

GLOUCESTER COUNTY
EMERGENCY INFORMATION

**HURRICANE FLORENCE
ANNOUNCEMENT 3**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday, September 12, 2018

TIME: 5:30 PM (EDT)

CONTACT: Emergency Public Information Officer

PHONE: 804-693-3000 or 804-693-5730 (during regular operating hours 8am - 4:30pm)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Gloucester County officials continue to monitor Hurricane Florence and its potential effects on the community, assessing and preparing for the storm's impacts, anticipated to include (but not be limited to) heavy rainfall, high winds, as well as coastal, tidal and inland flooding.

WEATHER IMPACT: While Hurricane Florence's path is now predicted to move more southwesterly away from Virginia, coastal / tidal flooding, heavy rain bands that could result in flash floods / inland flooding, and elevated winds that may increase tornado risks are still forecasted to impact our area as early as Thursday evening and into the weekend. Currently, rainfall projections suggest the potential of up to about six (6) inches. **Tidal flooding is expected to be moderate to major with estimates around 6 feet above mean low water during the high tide cycles (the recent excessive tides earlier this week were in the 5-foot range).** Winds are predicted between 35 and 40 mph (sustained), with 40 to 50 mph gusts through Sunday. Gloucester County officials continue to monitor Hurricane Florence as the storm track is constantly changing. Although the threat to Gloucester appears to be weakening, residents are encouraged to continue monitoring the storm and stay vigilant.

EVACUATION INFORMATION: The state's mandatory evacuation order for Zone A continues for residents in the lowest-lying and most flood-prone areas. To find information on

your specific zone, visit www.knowyourzoneva.org or call 2-1-1 Virginia by phone. Law enforcement officials will not force people out of their residences. Those evacuating will be allowed back into the area after the storm unless there are safety issues such as unsafe roads, electric wires and downed trees. The Sheriff's department staff will be conducting special patrols through the evacuation zone areas as an added security measure.

PUBLIC EMERGENCY SHELTER: With the number of potential evacuees from Gloucester and Hampton Roads, shelters may be very crowded. **IF THERE ARE OTHER SAFE ALTERNATIVES TO USING PUBLIC SHELTERS, THE USE OF SUCH SAFE ALTERNATIVES IS ENCOURAGED.** Public shelters will be opened in order "as needed" with Peasley Middle School designated as the first primary shelter. The school is located at the corner of Route 606 (Ark Road) and Route 614 (Hickory Fork Road) in Sassafras. **THE SHELTER IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN ON THURSDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 13TH AT 9 AM. NOTE CHANGE IN OPENING TIME.** Bethel Elementary School (adjacent to Peasley) will be the second shelter to open once Peasley is filled to capacity.

Additionally, State-supported shelters are available at William and Mary College in Williamsburg and at Christopher Newport University in Newport News.

Although emergency shelters will be available for those needing it, space and accommodations are very basic and limited – a visit with friends or relatives, or staying in a motel or hotel away from the most heavily impacted areas, is recommended. Persons with functional needs must be accompanied by a caregiver while at the shelter and support supplies and equipment should be brought to the shelter.

Domestic pets, accompanied by their owners, will be allowed at the Peasley School shelter only, and only as long as space is available. Please bring pet kennel/crate, food, bowls, bedding, litter, and rabies vaccination record.

Persons coming to the shelter are asked to bring the following items and due to the potential of this storm, plan supplies based on up to a five (5) day stay if needed:

- bedding materials (mat/lounge chair, sleeping bag, blanket, pillow, etc.)
- changes of clothes
- snack foods, beverages, and special dietary foods
- special items for infant, elderly, or disabled people
- diapers/food for babies and small children
- medication or prescription drugs
- personal toiletries (deodorant, soap, toothpaste, washcloth, towels, etc.)
- eye glasses/contacts, hearing aids
- entertainment (reading materials, games for children, etc.)

Firearms and alcoholic beverages are not allowed. Do not bring any valuables with you.

Portable radios and stereos must have head/ear phones. Persons are encouraged to eat before arriving at the shelter and bring snacks for your stay. Before coming to the shelter, please call relatives or friends to notify them of your location.

ROADWAYS: Flooding on roadways is expected. At all times, if water is on roadways, **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN** and do not travel through the water.

CLOSURES: Gloucester County Public Schools continue to be closed until further notice. All Parks, Recreation and Tourism activities held in the schools also continue to be cancelled for Thursday and Friday. All county parks, including Gloucester Point Public Beach and access to the public boat landing, will remain closed on Thursday as well.

PHONE HELPLINE: An Emergency Management Helpline is available during regular work hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The number is 804-693-3000. **PLEASE RESERVE 911**

CALLS FOR MATTERS RELATED TO SIGNIFICANT INJURIES, ILLNESSES AND LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCIES.

WAYS TO STAY INFORMED: Official county announcements will be posted on the county's website (www.gloucesterva.info), Gloucester County and Gloucester CERT Facebook pages, local radio and television stations (including WXGM 99.1 FM) and may also be distributed through CodeRed system notifications.

End of Announcement