



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Portsmouth Officials Issue Mandatory Evacuation

Portsmouth, VA – In preparation of the severe weather conditions by Hurricane Irene, the City of Portsmouth has declared a local declaration of emergency.

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

Churchland Middle School will open at 7pm Friday, August 26, 2011 as a shelter facility and Craddock Middle School will open at 8am on Saturday. Stay tuned to local media outlets for additional information.

The City also recommends that all Portsmouth residents:

- Discuss your family's plans for disaster.
- Have an emergency supply kit of food, medications, water, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio, flashlights, batteries, sleeping bags, blankets, etc.
- Identify an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as a family contact. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address and phone number of the family contact.
- Make provisions for pets in case of evacuation, as they may not be allowed in public shelters.
- Identify alternative shelters, such as the homes of other family members or friends.
- Listen to local radio and television stations for the most up-to-date information.



Emergency preparedness information is available on the city's website at: www.portsmouthva.gov or call (757) 393-5000, or visit www.portsmouthva.gov for online assistance.

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