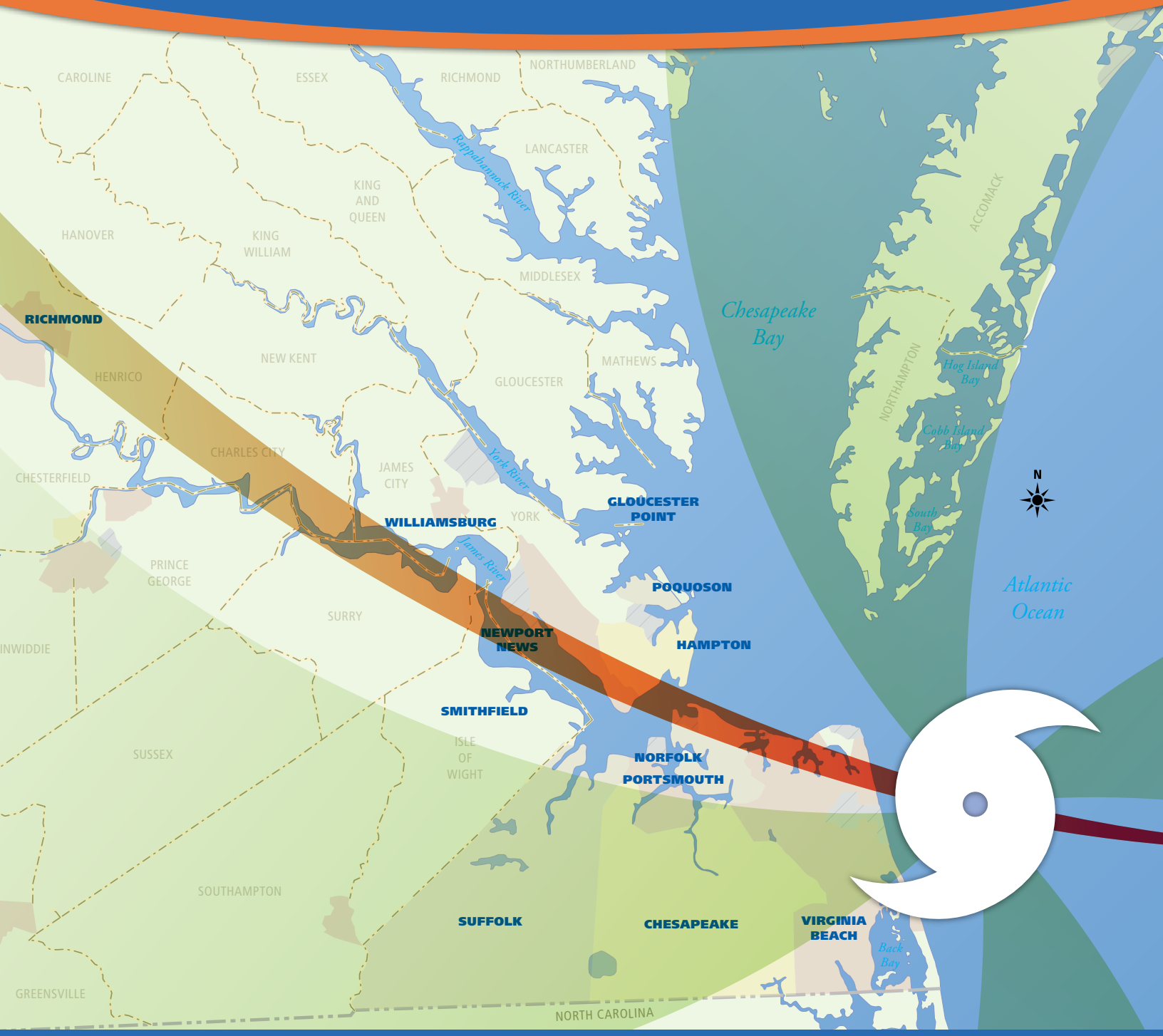
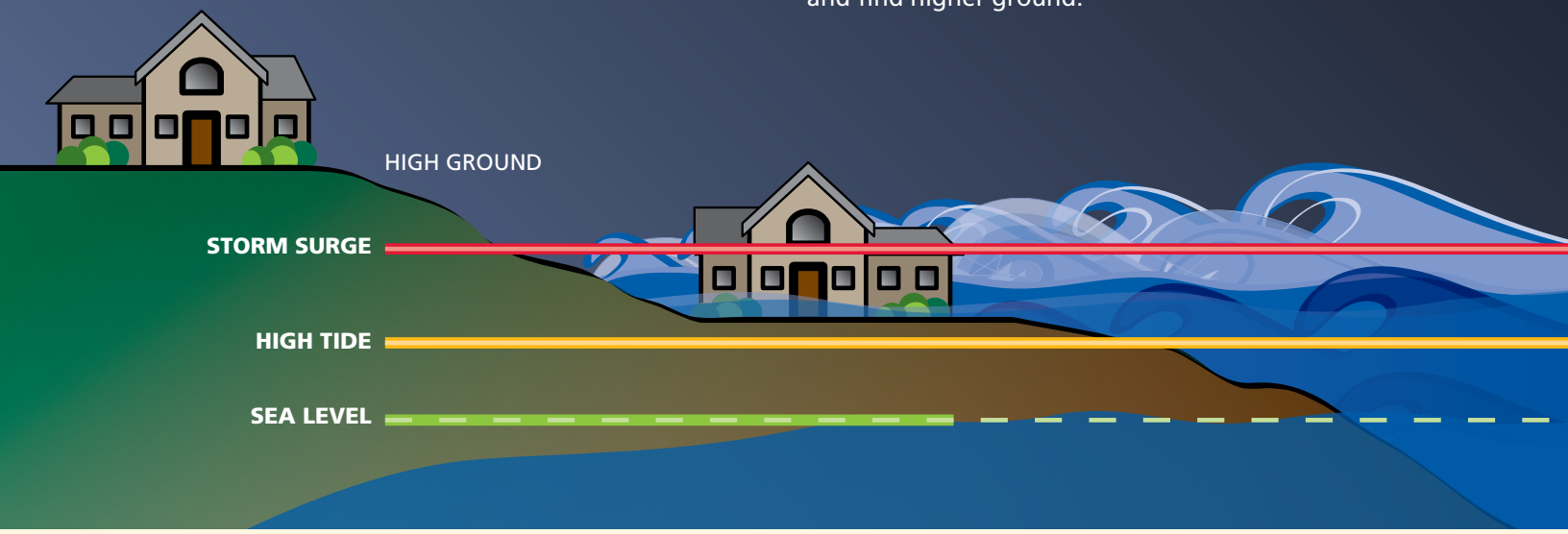
VIRGINIA HURRICANE
EVACUATION GUIDE



STORM SURGE: THE REASON FOR EVACUATION

Storm surge is water that is pushed toward the shore by storm winds, and it can increase the normal high tide by 15 feet or more. In addition, wind-driven waves on top of storm surge can cause severe damage in coastal areas. If an evacuation is ordered for your area, leave immediately and find higher ground.



STORM SURGE

Every resident in the Hampton Roads area needs to know the risk of storm-surge flooding. The threat of storm surge is the reason emergency officials would order an evacuation, but every storm is different. The size, speed and strength of a storm and the angle it approaches the coast contribute to the damage storm surge can cause.

An evacuation order does not mean that everyone needs to leave in order to stay safe. Local officials will announce the exact areas where people need to evacuate.

Local officials may issue evacuation orders for areas that could be affected or isolated by storm surge. **If emergency officials order an evacuation for your area, leave immediately.** Although officials may order people who live in areas vulnerable to storm surge to evacuate, most residents won't need to go far to be safe.

Stay with family or friends who live on higher ground in the area. If you don't have family or friends nearby, go to a hotel, motel or local emergency shelter.

- Establish locations where your family or support system will meet, near and far from your home.
- Your family / support system may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact each other in different situations.
- Local calls may be difficult, so arrange an out-of-state contact for everyone to call. Make sure everyone knows the phone number.
- If you have a land line phone, keep at least one phone (analog) that does not need power available in case you lose electricity. If you have cell phones, make sure you have a way to charge your phone without electricity.

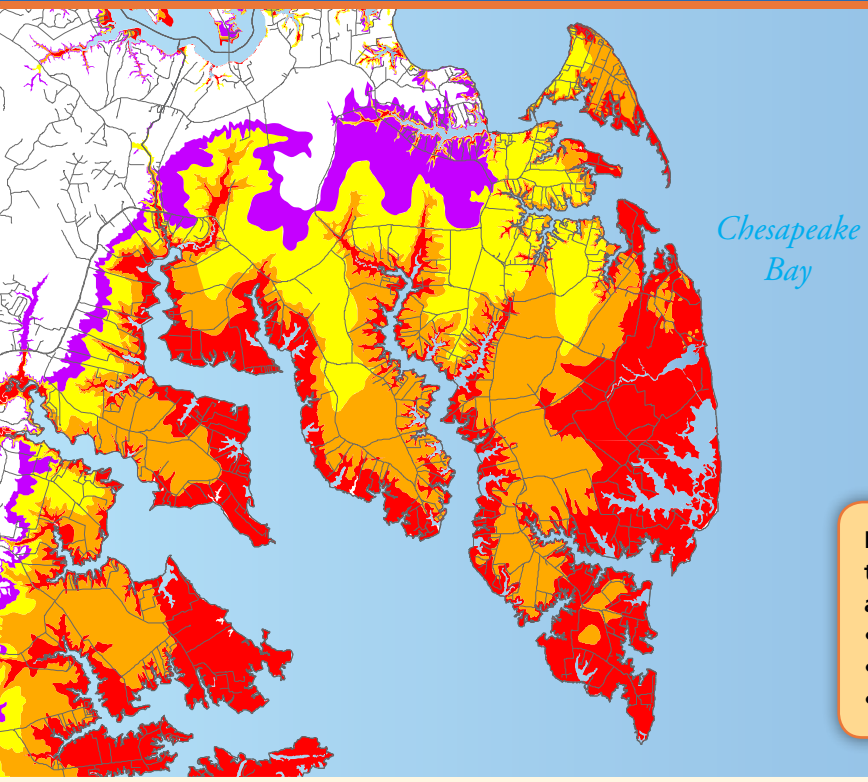
Sometimes it is safer to stay at home. Listen for local instructions. If you are ordered to stay where you are, or to "shelter in place," go inside and remain there until emergency officials announce it is safe for you to leave the shelter of your home.

Residents on higher ground may not need to evacuate to avoid storm surge. Staying where you are keeps unnecessary traffic off the roads, clearing the way for emergency responders, and it keeps you from traveling into unsafe areas.

- Use your family emergency plan and locate your disaster supply kit (page 11).
- Tune to a local radio or television station for information.
- Stay indoors and close all windows and doors. Bring pets inside and make sure they have food and water.
- Plan to be without power, gas, telephone or cable service for an extended period of time.

Homeowners and renters insurance policies do not cover flood damage. The only way to protect your property from the impacts of flooding is to purchase flood insurance for your home's structure and contents.

STORM SURGE MAPS AND FLOOD INSURANCE



STORM SURGE **RISK MAPS**

Color-coded areas show the risk for flooding during the indicated category or stronger.

- Category 1
- Category 2
- Category 3
- Category 4

N

Go to www.vaemergency.gov to find the storm surge map for your area.

Before, during and after a disaster, it is vital that you listen to your local news for critical instructions from local, state and federal government officials, such as:

- Evacuation orders for specific areas
- Details about evacuation routes
- Locations of evacuation shelters

STORM SURGE MAPS

Find out if you live in an area that could flood because of storm surge. Maps are available at www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stay-informed/hurricane/storm-surge. The maps use color coding to show areas that are low-lying and may flood during a Category 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 storm.

Mobile homes and trailers are especially vulnerable to high winds. If you live in one of these structures, you should evacuate regardless of the threat of flooding.

HOW TO USE A STORM SURGE MAP

Storm surge maps show the worst-case scenario based on thousands of computer model simulations. Use these maps to assess your risk of storm surge. If your area is highlighted, you are potentially vulnerable to the impacts from storm surge. Areas that are outside the impact area but close to the boundary should also be considered vulnerable to storm surge.

If you find that you live in an area at risk for storm surge, consider purchasing flood insurance. Homeowners and renters insurance policies do not cover flood damage. The only way to protect your property from the impacts of flooding is to purchase flood insurance for your home's structure and contents.

Not everyone needs to evacuate. Find out if you live in an area that could flood due to storm surge at www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stay-informed/hurricane/storm-surge.

FLOOD INSURANCE

All Virginians should understand the importance of flood insurance. Just one inch of water in a home or office can cause about $8,000 in cleanup costs, including replacing drywall, baseboards, floor coverings and furniture.

Talk to your insurance agent about purchasing structure and contents flood insurance for your property, and remember:

- There is usually a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins.
- Coverage is relatively inexpensive.
- Contents coverage helps renters and homeowners protect their personal belongings and business inventory.
- Structure and contents coverage helps home and business owners repair or rebuild homes and business facilities.
- You can receive flood insurance payments for flood-related losses even if no disaster is declared.
- Buying flood insurance is the best way to protect your home, your business and your family's financial security from the costs associated with flooding.

Information about the National Flood Insurance Program is available at www.FloodSmart.gov or by calling 1-800-427-2419.

WHAT ARE WATCHES AND WARNINGS?

Historically, Virginians have suffered significant damage and loss of life from tropical storms that made landfall in other states; the flooding and wind impacts from these storms can extend many miles inland.

The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June 1 to Nov. 30. Virginia's tropical storm activity is typically between August and late October.

TROPICAL STORM WATCH – A tropical storm watch is issued when tropical storm conditions, including winds from 39 to 73 mph, pose a possible threat to a specified area within 48 hours.

TROPICAL STORM WARNING – A tropical storm warning is issued when tropical storm conditions are expected to affect a specified area within 36 hours or less.

HURRICANE WATCH – A hurricane watch is issued for a specified area when hurricane conditions, including sustained winds of 74 mph or greater, are possible within 48 hours.

HURRICANE WARNING – A hurricane warning is issued for a specified area when hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. In coastal or near-coastal areas, a hurricane warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water, or a combination of dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves, continues, even though the winds may have subsided below hurricane intensity.

NOTE: The damage descriptions below pertain to the effects of wind only. Heavy rains, which can cause river flooding and flash flooding anywhere in Virginia, regardless of storm intensity.

TROPICAL STORM
Winds: 39-73 mph
Wind Effects: Scattered trees down, scattered power outages, some roads blocked due to downed trees and power lines. *For example, neighborhoods could lose power for several days.*

SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE

CATEGORY 1
Winds: 74-95 mph
Winds Effects: Damage to mobile and some frame-constructed homes. Numerous trees down and widespread power outages. Roads blocked due to downed trees and power lines. Loose outdoor items will become airborne projectiles. *For example, an area as large as a county could experience near total power loss.*

CATEGORY 2
Winds: 96-110 mph
Wind Effects: Severe damage to the majority of mobile and frame-constructed homes. Many trees down. Well-constructed homes will have damage to shingles, siding and gutters. Extensive damage to power lines and widespread power outages. Airborne debris could injure or kill. Damage could extend well inland. *For example, multiple localities could experience near total loss of power and water for several days or weeks.*

CATEGORY 3
Winds: 111-130 mph
Wind Effects: Nearly all mobile homes destroyed. Severe damage to most homes, including structural collapse. Airborne debris will injure or kill. Severe damage to most low-rise apartment buildings with partial roof and wall failure. Damage could extend well inland. *For example, large portions of the affected area could experience total power and water loss for more than a week.*

CATEGORY 4
Winds: 131- 155 mph
Wind Effects: Catastrophic damage to residential structures. Most of the affected area will be uninhabitable for weeks or longer. Nearly all industrial buildings and low-rise apartment buildings severely damaged or destroyed. Nearly all trees and power poles downed. Damage could extend well inland. *For example, large portions of the affected area will experience total power and water loss for weeks and possibly months.*

CATEGORY 5
Winds: 156+ mph
Wind Effects: Similar to Category 4.

MOTORISTS' GUIDELINES

The Commonwealth of Virginia has developed safety guidelines for Hampton Roads' bridges, tunnels and ferries. Wind speeds, storm surge, rain bands and other conditions at each bridge, tunnel and ferry are monitored constantly.

At the onset of tropical force winds of 39 mph, which are forecasted to intensify, bridge, tunnel and ferry personnel may secure the facility as appropriate and seek areas of safe refuge for their personal safety and to prepare for post-storm operations and recovery response.

Based on weather conditions, many bridges and tunnels may be physically closed to restrict their use; however, if a facility is not barricaded, gated or otherwise closed to vehicular traffic, this does not mean the bridge or tunnel is safe for passage. Motorists should consider their personal safety before using these facilities during severe inclement weather.

NOTE: The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) does not manage the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, which connects Virginia Beach to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel is not an evacuation route. For closure information, visit www.cbbt.com.

CLOSURES AND EVACUATIONS

If emergency officials order an evacuation, bridges and tunnels should remain passable until the evacuation is terminated. Weather conditions and wind thresholds will be constantly monitored. Local weather conditions may cause these facilities to become unsafe. **It is important for residents to be prepared and ready to evacuate immediately if instructed to do so.** Listen to local television and radio broadcasts for the latest evacuation and road closure information.

Road Closures and Traffic conditions are available by calling 511 or visiting www.511Virginia.org.

IF YOU NEED TO EVACUATE

EVACUATION ROUTES

You can use several routes to evacuate from the Hampton Roads area. Although Interstate 64 is the only route with a reversal plan, it is not the only way out of the area. Evacuees should become familiar with all of the designated evacuation routes and plan to leave early to avoid significant traffic delays.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has designated the following roads as evacuation routes:

- **U.S. Route 460 west**
- **U.S. Route 58 west**
- **State Route 10 west**
- **U.S. Route 17 north**
- **U.S. Route 60 west**
- **U.S. Route 13 north** *(north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel) The CBBT is not an evacuation route*.
- **Interstate 64**

On the following pages, this guide will explain how an I-64 lane reversal would work, though it is important to remember there are other evacuation routes.

INFORMATION DURING AN EVACUATION

Public radio station WCVE, along with other media outlets, will provide critical evacuation information to evacuees, including evacuation routes, traffic conditions and shelter locations.

The WCVE frequency depends on the evacuation route you use:

- 88.9 FM on I-64, between Williamsburg and Fluvanna County
- 89.1 FM on U.S. Route 17, on the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck
- 90.1 FM on U.S. Route 58, between South Hill and South Boston

The Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitor's Bureau has established a toll-free number motorists can call for assistance to find lodging in the Richmond area and beyond. That number is 800-370-9004 or 804-782-2777.

Call **511** for traffic information.

Call **211** for shelter information.

Know your risk. Only those residents at risk for storm surge flooding or who live in mobile homes may need to evacuate. Look at the storm surge map for your area (available at www.vaemergency.gov/alllinks/resources/government) to assess your risk, and listen to your local news for instructions.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU NEED TO EVACUATE

If emergency officials order an evacuation of your area, you must be ready to leave immediately. Decide now where you will go, what you will need to take with you and what route you will take.

Leave early. An evacuation will increase traffic on evacuation routes, and your trip will take longer than usual. Be prepared for delays. The sooner you leave, the sooner you will get to your destination and out of harm's way. You also will spend less time in traffic.

Consider local options.

- If you have nearby family or friends who live outside of storm surge areas, ask if you could stay with them.
- If you can, stay in a hotel or motel outside of storm surge areas, then there may not be a need to travel long distances. As a storm approaches, rooms may fill up fast, so make plans early.
- If you must stay in a public shelter, shelters on higher ground within the area may be open.

Prepare your home. Turn off electrical appliances and unplug what you can. Shut off water and gas if emergency officials instruct you to do so. (You will need a professional to turn water and gas back on.) Secure outdoor furniture or anything on your property that could become airborne during high winds.

Listen for local, up-to-date information. Emergency officials will provide information about open shelters through the local media. Shelters can fill quickly, and shelter information may change frequently. Shelter information will be available by calling 211.

Take your emergency supply kit. Public shelters provide basic necessities such as food, water and a small amount of space for your family to stay. Most shelters do not provide items such as cots, bedding or items for infants or those who have special medical/functional needs. Relief organizations may provide some of these items after the storm has passed, but you should be prepared to provide these supplies for your family until help arrives.

Plan now for your pets or service animal. Some emergency shelters, hotels and motels will only accept service animals. Talk to your veterinarian, local humane society or visit the Virginia State Animal Response Team website at **www.virginiasart.org** in advance to learn more about emergency planning for your pets, or plan to stay with family or friends or at a pet-friendly hotel. Have copies of your pets' immunization records available.

For detailed information about how to prepare your family for a disaster, visit **www.ReadyVirginia.gov**.

HAMPTON ROADS EVACUATION ROUTES

HURRICANE EVACUATION ROUTES **REFERENCE GUIDE**

64 WEST	264 WEST	664 SOUTH
13 NORTH	17 NORTH	58 WEST
60 WEST	460 WEST	10 WEST

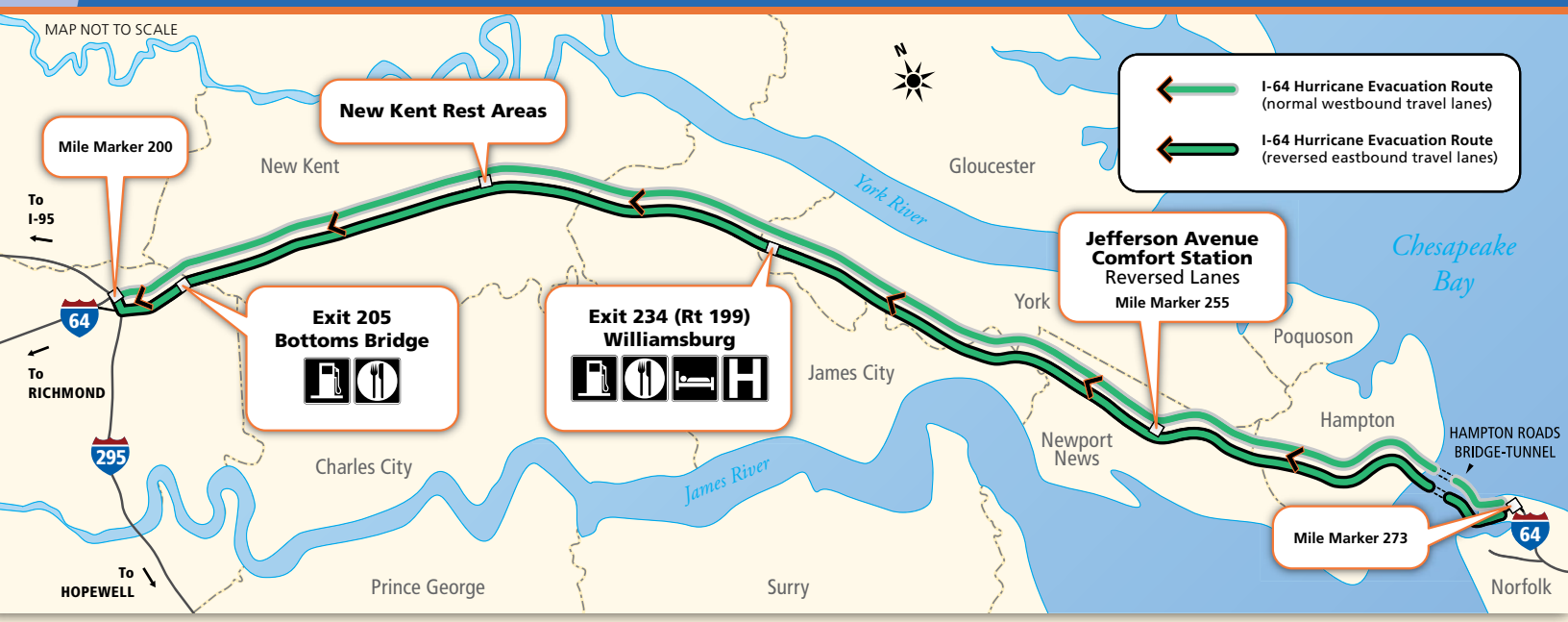
1. All Eastern Shore residents should use Route 13 Northbound toward Salisbury, Md.
2. Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel is **NOT** a designated Hurricane Evacuation Route
3. Entrance to I-64 reversed lanes
4. Northbound lanes of Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel will close at Exit 8 (College Drive) during an I-64 lane reversal

Direction of traffic

BE AWARE OF THESE SIGNS DURING AN EVACUATION

HURRICANE EVACUATION ROUTE

THE OPTION TO REVERSE LANES ON I-64



HOW A LANE REVERSAL WOULD WORK

While cities and counties may issue specific location evacuation orders, only the governor can order a lane reversal of I-64 for emergency purposes.

During a lane reversal, **all traffic will travel west** on I-64 from Norfolk to Richmond beginning east of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel in Norfolk (Exit 273) to the I-295 interchange in Richmond (Exit 200).

- All traffic entering I-64 at 4th View Street (Exit 273) will travel in the westbound lanes.
- All traffic entering I-64 west of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel will travel in the westbound lanes.
- Motorists traveling westbound on I-64 before 4th View Street will be directed onto the reversed lanes.

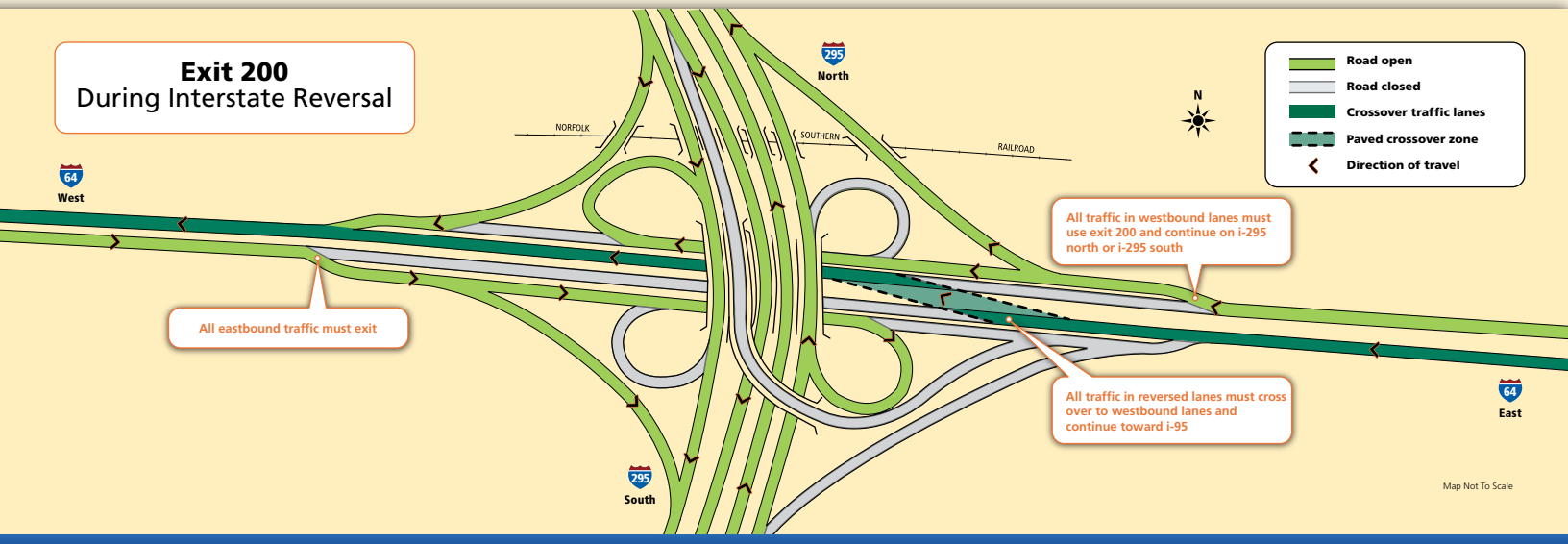
There are **only two possible exits from the reversed lanes** between Norfolk and I-295:

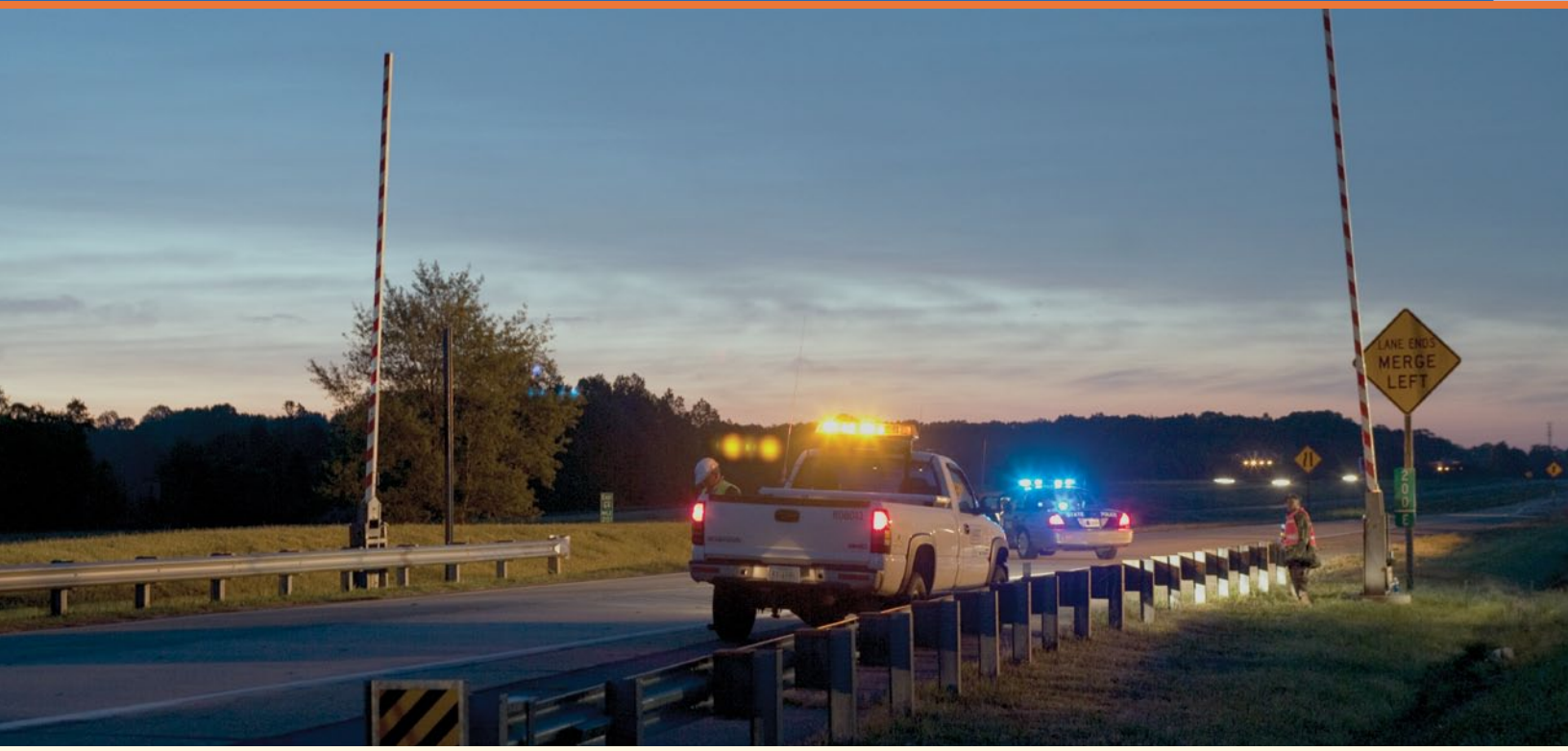
- Exit 234 in Williamsburg (Route 199) for gas, food, lodging and hospital.
- Exit 205 in Bottoms Bridge for gas and food.

Without exiting, motorists on the reversed lanes can access a temporary comfort station on I-64 near Jefferson Avenue (mile marker 255) and the rest areas in New Kent County.

Motorists exiting the reversed lanes at Exit 234 or Exit 205 cannot re-enter the reversed lanes. **Once motorists exit the reversed lanes, they can re-enter I-64 using only the westbound ramps**.

Motorists traveling in the I-64 west lanes can exit and enter the interstate as usual, though some entrance and exit ramps could be closed for traffic control.





EMERGENCY GATES

The gates along I-64 will be lowered in the event of an I-64 lane reversal. Gates were installed at both ends of each ramp to ensure complete inaccessibility when closed. VDOT, Virginia State Police and the Virginia Army National Guard will monitor each ramp.

EXITING THE LANE REVERSAL AT THE I-295 INTERCHANGE

- Motorists using the I-64 reversed lanes (normally eastbound) will cross over to the I-64 west lanes and continue west toward the I-95 Interchange (see Exit 200 illustration).
- Motorists using the I-64 west lanes must take Exit 200 and travel on I-295 north toward Fredericksburg and Northern Virginia or I-295 south toward Petersburg.

In the event of a hurricane or other disaster, the governor can order a lane reversal on I-64 to help evacuate Hampton Roads. Should this occur, all lanes on I-64 between Exit 273 and Exit 200 will carry westbound traffic.

During an I-64 lane reversal, emergency plans call for:

- VDOT Safety Service Patrols on I-64 to provide basic motorist assistance on the road, at rest areas and comfort stations.
- Tow trucks will standby along I-64 to move disabled vehicles from travel lanes to the grassy shoulder area. Shoulder lanes must remain clear for emergency vehicle use.
- Vans will standby to transport stranded motorists to the closest available shelter.
- Drinking water, restrooms and emergency information will be available at the New Kent County rest areas, at the Jefferson Avenue comfort station on I-64 (mile marker 255) and at the Suffolk weigh station on U.S. Route 58.

SPECIAL MEDICAL/FUNCTIONAL NEEDS INFORMATION

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

One of the most important things you can do is to create a support network. If you anticipate needing assistance during a disaster, talk to family, friends and others who will be part of your personal support team. Write down and share each aspect of your emergency plan with them.

- Make sure your plan includes bringing a support system (including service animals) or personal attendant with you if necessary.
- Practice ways of getting in touch with your support network. Have a backup plan if cell phones, computers or land lines don't work.
- Practice using different ways out of your home or building with people who agreed to be part of your network. Remember, elevators may not work AND should not be used.
- Wear medical alert tags or bracelets to help identify your disability.
- If you rely on dialysis or other life-sustaining treatment, know the location and availability of more than one facility.
- Know the size and weight of your wheelchair in case it has to be transported.
- Be familiar with the emergency plan for your office, school or any other location where you spend a lot of time. Make sure management at these sites knows your needs.
- Make a plan for your pet(s)/service animal if you have to evacuate your home. Some emergency shelters do not accept pets other than service animals. Service animals are allowed in hotels and American Red Cross shelters, but you will be responsible to care for them.

CONTACT LOCAL EMERGENCY OFFICIALS

Make sure your local emergency management office knows about your medical or functional needs ahead of time. A directory of local emergency managers is available at www.vaemergency.gov.

HAMPTON ROADS SPECIAL NEEDS

The Hampton Roads Medical Needs Registry helps local emergency managers plan to transport and care for those with special medical or functional needs during an emergency.

If you live in the Hampton Roads area, go to www.hrspecialneeds.org and fill out the Medical Needs Registry Form. To request a form by mail, to request an alternate format or for general information about the Hampton Roads Medical Needs Registry, call 757-420-8300 (Voice) / 757-390-2578 (TTY) or email specialneeds@hrpdcva.gov.

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT LIST

Below is a list of items to collect before a storm threat. Try to have enough supplies to last at least three days, but keep in mind that if you need to evacuate for a Category 3, 4 or 5 hurricane, you may not be able to return home for more than a week. It is a good idea for each person to have their supplies in an easy-to-carry bag, such as a backpack or gym bag.

Virginia has enacted a Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday to help encourage residents to assemble their emergency supplies. It is held annually during the last week in May.

PUT THESE ESSENTIALS IN YOUR KIT:

- Food that won't spoil, such as canned goods and packaged foods. Remember special dietary needs for those with medical or functional needs.
- Water, one gallon per person per day. Have extra water for those with functional or medical needs, children and nursing mothers.
- A working battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- A written family emergency plan for your family and/or your support system

ONCE YOU HAVE THE ESSENTIALS, ADD:

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- First-aid kit and extra contact lenses or glasses
- A written list of your prescriptions, allergies and prescribing doctor(s) and at least a week's supply of medications
- Sanitation supplies: toilet paper, soap, plastic garbage bags and personal hygiene items
- Change of clothing, sturdy shoes
- Blanket or sleeping bag, pillows, sheets
- Manual can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Whistle to signal for help
- Local maps
- Copies of important family documents, such as insurance policies, identification and bank account records, in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash in small denominations, traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material, such as a first-aid book
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper *(when diluted in water, bleach can be used to kill germs)*
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Paper cups, plates and plastic knives, forks and spoons, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children
- Baby formula, diapers, bottles, medications, etc.
- Those with medical or functional needs may need extra prescription medications and medical supplies (2-week supply), tools and/or extra batteries for their medical durable equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, communication devices, glasses, hearing aids etc.). Copies of important documents like medical records, health insurance cards, alert tags, contact information for their support system / personal attendants / doctors and prescriptions are important to remember.

DON'T FORGET TO GATHER SUPPLIES FOR YOUR PET OR SERVICE ANIMAL:

- Medications, immunization records and a first-aid kit
- Sturdy leashes, muzzles, harnesses
- Carriers or cages to transport pets safely. Carriers should be large enough for your pet to stand comfortably, turn around and lie down. Include blankets or towels for bedding and warmth.
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost
- Food, drinking water, bowls, cat litter/pan and can opener
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems and the name and number of your veterinarian
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable

Traditional, non-cordless telephones, also known as land lines, don't require electricity to operate. Keep one available in your home for use during power outages.

Visit www.ReadyVirginia.gov for more information about creating an emergency supply kit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The best source of emergency preparedness information for your community is your local emergency manager. Links to local emergency management office websites are available at www.vaemergency.gov/alllinks/resources/government.

Virginia Department of Transportation
www.VirginiaDOT.org/hurricanes
1-800-367-7623

Download a QR scanner app on your smartphone and take a picture of our QR code for more information from VDOT.

Traffic Info
Dial 511
www.511Virginia.org

Virginia Department of Emergency Management
www.vaemergency.gov
toll-free line 1-866-782-3470

American Red Cross
1-800-733-2767
www.redcross.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov

FEMA Hurricane Hazards Fact Sheet
www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane

FEMA Kids Page
www.fema.gov/kids

FEMA National Flood Insurance Program
1-888-CALL-FLOOD
1-800-638-6620
www.floodsmart.gov

Tips for preparing your family, business and animals for an emergency
www.ReadyVirginia.gov

YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency contact

Phone

Cell

Emergency contact

Phone

Cell

Neighborhood meeting place

Phone

Cell

Out-of-town meeting place

Phone

Cell

Ready Virginia

Ready Virginia is a statewide public education effort to prepare Virginians for all hazards. State agencies and nonprofit organizations active in disaster preparedness have collaborated to create educational materials and an interactive website to teach residents and businesses the basic steps toward preparedness:

Get a kit • Make a plan • Stay informed
www.ReadyVirginia.gov

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