



# 2017 Hurricane Tiered Evacuation Plan Overview

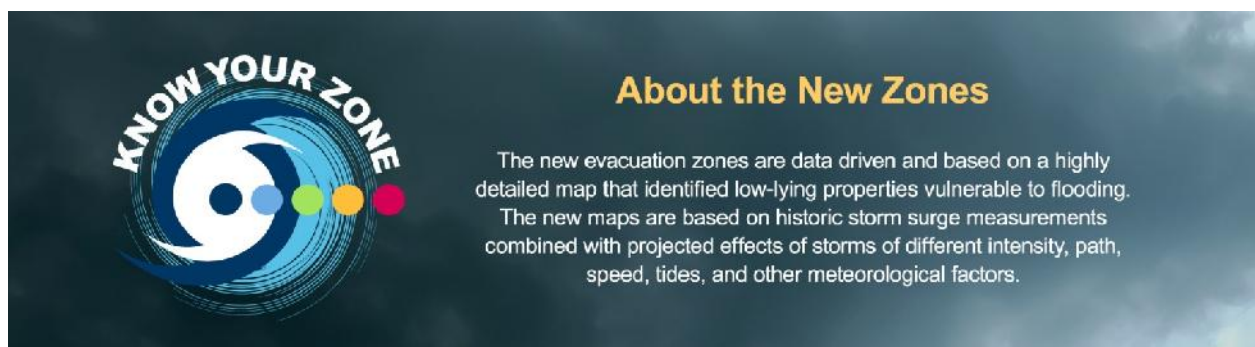
On June 1, 2017, at the beginning of the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, the Commonwealth of Virginia will unveil new hurricane evacuation zones for coastal Virginia designed to enhance current evacuation plans, boost public safety, and improve travel efficiency in the event of hurricanes or other disasters.

The new tiered zones, designated A through D, are designed to provide residents with precise and useful information about properties vulnerable to flooding during storms, and whether they should evacuate in an emergency, or shelter in place.

The new evacuation zones were developed by Atkins, a global engineering firm with deep experience designing hurricane evacuation plans for major metropolitan areas, in close cooperation with local emergency managers throughout coastal Virginia. The zones are based on the most up-to-date engineering data for the region.

The new zones take into account historic storm surge measurements, combined with projected effects of storms of different intensity, path, speed, tides, and other meteorological factors.

Avoiding unnecessary evacuation travel will reduce traffic congestion, promote highway safety, and lessen overcrowding at storm shelters. The new zones enhance the current evacuation plans and routes already designated in coastal Virginia.

A graphic for the "Know Your Zone" campaign. On the left is the "KNOW YOUR ZONE" logo. On the right, the text reads: "About the New Zones" in bold yellow font, followed by two paragraphs: "The new evacuation zones are data driven and based on a highly detailed map that identified low-lying properties vulnerable to flooding. The new maps are based on historic storm surge measurements combined with projected effects of storms of different intensity, path, speed, tides, and other meteorological factors." The background is a dark blue sky with clouds.

**KNOW YOUR ZONE**

**About the New Zones**

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## **The Know Your Zone campaign:**

Those who live or work in coastal Virginia must be aware of the new zones, and – in particular – the zone in which they live. Together with local emergency managers, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management has launched a public information campaign called “Know Your Zone”. The new tiered evacuation plan will be rolled out beginning June 1, and education and operational enhancements will continue throughout this hurricane season and into future years.

Residents of the region are urged to go online to an easy-to-use website to learn if they live in one of the new evacuation zones, and to keep the information handy to use in times of emergency. Similarly, those who work in the region should identify the zone in which their workplace is located.

The new evacuation zones can be viewed at [www.KnowYourZoneVA.org](http://www.KnowYourZoneVA.org).

On this web page, (which is part of [vaemergency.org](http://vaemergency.org)), Virginians can view a detailed, interactive map of the new evacuation zones. People can use the map to see the entire region or zoom-in to their neighborhoods. Visitors to the site also can enter their address in a search bar to see their designated evacuation zone.

Those without Internet access are urged to contact their local emergency managers or call 2-1-1. Local officials and emergency management professionals throughout the region have been actively involved in the new evacuation planning and can assist citizens in identifying their new evacuation zones.

Know Your Zone will serve residents in the following Virginia localities: cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach; counties of Accomack, Essex, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northampton, Northumberland, Richmond County, Surry, Westmoreland, York, and the Town of Chincoteague.

Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to storms with high winds, including hurricanes. Residents of mobile homes in the path of serious storms will be advised to evacuate even if they are not located in one of the new storm evacuation zones.

### **Know Your Zone enhances existing emergency communications procedures:**

When people know their evacuation zone, they are better prepared to act if there's an emergency. When a serious storm is expected to impact Virginia's coastal area, state and local emergency managers will work with local news media outlets that will broadcast and publish evacuation directives to the public.

The Know Your Zone campaign will be coordinated with public and media outreach, education for local emergency responders and citizens, and other tools to effectively inform residents about what to do in the event of a disaster.

### **Public safety is an ongoing commitment for everyone:**

Virginians are safer when they are prepared for emergencies. Know Your Zone is an important new tool to empower people to make good decisions based on the latest and best scientific and technical information. The Commonwealth is always working to improve emergency response plans for citizens, so educational and operational enhancements will continue throughout hurricane season and into future years.

For more information, visit [www.KnowYourZoneVA.org](http://www.KnowYourZoneVA.org), or call VDEM at (804)-897-6510.