



Gloucester Department of Community Engagement and Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preparing for a Hurricane Involves Much More than an Emergency Kit

Gloucester County Emergency Management officials are urging residents to focus on the many reasons they should include flood insurance in their hurricane preparedness plans. The Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1 and NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is predicting another above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. "It only takes one storm to change your life and our community," said Brett Major, Gloucester's Emergency Management Coordinator. "We are often in the crosshairs of hurricanes and tropical storms here, so being prepared in a variety of ways is key."

First, residents should know their risks and zones. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management has a tool to help residents find which evacuation zone they are in. This interactive tool, which advises residents on whether they should protect their properties with flood insurance can be found by visiting <https://www.vaemergency.gov/hurricane-evacuation-zone-lookup/>.

Next, residents should be prepared with the necessary supplies such as bottled water, canned food, batteries, and flashlights. This also includes being prepared early-on with purchasing the correct flood insurance for their properties. Flood insurance is different from homeowner's insurance and requires a separate policy. Free estimates of what a flood insurance policy might cost can be found by visiting <https://getfloodfluent.org/calculator>. Flood insurance policies typically have a 30-day waiting period.

There are also material methods of protecting property against the threat of property damage from storm surge. Some of these protective actions include building outside of high-risk flood areas, elevating outdoor HVAC units, installing flood vents and more. For more information, visit <https://getfloodfluent.org/how-do-i-get-flood-insurance/#How-ToProtectmyHome>.

Now is also the time to sign up for CodeRED, the County's free, emergency notification service that sends critical communications and emergency information through phone calls, text messages, e-mails, social media and the CodeRED Mobile Alert app. To sign up, visit www.gloucesterva.info/409/CodeRed.

"It is also important to communicate with your neighbors before an emergency situation impacts the area and in the aftermath of an event," Major added. "We are fortunate to have a strong sense of community in Gloucester, and it is crucial to rely on and support one another before and after times of need."

Gloucester's Department of Emergency Management has full information packets available to residents to help them prepare for Hurricane Season, another disaster or emergency. For more information, contact the office at 804-693-1390 or visit www.gloucesterva.info/365/Emergency-Management. Also, be sure to check out this month's "Current Conversations" podcast, which features Major talking about the upcoming hurricane season, what to expect and more details on how to prepare. To listen, visit: <https://www.gloucesterva.info/1299/Current-Conversations-Podcast>.

Hurricane Preparedness

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR



Many people, especially senior citizens, rely on the assistance of neighbors before and after hurricanes. Help your neighbors collect the supplies they'll need before the storm. Assist them with evacuation if ordered to do so, or check on them after it's safe for you to head outside.



Help your neighbors prepare



Help your neighbors evacuate



Check-in after the storm passes

[weather.gov/hurricane](https://www.weather.gov/hurricane)

