

GLOUCESTER COUNTY
EMERGENCY INFORMATION



**HURRICANE DORIAN
ANNOUNCEMENT 2**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Thursday, September 5, 2019

TIME: 3:00 PM (EDT)

CONTACT: Emergency Public Information Officer

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Gloucester County officials continue to monitor Hurricane Dorian 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:

Current forecasts are predicting rainfall to enter our area Thursday evening with the potential of up to 6 inches of rain through Friday evening with the highest amounts expected towards the southern end of the county. Significant coastal flooding is forecasted during high tide cycles on Friday and Saturday. Storm surge is expected to result in tides that are approximately 2 to 3 feet higher than normal (moderate and major flooding). When combined with anticipated rainfall, significant risk to personal safety and property is expected.

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 moderate to major coastal flooding, possible localized flooding, and widespread power outages. Residents are reminded that it is still too early to know exactly what this storm will do and even a small change in the storm track could have a significantly different impact.

EVACUATIONS: Gloucester County Officials are recommending voluntary evacuation of Zone A. For more information on evacuation zones, please visit:

<https://www.vaemergency.gov/hurricane-evacuation-zone-lookup/>

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 major bridges (Coleman Bridge and West Point Bridges) may close if sustained winds reach 40-45 mph. First responder (public safety, fire, and rescue) vehicles generally do not transit flooded roadways and will generally be unavailable while Tropical Storm force winds are 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. At this time, further public service announcements (such as this) are not anticipated prior to the storm’s passing.

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: Due to the impending weather conditions in our area, the following cancellations are being announced for this afternoon/evening and tomorrow:

Gloucester County offices will be closed tomorrow, September 6, 2019.

Gloucester County Public Schools will be closed for students and staff tomorrow, September 6, 2019. In addition, all afternoon and evening events for today, September 5, 2019 and tomorrow, September 6, 2019 are cancelled. This includes all Parks, Recreation and Tourism classes and community use at Achilles and Botetourt schools.

The Gloucester County Planning Commission meeting scheduled for tonight, September 5, 2019 at 7:00 p. m. at the Colonial Courthouse has been cancelled. The Public Hearings scheduled for this evening will be rescheduled for October 3, 2019 at the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

The Utilities Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for tonight, September 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. has been cancelled.

County Parks will be closed tomorrow, September 6, 2019 and Greate Road (at the entrance to Gloucester Point Beach Park) will be closed starting tonight, September 5, 2019. Parks, Recreation and Tourism staff will assess storm damage first thing Saturday morning and will reopen facilities as soon as possible.

PROPERTY/BUILDING DAMAGE: Residents and businesses having experienced storm-related damage, are asked to **please report the damage as soon as possible, and preferably before noon on Saturday September 7th, to the Emergency Management Helpline at 804-693-3000.**

PHONE HELPLINE: An Emergency Management Helpline is available from 6:00 AM to 4:30 PM on Friday, September 6th, and from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM on Saturday, September 7th. 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