



## Gloucester Department of Community Engagement

P.O. BOX 1306  
GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA 23061  
804-693-5730  
EMAIL: [clewis@gloucesterva.info](mailto:clewis@gloucesterva.info)

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Contact: Christi Lewis, Community Education  
693-5730 or [clewis@gloucesterva.info](mailto:clewis@gloucesterva.info)

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: ARE YOU READY?

Hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding, ice storms, severe thunderstorms and an unexpected tornado -- these are all natural disasters that threaten and impact our area. Lately it seems that natural disasters are happening more frequently and more severely in the United States and throughout the world. Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your home and can result in the loss of basic services such as water, gas, electricity and telephones. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local emergency managers all have the same message: **In the first days following a disaster, plan to be on your own for at least 72 hours (3 days).**

Emergency situations become disasters when they overwhelm the resources available to respond. It is essential that every individual, family and business be **PREPARED**, stay **INFORMED**, have a **PLAN**, **RECOVER** safely and get **INVOLVED**.

Are you ready and truly **PREPARED** for a disaster or emergency? Do you know how to stay **INFORMED** before, during and after a disaster? Do you have a **PLAN** for the various disasters and emergency situations that may threaten your family and community? What do you need to know to safely and quickly **RECOVER**? How can you be more **INVOLVED** in assisting during and after a disaster? You may not be able to prevent emergencies or disasters, but there are many things you can do to be as prepared as possible.

Resources and information to help you prepare on the checklist topics above are included in the **2017 Gloucester County Disaster Preparedness Guide**, recently mailed to all residents and business owners and available on the county website at [www.gloucesterva.info](http://www.gloucesterva.info). For more resources, visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov). Remember...preparedness begins with YOU!

For more information, please contact the Gloucester Department of Emergency Services at 693-1391.

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