



South Carolina Department of Corrections

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For immediate release

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COLUMBIA, S.C. – Inmates and staff at Ridgeland Correctional Institution in Jasper County will shelter in place during Hurricane Dorian. The concrete and steel prison was built to updated hurricane standards after Hurricane Hugo, and it is safe and secure.

Ridgeland has weathered many hurricanes, including a direct hit from Hurricane Matthew in 2016, with no damage.

The institution has enough food, water, generator fuel and other supplies to last several weeks if needed. SCDC has an agreement with Jasper County to deliver more supplies if roads are flooded and routes blocked after the storm.

Inmates who might need extra medical care during the storm were evacuated to other institutions Monday.

SCDC believes this is the safest place for the inmates and staff, considering the strength of the buildings. Ridgeland CI has never been evacuated before.

Ridgeland is a medium-security prison that houses about 950 inmates. It was built in the early 1990s and opened in 1995. Ridgeland falls in the northern corner of Jasper County Zone A. No other SCDC institutions are in evacuation zones.