

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **UPDATE**

SUFFOLK, VA (September 12, 2018) Due to the change in the track of Hurricane Florence and the downgrade of the impact to the City of Suffolk at this time, City Manager Patrick Roberts announced this afternoon that the King's Fork High School emergency shelter, located at 351 Kings Fork Road, will open as originally planned this evening, Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 p.m., however, the Nansemond River High School emergency shelter will not be opening at this time unless there is a need based on the current weather forecast.

We will make further determinations related to the status of emergency shelters moving forward on Thursday afternoon.

Should citizens have questions as it relates to the emergency shelter or if they need to make accommodations for a pet since the King's Fork High School emergency shelter is not pet-friendly, please contact the Suffolk Police Department non-emergency number at 923-2350. As a reminder, there are no pet drop-offs permitted at emergency shelters, and citizens would need to remain at the shelter during the entire timeframe their pet is being accommodated.

**GOVERNOR ISSUES EVACUATIONS IN ADVANCE OF**

## HURRICANE FLORENCE IMPACT

SUFFOLK, VA (September 10, 2018) Governor Ralph Northam issued mandatory evacuations for residents in Zone A and all mobile park homes in his press conference this evening. Citizens are reminded to seek shelter first with friends or family nearby in Zone C or D. If you are unsure of your zone, visit [www.KnowYourZoneVA.org](http://www.KnowYourZoneVA.org) to learn more.

If you must leave, it is recommended that you travel north. As a last resort, the following emergency shelters in Suffolk will open at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>:

- King's Fork High School, 351 Kings Fork Road (ADA compliant, fully generator powered for citizens who are medically dependent on electricity)
- Nansemond River High School, 3301 Nansemond Parkway (ADA compliant, pet-friendly, generator power for emergency lighting and to support the kitchen freezers only).

The City of Suffolk utilizes several methods to keep our citizens informed in emergencies, including Suffolk On the Alert, a free emergency and non-emergency notification system that sends email updates on important information to residents. To create a Suffolk on the Alert account, visit <https://suffolk.onthealert.com>. You can also follow the City of Suffolk on Facebook @suffolkva and Twitter @CityofSuffolk for updates.

As previously noted, emergency shelters should be considered a means of last resort once all other safe options have been exhausted.

Important information regarding rules, what to bring, prohibited items and more are noted below:

### ***Evacuation Shelter Rules***

- You must sign in before being officially admitted into any shelter
- "Shelter hopping" is not permitted
- You are responsible for your belongings. Valuables should always be locked in your car or kept with you. The shelter is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items
- Parents are responsible for controlling the actions of and knowing the whereabouts of their children. Children should not be left unattended.
- If you have a medical condition or are taking medications, please notify the shelter registrar for referral to the nurse.
- Noise levels should be kept at a minimum during all hours of the day. Quiet hours are observed between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- Please do your best to keep the shelter as neat and orderly possible.

### ***What to Bring to a Shelter***

Be sure to bring enough supplies to last at least five days (increased from three days for this event) for each family member.

- bottled water
- manual can opener and cooler
- portable flashlight and batteries
- folding chairs
- cot/sleeping bag/blanket and pillow
- first aid kit and any medications
- ID, car keys, credit cards and cash
- photocopies of important papers (i.e. insurance policies)
- canned/package food
- disposable plates, cups, utensils, etc.
- battery powered radio, TV
- change of comfortable clothing and shoes
- quiet games, toys, books, cards

- toiletries, glasses/contacts, hearing aids and dentures
- special-diet foods
- baby supplies (i.e. food/formula, diapers, etc.)

### ***Prohibited Items***

- alcohol, drugs, other illegal substances
- pets (except assistance dogs)
- loud radios or televisions
- smoking, matches, lighters
- weapons of any kind (guns, knives, chains, etc.)

### ***When to consider going to a shelter***

- You live in an evacuation zone where there likely will be flooding
- You live in a mobile home or trailer
- You know your building is unsafe and you cannot repair it before the storm
- You use life-support equipment that requires electricity

If none of these conditions apply to you, you should think about staying put and fortifying your home, something experts call "sheltering in place." However, if your house is not prepared and fortified or windows or doors are not properly covered, even the weaker winds at the perimeter of a hurricane can cause serious damage.

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