

GLOUCESTER COUNTY



EMERGENCY INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENT # 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Thursday, October 1, 2015

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Christi Lewis - Emergency Public Information Officer
693-5730 or Emergency.Public.Info@gloucesterva.info

WEATHER SYSTEMS & HURRICANE JOAQUIN TO IMPACT AREA

Gloucester County emergency management officials are closely monitoring several weather systems threatening to impact our area over the next five days. Multiple weather patterns will bring heavy rain, flooding and winds. Current rainfall forecasts are predicting 12 inches of rain over the next seven days. Moderate to major coastal flooding is forecasted during high tide cycles. Tidal flooding is expected to be approximately 1 to 1 ½ feet higher than last weekend. In addition, 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 potential flooding and power outages. National Weather Service officials are categorizing this event as a “stay tuned” event as weather predictions and forecasts may change quickly. Residents are reminded that it is still too early to know exactly what this storm will do and a small change in track could have a significantly different impact.

County officials are preparing, if needed, to activate the Emergency Operations Center, open an emergency shelter, activate a phone helpline and recommend evacuation of low-lying and flood-prone areas.

It is highly recommended that residents in areas prone to flooding, those residing in mobile or manufactured homes and those currently in recreational campgrounds, take all precautions to secure their

properties. Those experiencing flooding in the past with tropical storm and hurricane-related events should make preliminary plans to evacuate, if needed, to friends or family outside the impacted area.

Residents are also encouraged to stock up on emergency supplies to include water and non-perishable foods for at least 3-5 days; speciality items for children, elderly, special needs and pets; a first-aid kit and essential medications, a battery-powered radio, flashlights and extra batteries; a full tank of gas; and extra cash.

Local emergency services officials will continue to monitor the progress of the storm and potential impact to our area and provide storm updates and emergency announcements. Residents are encouraged to monitor the storm and listen to local radio and television stations for official bulletins and information. Preparedness information may be found on the Gloucester County website at www.gloucesterva.info.

Please do not call 911 or the Sheriff's Office for storm information, as these lines are needed for actual emergencies. An emergency phone helpline will be activated if needed to provide local emergency information and special instructions.

End of Announcement