

# HURRICANE DORIAN

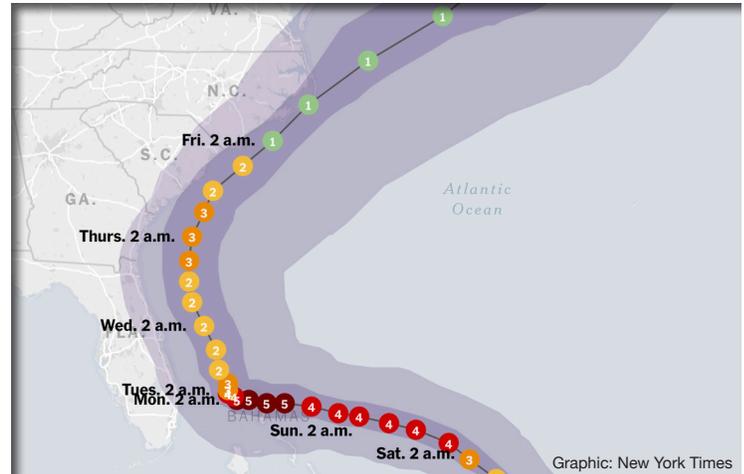
## IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

Sept. 11, 2019

### Overview

Hurricane Dorian caused minimal damage to South Carolina's forestland, the only instances of which were highly localized and characterized by very light impact.

Aerial surveillance by Forestry Commission personnel along the coastline confirms that impacts from the storm were minor and isolated. Even thinned stands withstood the storm very well; the most significant impact recorded during post-storm flights was the persistence of standing water in Horry County, which was expected.



Hurricane Dorian never made landfall in South Carolina, sparing the Palmetto State's forest resource of widespread damage.

### Resource/landowner impact

Although Forestry Commission officials do not expect to see delayed damage to trees resulting from the effects of Hurricane Dorian, landowners should continue to observe their forested tracts and inspect for the following conditions. In coastal areas, especially barrier islands, storm surge may have deposited salt water inland. It may take months for the symptoms to show. Typically, trees will die in a band where salt water has settled.

Although areas of South Carolina received large amounts of rainfall, Forestry Commission officials do not expect to see detrimental impacts of flooding on trees.

This late in the growing season, most trees can tolerate some degree of flooding for a day or two, and most areas have already drained. However, some trees may be weakened by the flooding and may be more susceptible to insects or diseases in the next year or two.

Agency foresters have reported only minor tree damage, mostly individual trees on the edge of forested stands. However, numerous yard and street trees, especially in the Charleston area, were felled by the storm's strong winds. Homeowners should use extreme caution if attempting to remove damaged trees themselves; those not trained in debris removal or chainsaw use should consult a reputable tree care professional.

For advice on selecting an arborist, please visit the Forestry Commission's website at: <http://www.trees.sc.gov/urbanpr.htm>.

### Economic impact

Reflective of the lack of damage to the forest resource that Hurricane Dorian inflicted, especially as compared to that from other hurricanes in recent years, was the relatively minimal impact to forest products mills and, by extension, the overall forest-based economy. A sampling

of the state's larger mills in and around the coastal region (pulp & paper and sawmills) revealed no appreciable impacts to the state's timber supply. While most mills reported shuttering their operations out of an abundance of caution for an average of one day, none received any significant structural damage, and the economic toll of the hurricane came mostly in the form of lost productivity and wages.

Combining that observational and survey data with anecdotal accounts from loggers, consultants and landowners, Forestry Commission officials estimate only about one-tenth of 1 percent of the state's primary product output was lost because of Dorian.

### Financial assistance not likely

The statistically insignificant estimates of damage are not likely to reach thresholds that will trigger emergency funds for landowners who would normally apply for reforestation assistance.