



Department of Community Engagement and Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Recognizing Flood Awareness Week - Gloucester Residents Enjoy Discounted Flood Insurance Rates

Gloucester residents currently enjoy a 20-percent discount on National Flood Insurance Plan policies thanks to the County's efforts in the Community Rating System (CRS). A major part of the ability of residents to have discounted rates is by encouraging them to be prepared before a flood event occurs. This is especially important during Virginia Flood Awareness Week, which is recognized March 14-18.

"First and foremost, it is extremely important for folks to determine the flood zone they reside in," said George Bains, Gloucester's Deputy County Administrator. This can be done easily by visiting www.vaemergency.gov and inputting your address into the interactive map. "This way, when an evacuation is ordered based on these zones, you will know if you need to take the steps to leave your residence," Bains added.

Next, it is extremely important to make sure you have a flood insurance policy, even if you're outside of the FEMA flood zone. "Floodwaters do not care where FEMA draws a line," Bains said. "And low-cost policies are available for homes outside of the 1% annual chance floodplain."

Other steps residents can take to mitigate loss in the event flooding occurs is to keep ditches and stormwater features clean for free-flowing rainwater and receding storm surges; keep important documents and other personal information in a watertight container in a safe location; obtain a building permit before you build to ensure you are building in a proper zone and spread the word to family and neighbors about flood prevention.

"The efforts of Gloucester County staff and its Floodplain Management Committee have qualified residents for these insurance discounts," Bains added. "But the ultimate goal in getting this information out there is to keep our residents and their properties as safe as possible during flooding events and severe weather." For more information about flooding in Gloucester County, visit <https://www.gloucesterva.info/422/Flood-Information>.

Prepare Now for Flooding



- Determine your flood zone by calling 804-693-2744.
- Turn around. Don't drown!
- Keep your insurance documents and other personal information in a watertight container.
- Obtain building permits before you build. Call 804-693-2744.
- Keep your ditches and storm water features clean for free-flowing rainwater and receding storm surges.
- Floodwaters do not care where FEMA draws a line. Low-cost policies are available for homes outside the 1% floodplain.
- Know your evacuation zone! Go to vaemergency.gov to determine your evacuation zone.
- Gloucester has many endangered plants and animals that depend on the flood zone. Preserve the floodplain's natural features and keep our Bay clean to protect our remaining native species.
- Spread the word to your family and neighbors, as we should all protect our community from physical and financial devastation by insuring our risks.

