



For Immediate Release  
August 27, 2011

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393-5000

### **City of Portsmouth Updates- Hurricane Irene**

The City of Portsmouth's Emergency Operations Center is fully operational. Residents with questions or concerns in reference to Hurricane Irene should call the Emergency Operations Center at 393-5000.

The Virginia Department of Transportation reports the closing of the Midtown Tunnel at 10 a.m. due to high winds and tides. The Downtown Tunnel currently remains open.

The City of Portsmouth urges residents to stay off of roads, bridges, and overpasses due to the increased winds and rain that the city is currently experiencing.

There are reports of downed power lines and outages at various areas in the city.

Four City of Portsmouth Shelters are open as follows and are receiving City of Portsmouth residents:

Churchland Middle School, 4051 River Shore Road.  
Cradock Middle School, 21 Alden Avenue  
Churchland Primary Elementary School, 5700 Hedgerow Lane  
Hodges Manor Elementary School, 1201 Cherokee Road

A mandatory evacuation remains in effect for the following communities: Swimming Point Walk, Olde Towne, Southside, Southside Gardens, North Side of Cradock (north of Afton Parkway), Afton Commons, Afton Village, Marsh Landing, and Westhaven (West of Caroline Avenue). City officials will continue to monitor the weather patterns and the ongoing conditions as the storm draws closer.

City of Portsmouth residents may park their vehicles at no charge on the 2nd floor and above in the following parking garages: Middle Street, County Street, Water Street, or Harbor Court. Vehicles may not park in spaces marked 24-Hour Reserved. If weather conditions permit, citizens are requested to remove their vehicles from the garages by 6 a.m. Monday morning, August 29<sup>th</sup> or as soon as the flooding subsides.

Emergency preparedness information is available on the city's website at: [www.portsmouthva.gov](http://www.portsmouthva.gov) or residents may call the Emergency Operations Center at 393-5000.

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