



Portsmouth Fire Department
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Portsmouth Residents Encouraged to Prepare for Hurricane Season - Atlantic Hurricane Season – June 1st through November 30th -

(Portsmouth, VA)—The City of Portsmouth’s Office of Emergency Management reminds citizens to prepare for hurricane season - June 1st through November 30th.

Weather emergencies and disasters can strike anytime and anywhere. They can happen quickly and without warning, and advance preparations can positively impact survival. Citizens must understand what a disaster could mean for them, individually. Each person's needs and abilities are different, but every individual can take important steps to prepare for all kinds of emergencies and to put plans in place.

This is the time for all of our citizens to know their vulnerabilities and to prepare for the upcoming season. “We never know where the next hurricane or disaster will strike, but what we do know is that being prepared can make a world of difference for individuals and their communities,” said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate.

“Having a personal hurricane preparedness and response plan is not just for those living along the coast. Inland areas are just as vulnerable to the effects from hurricanes, including damaging winds, tornadoes, and especially flooding,” said Bill Read, Director of the NOAA National Hurricane Center.

In order to help Virginians purchase essential hurricane preparedness items, Governor Bob McDonnell has declared **May 25-31, 2011 as Virginia’s Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday**. Approved preparedness items purchased during this time are exempt from Virginia State sales tax.

The safety of citizens and their families begins at home: Know your Risk, Get a Kit, Make a Plan, and Stay Informed. The Portsmouth Office of Emergency Management is available to assist individuals, businesses, and the community at large with identifying their vulnerability and emergency preparedness needs. For more information about emergency preparedness, visit the Portsmouth Emergency Management website at: www.portsmouthva.gov/eoc , or call, 393-8338.

For preparedness tips, please visit: www.ReadyVirginia.gov and www.vaemergency.com

For a fun and interactive way to help your family prepare for hurricane season, please visit: www.greathurricaneblowout.org

For a list of tax exempt preparedness items, please visit:
<http://www.readyvirginia.gov/images/SalesTaxFlyer.pdf>

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