



## Hurricane Florence Impact Information for Industry – UPDATE #1 – Thursday, 9/13/18 at 4 p.m.

On Sept. 12, the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) received notification of Hurricane Florence's forecasted impact to Georgia. Governor Deal since declared a State of Emergency for all 159 counties.

The Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) State Operations Center (SOC) was activated today and personnel from the GDA are working there in partnership with other state agencies to respond to the needs of Georgia citizens during this event. The SOC will be transitioning from a preparedness mode to a response mode within the next 48 hours. This event is likely going to be an extended operation with recovery operations that may continue for some time.

Upon initial assessment, there is a reasonable likelihood that a food-related incident requiring emergency response and recovery activities. Industry sectors most likely to be impacted include commercial facilities, communications, emergency services, energy, healthcare and public health, and transportation. Additionally, airport closures and damage to crops/farms could have national impacts.

### Potential Hazards & Impacts

- Localized Flooding
- Food Facility Structural Damage
- Water Interruption at Food Facilities
- Power Interruption at Food Facilities

### Potential Response & Recovery Activities

- Assessing Food Facilities
- Issuing Control Measures
  - Temporarily Ceasing Operations
  - Voluntary Destruction of Foods
  - Embargos & Rejections
- Reopening Food Facilities

Food processors and retailers should continue to closely monitor the storm's path and be ready to respond to changing threats. Next week, food facilities may expect to be visited by a GDA Food Safety Inspector in areas of potential damage. Inspectors will be there to assess damage impacting food products; this would not be a formal "inspection," but instead be a quick visit that allows inspectors to verify a facility is safe to be open for food sales and/or food processing. Please remember that once the storm hits, response and recovery activities do not begin for at least 48 to 72 hours after high winds have ended, to ensure responder and public safety. That means it could take several days before an inspector is safely able to reach a facility if it is in an affected area.

The GDA encourages ALL residents to take an assessment of their preparedness status. Find all the latest about food safety, livestock, shelters, fuel and other important disaster-related information for Georgia at <http://agr.georgia.gov/gda-hurricane-response.aspx>, and follow us on [Twitter](#) @GeorgiaGrown and @GDAFoodSafety. For any **non-emergent** questions or concerns relating to food (e.g., requesting an on-site witness for a voluntary destruction of product), please contact the GDA Food Safety Division at (404) 656-3627.



Visit the Georgia READY website, <https://ready.ga.gov>, for tips, checklists and other valuable information to assist with various types of disasters. Be mindful and take protective measures for you, your business, and your family to be prepared for this storm and the days following. The GEMA/HS website also has additional information: <http://www.gema.ga.gov>.