

CITY OF CRISFIELD

HURRICANE FLORENCE

PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICE #1

NOTE: THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED PRIOR TO THE LATEST COUNTY UPDATE WHICH INDICATES A GREATLY-REDUCED THREAT FROM THE HURRICANE. HOWEVER, WE WANTED TO SHARE IT FOR THE INFORMATION IT CONTAINS, MUCH OF WHICH IS ALWAYS RELEVANT.

THIS CORRESPONDANCE IS DESIGNED TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AS TO INFORMATION PERTAINING TO HURRICANE FLORENCE AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF CRISFIELD. PLEASE KEEP IT HANDY FOR EASY REFERENCE. OTHER NOTICES MAY BE ISSUED AS CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT.

- **As of 11:00 am on September 12, 2018 Hurricane Florence was following a course that indicates landfall will occur along the North Carolina coast in the next few days. Although it appears we will escape the brunt of the storm, Governor Hogan has declared a State of Emergency for Maryland and all citizens are encouraged to stay alert as to the storm's progress and be prepared for any contingency.**
- **The City is in constant contact with Somerset County Emergency Services and is prepared to participate in any county-wide storm response, including evacuation from flood-prone areas.**
- **Your City government has met with all State and county emergency service providers, the Crisfield Volunteer Fire Company, McCready Health, the Crisfield Housing Authority and all City department heads to assure that plans are in place for every contingency.**
- **In anticipation of widespread flooding, the City has made the Carvel Hall property available for temporary parking of vehicles and heavy equipment. Personal property left at Carvel Hall is at the public's risk as the City claims no responsibility for its safe-keeping. Please avoid parking in the areas designated as "No Parking".**
- **If anyone has special needs for health related transportation, the Crisfield Police Department will work with the Housing Authority and the Fire Department to pick you up and return you to your home. This service should be used only in essential circumstances in order to keep our staff available for emergencies.**
- **Sand is available to the public for packing your own sand bags at the Crisfield High School. City Hall has a quantity of empty sand bags for public distribution with a first-time limit of 5 bags per property. We have requested additional sand and bags and will make their availability known as soon as we have them.**

- Please secure all outside furniture, lawn ornaments, advertising signs, trash containers or anything that might be subject to washing away. Any property containing garbage bins or dumpsters should make sure that they are securely covered to prevent trash from blowing away.
- During heavy rain and flooding, flow of wastewater (sewage) will be diminished through the City sewer system. Please use restraint and common sense in your use of plumbing fixtures.
- We intend to close streets when circumstances require it. **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED STREETS.** We know that half of flood-related fatalities occur in vehicles. Additionally, driving through flooded streets creates wave action that only increases the damage to property. City police have been directed to respond aggressively to irresponsible joy-riding through flooded areas. Please be thoughtful of your neighbors, stay home and stay safe.
- If you notice downed trees, branches and/or power lines in the City streets, **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THEM YOURSELF.** Please call City Hall and they will send the proper crews to respond.
- While there are no plans at present for any evacuations other than from Smith Island, in the event an evacuation is necessary, you will be advised as to how to proceed. As in any emergency, call 9-1-1 for help. **The following information was received this morning from the county Emergency Operations Center:**
Princess Anne, MD - Somerset County Emergency Services is closely monitoring Hurricane Florence on a 24 hour a day basis. While the hurricane is not an immediate threat, it is important for all residents and visitors to prepare as severe weather conditions could impact Somerset County later this week.
- The President of the Somerset County Commissioners is recommending an evacuation of Smith Island (Zone A-1) tomorrow Wednesday September 12th. The Coast Guard will be at the Tylerton dock at 12:30pm departing for Crisfield at 1:30pm. DNR will be at Ewell at 12:30pm to pick up the residents that are evacuating.
- Zone A-2 could experience widespread flooding. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the main land Zone A, evacuation orders will be disseminated through the CodeRed system by a call to the resident phone numbers we have on file. This CodeRed call will start with an introduction saying "This is Somerset County Emergency Services", please listen to the entire call for important public messaging about evacuations. Local radio and television stations will be used to broadcast messages to our community. Finally, our official social media page will have messaging. See Somerset County Emergency Services on facebook for the latest accurate updates. Be sure your information is coming from an official and reliable source as gossip, rumors and just plain false information can cause confusion, panic and might even put you in harms' way.
- If you are not sure what zone your home or business is in go to www.knowyourzonemd.com enter the address and it will identify your zone for you.
- If you have any specific concerns or questions you can call Emergency Services at 410-651-3457. If your call is forwarded to voice mail please leave a message and it will be returned.

- For valuable information on hurricane preparedness and to follow the progress of the storm visit www.crisfieldpd.com. For general questions or for additional information, please call Crisfield City Hall at 410.968.1333. We will update the public via traditional media resources as well as through social media as necessary.
- Mayor Barry Dize has directed that any official communication to and from the City of Crisfield shall be directed through the city manager's office. On behalf of the Mayor & City Council, I wish you safe conduct through the coming storm. Do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of help. God bless.

RICK POLLITT

CITY MANAGER