

Hurricane Florence Situation Update

Commonwealth of Virginia

Sept. 11, 7:00 p.m.

LATEST INFORMATION:

- Governor Northam has declared a mandatory evacuation for Coastal Virginia residents in Zone A – roughly 247,000 residents, beginning Sept. 11, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.
 - Zone A generally represents low-lying areas, those along the coast, and properties along waterways in Hampton Roads, the Eastern Shore, Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.
 - Residents can go to KnowYourZoneVA.org or <http://bit.ly/knowyourzoneva> (while VDEM's website is being fully repaired) to input their address and find out which zone they live in.
 - Those without computer access can call 2-1-1, their local office of emergency management and in select localities throughout the Commonwealth residents can call 3-1-1, their local citizen information line.
- With mandatory evacuation orders issued along the coast ahead of Hurricane Florence, VDOT is working to proactively alleviate travel pressures on Virginia roadways.
 - VDOT crews are stabilizing construction sites ahead of the storm and lifting temporary lane closures on major routes, where possible.
 - Traffic monitoring and incident response staffs will be augmented on some areas during the evacuation process, to prepare for increased traffic volumes and, potentially, additional crashes and disabled vehicles.
 - Tolls have been lifted at some facilities: Hampton Roads District - Hampton Roads Express Lanes tolls have been suspended until further notice.
 - Ferry Service:
 - Merry Point Ferry – Closed until further notice
 - Sunnybank Ferry – Closed until further notice
 - Jamestown-Scotland Ferry – Currently under normal operations; suspension is possible as the storm approaches
 - Signal timings may be adjusted on major routes near interstates to provide smooth traffic flow.
- President Trump signed a federal emergency declaration today, mobilizing federal resources including FEMA and agreeing to reimburse Virginia for portions of its Hurricane Florence Response efforts.

- Virginia emergency managers and first responders are mobilizing to prepare for the storm. Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency late Saturday in order to mobilize personnel and resources for storm impacts, and to speed the response to those communities that are damaged by the storm. This includes resources from VDEM, the Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia National Guard (VNG) and others.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): An Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) arrived today at the VEOC, there's a Federal Coordinating Office located at the VEOC and FEMA will stage 75-100 ambulances at Fort AP Hill.
- Localities throughout Coastal Virginia are opening local shelters; Virginians should follow their local government's social media account and review their localities homepage for the latest information on local shelters.
 - Localities that have posted shelter information: [Virginia Beach](#), [Norfolk](#), [Hampton](#), [Suffolk](#), [Accomack](#), [Northampton](#), [Portsmouth](#), [Chesapeake](#), [York](#), [Gloucester](#), [Surry](#) and [Newport News](#).
 - Please follow your local government on social media or visit the official website to learn about shelter locations in your locality
- James Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary of Education Atif Qarni and VDEM State Coordinator Jeff Stern conducted two conference calls for local division superintendents and key central office staff to discuss state level preparations and provide information as districts consider school closings.
- Virginia State Police, VDEM, VDOT and other emergency responders will commence 24 hour operations on Wednesday in anticipation of the storm. The Virginia Emergency Operations Center has been operational since Monday and will continue to coordinate preparation, response and recovery efforts for the foreseeable future.
- In response to Hurricane Florence, Lyft is providing free rides, up to \$15 dollars, using code 'VAFLORENCE18' for those who are headed directly to their official shelter. Rides are valid between now and 8 p.m., Sept. 12. For those evacuating elsewhere, Lyft is offering discounted services. .
- Neighbors and strangers are asking how they can help their fellow Virginians after Hurricane Florence strikes: the most effective way to help is to make a financial contribution or volunteer through a VAVOAD certified organization. Do not self-deploy to a disaster zone. www.vavoad.org.
- Work continues to fully restore web and **2-1-1** telephone services which were negatively impacted by huge numbers of visitors throughout the day. We hope to augment these services and restore them to normal operations today.
- With the arrival of tropical storm force winds and heavy rains beginning Wednesday and continuing through the weekend, Virginians can expect widespread road closures and

power outages. Motorists should visit **511Virginia.org** or Call 511 for the latest road conditions and report outages to Dominion Energy at dom.com or to local electric cooperatives.

- Price-gouging complaints regarding motor fuels are to be filed with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. General price-gouging complaints regarding all other goods and services are to be filed with the Office of the Attorney General. Below is a link to the two separate price-gouging complaint forms. Scroll to the bottom of the page:<https://www.oag.state.va.us/consumer-protection/index.php/file-a-complaint>

GENERAL INFO:

- Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) teams have worked since last week preparing for Hurricane Florence. With Virginia under a state of emergency, and forecasts showing Florence zeroing in on the Mid-Atlantic, the time for all Virginians to prepare is now.
- Models are agreeing that Virginia can expect significant impacts in the form of coastal storm surge, catastrophic inland flooding, high winds and possible widespread power outages.
- The Virginia National Guard is initially planning to bring up to 1,500 soldiers, airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force on state active duty for assistance with the response operations for Hurricane Florence. Additional personnel can be brought on duty if needed.
 - Potential missions for the Virginia National Guard (VNG) include: high water transportation, debris reduction, commodity distribution, shelter management assistance and rotary wing aviation search and rescue.
 - The VNG plans to stage personnel at readiness centers in key locations throughout the commonwealth in order to be ready to rapidly respond if needed.
 - The alert process to notify VNG personnel to report for duty has begun, and they are scheduled to be in place by early afternoon on Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018, and ready to provide support.
- Virginia State Police will call in all available staff before the storm and will have swift water rescue teams available and pre-positioned around the state.
- VDOT is readying trucks and equipment and planning for staff augmentation of Safety Service Patrols and Traffic Operations Centers for additional traffic monitoring, emergency response capabilities and assisting motorists in distress along major routes.

- VDOT will be lifting lane closures, where possible, on major routes to keep roads clear for emergency responders and possible evacuations.
- VDOT is notifying additional debris/tree removal crews to be on standby once the storm's effects begin.
- VDOT crews are inspecting and clearing drainage structures in advance of the storm and will have crews and personnel available 24/7 to respond to damaged roadways and downed trees.
- The U.S. Navy sortied ships on Monday from Naval Station Norfolk and Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek.
- Norfolk Southern issued embargoes for affected locations based on the current projections from the National Hurricane Center. Traffic en-route to these locations will be held at yards throughout the Norfolk Southern system and ships waiting at Port were sent to sea.
- All Virginians should expect potential impacts and life-threatening conditions from this storm. Now is the time to prepare—Make a Kit, Get and Plan, and Stay Informed. To learn more, visit www.VAEmergency.gov/hurricanes.

THREAT: It's Not the Winds, It's the Water

- The largest threat to life from hurricanes is not the high winds: Prolonged, freshwater, inland flooding is the deadliest result of these storms.
- Current forecast models indicate that Florence could strike the Carolinas and enter Central Virginia, possibly stalling and dropping 8 to 20 inches of rain in some areas: from the Southeast to the foothills and mountains of Southside and Southwest. This will lead to widespread and dangerous flooding, inundation of roads and damaged infrastructure. Potential widespread power outages are also expected. In addition to significant rainfall the National Weather Service advises that Coastal Virginia could experience a 5 foot storm surge.
- Citizens should prepare for rising waters, flash flooding, and remember to never drive across flooded roadways “**Turn Around, Don't Drown**”. Most injuries and deaths occur when motorists try to cross flooded roads. Roads and bridges can be damaged or completely washed away beneath flood waters, and a few inches of water can sweep vehicles downstream.
- Citizens should stay tuned to local media for detailed instructions from your local emergency manager about where to go, available shelters and evacuation routes, and when you will be able to return to your home.