

Executive Order No. 2017-26

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2017, I issued Executive Order No. 2017-25, ordering the evacuation, effective 10:00 a.m., September 9, 2017, of all persons located on certain specified barrier islands in Jasper County (Knowles Island and Tulifinny Island), Beaufort County (Hunting Island, Fripp Island, Hilton Head Island, Harbor Island, and Daufuskie Island), and Colleton County (Edisto Beach), with the exception of those critical or emergency response personnel, because of the imminent danger posed by Hurricane Irma; and

WHEREAS, the conditions now exist for county authorities to make decisions about the return of persons to Jasper County (Knowles Island and Tulifinny Island), Beaufort County (Hunting Island, Fripp Island, Hilton Head Island, Harbor Island, and Daufuskie Island), and Colleton County (Edisto Beach); and

WHEREAS, despite rescission of the order to evacuate persons located in above areas, these counties may still identify and restrict specific areas to ensure the safety of residents and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby rescind the evacuation order for the areas set forth in Executive Order No. 2017-25, effective at 9:15 a.m. on September 12, 2017. Accordingly, all persons may now return to the barrier islands in Jasper County (Knowles Island and Tulifinny Island), Beaufort County (Hunting Island, Fripp Island, Hilton Head Island, Harbor Island, and Daufuskie Island), and Colleton County (Edisto Beach) at the direction of county officials.

FURTHER, nothing in this Order prohibits local officials from establishing a curfew or restricting access to areas of danger and thereby authorizes state officers to enforce local curfews to help ensure the welfare of and safety of residents and visitors during the recovery period.

FURTHER, all residents and visitors traveling in and returning to these counties should exercise due caution to travel safely across roads and bridges and should understand that portions of these areas, including their homes, may be without power.

This Order is effective immediately. Further proclamations and directives deemed necessary to ensure the fullest protection of life and property during this State of Emergency shall be issued orally by me and thereafter reduced to writing within the succeeding 24-hour period.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 12th DAY OF
SEPTEMBER, 2017.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**