



Gloucester Department of Community Engagement and Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gloucester Emergency Officials Urge Residents to Prepare for a Potentially Active Storm Season

Gloucester County's Emergency Management department is urging residents to make sure they are prepared for the threats that can come along with hurricane season, which will stretch into the fall. With several storms already impacting coastal areas this early in the season, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting an active year.

To help residents prepare, Gloucester's Emergency Management Department is planning a Preparedness Expo on Saturday, August 7 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. to coincide with Virginia's Tax-Free Holiday. The Expo, which will be full of preparedness materials, activities, and information, will be held in partnership with and at the Gloucester Home Depot store.

"As the potential for tropical storms really gears up in this area in the late summer and early fall, we encourage all of our residents to stop by the Expo and make sure they have all of the materials necessary to withstand a severe weather event." said Brett Major, Gloucester's Emergency Management Coordinator. "Even if you can't come to the Expo, there are still many ways all of our residents can be prepared."

According to Major, one of the first steps in preparation is to follow checklists for emergency kits and develop them further to meet families' individual needs. "Understand that if a storm impacts the area, you may likely be without power, water and other utilities for an extended period of time," Major said.

Key items to be included in a kit are:

- At least one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- A battery-powered radio / NOAA Weather Radio
- A flashlight with extra batteries, and
- A First Aid Kit

Major also recommends developing an individual / family / business evacuation plan, which includes knowing your evacuation zone, and having a place to temporarily relocate you and your family to, if the need should arise. He suggests having a plan for pets and to have "go-kits" ready with all the items essential to you or your family to last for several days.

Those with special requirements are encouraged to make extra preparations. "If you have special requirements such as medical accessibility or other functional needs, make sure you consider those in preparation for storms and have plans in place for support," Major added.

It is important to "Know Your Zone." The Virginia Department of Emergency Management has designated zones A through D across Coastal Virginia. In the event of a storm or other emergency, residents of one or more zones may be directed to evacuate depending on tides, storm intensity, path, and other factors. To see what zone you are in, visit www.KnowYourZoneVA.org.

Also, it's a good idea to review your insurance policies and make sure you have appropriate insurance, such as homeowners' and flood insurance, as applicable. Remember, most regular homeowners' insurance policies do not cover damage caused by floods and may also exclude the impacts of some other natural disasters.

It's important to understand and heed warnings and watches issued by the U.S. National Weather Service. These are often advertised on local media, however having a NOAA weather band radio with localized alerts in your homes and places of business is strongly recommended. Additionally, Gloucester

residents can sign up for CodeRed Emergency Alerts by visiting <https://www.gloucesterva.info/409/CodeRed> or by calling 804-693-1390.

Being a concerned neighbor is also a good thing, especially during storm situations. “Look out for your neighbors and loved ones,” Major urged. “Check in with them and help them to prepare before a storm, and to recover after one.” As a specific example, Major suggests preparing your home for high winds if a storm is coming – securing loose items, lawn furniture, etc.

Finally, if an evacuation order does occur, Major asks residents to be patient and follow instructions regarding reentry as safety officials may have a lot to do to make storm-damaged areas safe for the public following a storm impact.

There are several important contact numbers to keep handy when a storm event occurs. For emergencies only, dial 911. For the Virginia State Police, dial 800-582-8350 and for the U.S. Coast Guard Search & Rescue, dial 757-483-8567. For non-emergencies, dial the Gloucester Sheriff’s Office dispatch at 804-693-3890. Also, never assume that Dominion Energy knows your power is out. To report an outage, call 866-366-4357 or visit www.dom.com.

Gloucester’s Emergency Management Department is always happy to assist anyone with any questions and can be reached by calling 804-693-1390 or by e-mailing DEM@gloucesterva.info. More disaster preparedness information can be found by visiting <https://www.gloucesterva.info/365/Emergency-Management>.

Also, if you’d like to learn more about preparedness and assist after an emergency weather event, consider joining Gloucester’s Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.). For more information, visit www.gloucesterva.info/392/CERT or call 804-693-1390.

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ARE YOU PREPARED?

You should be. Sometimes, nature doesn't call first. Get your Preparedness Checklist by visiting www.gloucesterva.info/365/Emergency-Management

Join Gloucester County Emergency Management and partners for a Preparedness Expo Aug. 7, 2021 at the Gloucester Home Depot!



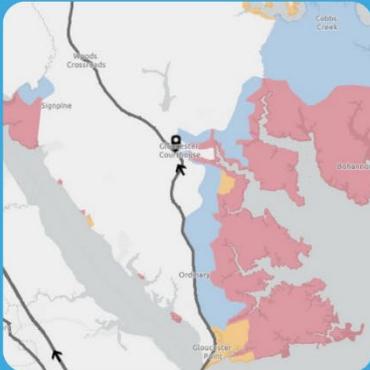
Also...
Sign up for CodeRed Alerts Today!

<https://www.gloucesterva.info/409/CodeRed>



Interested in Joining Gloucester's Community Emergency Response Team? (C.E.R.T.)

Email DEM@gloucesterva.info or call 804-693-1390 to get more information or complete the Training Form to register for upcoming classes.



Know Your Zone

Evacuation zones designated A through D are in place across coastal Virginia. In the event of a storm or other emergency, residents of one or more zones may be directed to evacuate depending on tides, storm intensity, path, and other factors.

www.KnowYourZoneVA.org

What You Will Need...

- At least one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio / NOAA Weather Radio
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First Aid kit



Important Numbers

Emergencies Only: Dial 911

Gloucester County Emergency Management: 804-693-1390

Virginia State Police: 800-582-8350



U.S Coast Guard Search & Rescue: 757-483- 8567



To keep up to date with updates and the latest information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/gloucesterva/> or <https://twitter.com/gloucesterva>

Non-emergency Sheriff's Dispatch: 804-693-3890

Power Out?
Report it, here:
866-366-4357
or dom.com