Senen Maly Turner
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Red Cross official says volunteers stay on alert

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WALHALLA — It was a matter of watching and waiting Monday for officials and volunteers with the local chapter of the American Red Cross as Oconee remained under a flood watch.

Red Cross officials mobilized more than 20 volunteers over the weekend after a weather system dumped 11.88 inches of rain in parts of the county since Saturday.

Sandie Smith, director of program services for the Red Cross, said most of the volunteers were stationed at Westminster Baptist Church on Sunday after Oconee County Emergency Management issued a voluntary evacuation order for residents of Cooper Road because of rising waters.

Cooper Road runs alongside the Tugaloo River at the Georgia border. Smith said people affected by flooding there went to stay with relatives or friends.

Officials said they have a network of shelters available that they can open throughout the county should they get word from Emergency Management that an evacuation is imminent.

On Monday, Smith said the Red Cross office reached out to a family forced to leave their home at 589 Campbell Town Road in Walhalla when sewage backed up because of the flooding.

To learn more about disaster preparedness go to www.redcross.org/beredcrossready.com or call the Oconee County Chapter at (864) 638-5619.