The emergency route from Hatteras to Silver Lake was established to provide an additional route to the Ocracoke Island for volunteers, residents, property owners, gas and supply trucks as re-entry restrictions were lifted.

Ocracoke Island is only accessible by water transportation or air. The Ferry Division serves as the primary source of access.

The Hatteras – South Dock route was used to move NCDOT Highway Division equipment to Ocracoke to repair NC HWY12 washouts and damage that made the highway unusable and blocked access to either end of the Island.

Routes to Swan Quarter and Cedar Island were in service and the primary routes used for volunteers, residents, supplies, emergency responders, etc.