

“Know Your Zone”

Serves roughly 1.25 million residents who live in Coastal Virginia, the region of the state most vulnerable to hurricanes and other tropical storms. Twenty-three localities participate in the tiered evacuation zones. Zones were developed in close coordination with local emergency managers throughout Hampton Roads, the Northern Neck, the Middle Peninsula and the Eastern Shore based on the most up-to-date engineering data for the region.

Zones are designated A through D. Zones provide residents with clarity on whether they should evacuate in an emergency or shelter at home, based on their physical street address and the nature of the emergency event. When a serious storm is expected to threaten or impact Virginia’s coastal regions, state and local emergency agencies will work with local news media outlets, as well as social media channels, that will then broadcast and publish evacuation directives to the public.

This website displays a detailed, interactive, color-coded map showing each evacuation zone. Residents can use the map to view their region or zoom in to their residential neighborhood and street. Users can enter their physical address in the search bar to view and confirm their designated evacuation zone.

Alternatively, you can download the official guide in PDF: [Hurricane Evacuation Guide \(PDF\)](#)

Live outside of Coastal Virginia? [Hurricane information for the Commonwealth.](#)

What are the Zones?

Evacuation zones designated A through D are in place across coastal Virginia. In the event of a storm or other emergency, residents of one or more zones may be directed to evacuate depending on tides, storm intensity, path, and other factors.

How are the zones used?
All you have to do is Know Your Zone.

When a storm is approaching, emergency managers will determine which zones are most at risk considering the intensity, path, speed, tides and other meteorological factors. Emergency managers at the state and local level will work with local media and use social media and other tools to notify residents of impacted zones what they should do to stay safe.

Depending on the emergency, being safe might mean staying at home, a short trip to higher ground, or traveling to a different region of the state.

What part of Virginia is covered by the tiered evacuation zones?
The zones will serve Hampton Roads, the Middle Peninsula, Eastern Shore and Northern Neck.

Twenty-three localities participate in the program. They include the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach; counties of Accomack, Essex, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northampton,



Northumberland, Richmond County, Surry, Westmoreland, York, and the town of Chincoteague.

How will the zones enhance current evacuation plans?

The tiered evacuation zones identify areas vulnerable to flooding with precision that was not available until 2017. The newest technology and data allows emergency managers to tell residents of coastal Virginia more clearly whether they need to evacuate or shelter at home during a storm or other emergency.

The program consolidates hundreds of complex local evacuation areas into easy-to-understand zones; making it much easier to communicate with residents as a storm approaches.

The zones help citizens avoid unnecessary evacuation travel, thereby reducing highway congestion, easing overcrowding at local storm shelters and boosting public safety.