

GLOUCESTER COUNTY



EMERGENCY INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENT # 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday, September 4, 2019

TIME: 6:20 PM EDT

CONTACT: Emergency Public Information Officer
693-5730

HURRICANE DORIAN TO IMPACT AREA

Gloucester County emergency management officials are closely monitoring Hurricane Dorian, currently forecast to bring substantial rainfall, sustained winds near tropical storm strength with gusts into the tropical force range and significant coastal flooding to our area beginning Thursday evening through Friday. Hurricane Dorian is currently forecast to be a Category 2 hurricane as it passes near the Virginia coast on Friday.

Current rainfall forecasts are predicting rainfall to enter our area Thursday evening with the potential of 2 to 4 inches of rain through Friday with higher values towards the southern end of the county. Significant coastal flooding is forecasted during high tide cycles on Friday and Saturday. Tidal flooding is expected to be approximately 2 to 3 feet higher than normal.

Excessive and heavy rainfall will cause potential road flooding. Drivers are advised to not drive through standing water – turn around and go another way. Wind gusts along the coasts, along with the saturated ground due to heavy rains, will raise the probability of falling trees and downed power lines. Widespread power outages are to be expected.

Residents are highly encouraged to take necessary steps now to plan and prepare for potential flooding and power outages. Residents are reminded that it is still too early to know exactly what this storm will do and a small change in track could have a significantly different impact.

Residents in areas prone to flooding, those residing in mobile or manufactured homes and those currently in recreational campgrounds, should take all precautions to secure their properties. Those experiencing flooding in the past with tropical storm and hurricane-related events should make preliminary plans to secure properties and evacuate, if needed, to friends or family outside the impacted area.

Residents should check and stock emergency supplies to include water and non-perishable foods for at least 3-5 days; specialty items for children, elderly, functional needs and pets; a first-aid kit with essential medications; a battery-powered radio and flashlights and extra batteries; a full tank of gas; and extra cash.

Local emergency services officials will continue to monitor the progress of the storm and potential impact to our area and provide storm updates and emergency announcements.

Residents should listen to local television and radio stations for official bulletins and information. Preparedness information may be found on the Gloucester County website at www.gloucesterva.info

HURRICANE INFORMATION HELPLINE: Residents are asked to NOT call 911 or the Sheriff's Office unless it is an emergency. A Hurricane Information Helpline will begin operations on Friday at 6 a.m. to handle resident's questions, concerns and provide information. **The number to call is 693-3000.** This line will not be available or activated until 6 a.m. on Friday.

EVACUATIONS: While there is no mandatory evacuation order in place, residents who commonly experience "nuisance flooding" should know that forecasted flood values are higher than levels experienced in Hurricane Matthew. Residents should keep in mind that bridges, such as the Coleman and West Point bridges will close if sustained winds reach 40-45 mph. Rescue vehicles will be unable to drive through flooded roadways when water reaches 3 feet or higher or when winds reach 50 mph sustained. Residents who may be affected by the storm should begin making evacuation and relocation decisions immediately to stay with relatives, friends, or in a hotel/motel outside of the hurricane threat area.

Those evacuating should cut off the main electrical breaker and gas to their homes before leaving. Pets should not be chained or left outside in pens. Many hotels in the Richmond and Fredericksburg area will accommodate pets and their owners.

Emergency information and announcements will continue to be updated and provided through radio, television, newspaper and the county's website at www.gloucesterva.info.

Again, residents are asked to NOT call 911 or the Sheriff's Office unless it is an emergency. The Hurricane Information Helpline will be available for residents beginning at 6 a.m. Friday September 6.

End of Announcement