forecast to move near or over the Mid-Atlantic Coast Saturday night. Maximum sustained winds are near 100 mph. Irene is a Category 2 hurricane. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 90 miles and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 290 miles.

