

# HURRICANE IRENE STATUS UPDATE

**Tuesday, 8/23/11 at 3:00 pm**

**VAMC STATUS:** The VAMC is under normal operations. The Emergency Operations Center was activated at 10:00 am on Tuesday, 8/23/11. Surgeries have been cancelled for Friday, 8/26/11. A decision on status of clinic operations is expected on Wednesday, 8/24/11.

**CBOC STATUS:** CBOCs are operating under normal conditions.

**EMPLOYEE STATUS:** All employees 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.scmd.org](http://www.scmd.org) for 2011 Hurricane Preparedness Guide.

**PATIENT STATUS:** Patient appointments will be held as scheduled on Wednesday, Aug. 24. In the event patient appointments are cancelled later this week, patients will be notified by the clinics.

**HURRICANE STATUS:** At 2:00 pm the center of Hurricane Irene was located near latitude 20.7N, longitude 71.2W. Irene is moving toward the west-northwest near 10 mph. This general motion is expected to continue followed by a turn toward the northwest on Wednesday. The core of Irene will move near or over the Turks and Caicos Islands this evening and near or over the Bahamas Wednesday and Thursday. Maximum sustained winds are near 100 mph with higher gusts. Irene is a Category 2 hurricane. Strengthening is forecast for the next 48 hours, and Irene could become a major hurricane by Wednesday. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 50 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 205 miles.

