



September 11, 2017, 6:55 pm EST

## Tropical Storm Irma - Columbia County: Evening Storm Update

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL – Tropical Storm Irma is now located over middle Georgia. The evening forecast for our area anticipates sustained winds of 15 to 20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph. Winds are expected to decrease after midnight with sustained winds around 10 to 15 mph and slightly higher gusts. There is a 10% chance of rain overnight.

### Updates

- **Power Outages:** Approximately, 30,493 structures (i.e. homes, business, etc.) are without power in Columbia County. Contact your power company to report power outages. Columbia County power providers and phone numbers are listed below. Please be patient as crews are working non-stop around the clock to get everyone restored as soon as possible.
  - Clay Electric: 386.752.7447 or at [ClayElectric.com](http://ClayElectric.com)
  - Suwannee Valley Electric: 800.752.0025
  - Florida Power & Light: 800.4OUTAGE or 800.468.8243
  - Duke: 800.769.3766
- **Road Closures:** Please visit [columbiacountyfla.com](http://columbiacountyfla.com) for local road closure information.
- **Shelters:** Shelter populations decreasing as people return to their homes. Five hurricane shelters are still active. Shelter locations and updates below:
  - **OPEN** \*Special Needs Only\* South Columbia-Ft. White Community Center, 17579 SW State Road 47, Fort White, FL 32038
  - **OPEN** Richardson Community Center, 255 NE Coach Anders Ln, Lake City, FL 32055
  - **OPEN** \*SPECIAL NEEDS ONLY SHELTER\* Westside Elementary School, 1956 Co Rd 252B, Lake City, FL 32024
  - **OPEN** Ft. White High School, 17828 FL-47, Fort White, FL 32038
  - **OPEN** Winfield Community Center, 1324 N W Winfield St, Lake City, FL 32055
  - **CLOSED** ~~Deep Creek Community Center, 11934 N US Highway 441, Lake City, Florida, FL 32055~~
  - **CLOSED** ~~Richardson Sixth Grade Academy, 646 SE Pennsylvania St, Lake City, FL~~
  - **CLOSED** ~~Pinemount Elementary School, 324 S W Gabriel Pl, Lake City, FL 32024~~

### Reminders

- **Downed Powerlines:** **DO NOT TOUCH DOWNED POWERLINES.** Contact the Columbia County CIC to report downed lines at 386.719.7530. (NOTE: Please do not call this number to report power outages. Report outages to your electric provider.)
- **Homes Near Rivers:** Residents that live along rivers, specifically, the Santa Fe and Suwannee rivers, please monitor water levels closely, as they are expected to rise due to the large amount rain from the past two days.
- **Turn Around Don't Drown:** Please do not drive across high water areas. This is very dangerous and can become an emergency situation. If you approach an area with high water, please turn around and find an alternate route, or delay your trip until the water has receded.
- **Damage Assessment:** Columbia County Officials are currently assessing damage throughout the county. Please report damage to the Columbia County CIC at 386.719.7530.

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- **Local Government Agencies:** Columbia County Board of County Commission non-essential offices will be closed Monday, September 11 and Tuesday, September 12.
  - **Schools:** Columbia County Schools will be closed Monday September 11 and Tuesday, September 12.
  - **Citizen Information Center (CIC):** The Columbia County Citizen Information Center (CIC) will remain open 24/7 through Tuesday at noon. The hotline number is 386.719.7530.
  - **Waste Pick-up:** The Columbia County Landfill will be closed Monday, September 11, and per Waste Pro there will be no garbage collection on Monday. Waste collection will be completed one day behind normal schedule. The landfill will be open the following Saturday, September 16.
  - **Florida Gateway College:** All colleges will be closed on Friday September 8 through Tuesday, September. Florida Gateway College expects to be open on Wednesday, September 13.

Columbia County will provide an update as additional information becomes available.