



Interstate 64 lane reversal

The good news is that this year for the first time since 1992, Hampton Roads has an updated hurricane study to guide preparedness, response and recovery planning. The study utilized enhanced and far more accurate modeling techniques to better project the impact of coastal storm surge. The bad news is that the study shows hurricane storm surge will penetrate much farther inland than projected in 1992. Add a dramatic increase in population and property in the areas vulnerable to storm surge and the result is a serious challenge for evacuation of the population which now must leave their homes for higher ground.

One way to move this large evacuating population is a new strategy. Upon the order from the governor, Virginia will implement contra-flow and reverse the direction of traffic on the eastbound lanes of I-64 to double the westbound evacuation routes to Richmond from Norfolk and Virginia Beach. No traffic will be allowed to travel east on I-64 once this lane reversal is in effect. Evacuees will be moved to the I-64 east lanes near Willoughby Spit just before the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel in Norfolk. There will

only be two exits for the eastbound lanes between Norfolk and I-295 in Richmond. The first possible exit will be Exit 234 in Williamsburg (Route 199). The second exit will be Exit 205 in Bottoms Bridge close to Richmond. VDOT will provide limited emergency assistance and wreckers will be used to move disabled vehicles from traffic lanes. Even with contra-flow, in an evacuation for a Category 3 hurricane it would take a family leaving the Southside 15 hours and 30 minutes to arrive in Richmond.

It is imperative that residents in the Historic Triangle understand they will be unable to use I-64 for normal traffic once an evacuation is ordered. Westbound ramps may be closed to facilitate traffic flow toward Richmond. In addition, when sustained winds reach tropical storm force, Virginia State Police will begin to direct evacuees off I-64 to shelters/refuges of last resort to be operated by the state. One such shelter is expected to be opened at William and Mary in Williamsburg. Historic Triangle residents planning to evacuate should consider Route 60 as an alternate.

Preparedness tips for families

- Discuss with your family the types of hazards and threats in your area and what to do in each case.
- Talk to school officials to learn how they will notify you of your child's status in an emergency.
- Decide on a meeting place in case family members become separated and cannot return home.
- Choose an out-of-town friend or relative as a point of contact.
- Keep important phone numbers with you at all times.
- Get everyone involved. The Ready Virginia website has preparedness information for families, businesses, pets and those with special needs.

Courtesy of www.ReadyVirginia.gov

Important documents for residents to protect

The following documents should be stored in a dry, safe location:

- Apartment or condo leases
- Home or other property deeds
- Estate documents
- Homeowner's or renter's insurance documents
- Wills
- Life insurance policies
- List and/or photos of possessions and their values
- List of important phone numbers
- Flood insurance documents
- Vehicle titles, leases, loan documents
- Financial statements
- Utility statements
- Government financial assistance award letters
- Birth certificates, proof of citizenship or adoption records
- Social security cards
- Employment contracts or other legal documents
- Medical records, x-rays, benefits documents
- Education records
- Passports
- List of medications and duplicate prescriptions

Courtesy of City of Chesapeake

¿Necesita información de huracanes y las tormentas en español?

Spanish-speaking communities now have access to essential emergency preparedness information through a new website, www.ListoVirginia.gov. The site is a one-stop resource for residents to learn about disaster readiness at home and at work.

The American Red Cross and other community-based organizations have a web site, www.Prepare.org, to help serve seniors, children, people with disabilities and animal and pet owners. Preparedness materials are also available in English and multiple foreign languages.



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