



Gloucester Department of Community Engagement and Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gloucester to recognize Flood Awareness Week

March 8-14 marks Flood Awareness Week in Virginia. This is an ideal time for residents to prepare for potential flooding ahead of spring rains and the upcoming hurricane season. Throughout the week and into the spring season, Gloucester County will focus on educating the public about flood risk and the importance of flood insurance for those in high risk areas.

Gloucester County currently enjoys a 20 percent discount to flood insurance premiums thanks to the County's participation in the Community Ratings System (CRS). The CRS is a National Flood Insurance Program run by FEMA through which localities' floodplain management efforts are measured and rated using a prescribed series of available creditable activities.

In Gloucester, there are many insurable causes of flooding, including coastal, rain-driven, dam failure inundation and water main failure. The Federal Emergency Management Association's (FEMA) Mapping Service Center is the official source for insurance rating purposes. To determine your property risk of being flooded by a 100-year storm event, visit <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home> and enter your address. To evaluate all potential risks of flooding, contact Gloucester's Building Inspection department at 804-693-2744.

Brent Payne, Gloucester's Engineering Director and Floodplain Administrator said, "Flooding, however, often occurs outside of the 100-year flood zone and for this reason, we encourage residents and business owners to take steps to determine additional risk." He added that it is also important for residents to remember that if public water service is available in your area, those residents may also be at risk to flooding due to a water main failure. "We want to recommend insurance for residents and business owners in common sense scenarios," Payne said.

For more information on flood management in Gloucester County, visit <https://www.gloucesterva.info/426/Flood-Management>.

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This garage in the Jenkins Neck area of Gloucester shown just after Hurricane Isabel passed through the area in 2003 depicts the destruction that flood waters can cause.

(Image courtesy Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal)