

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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FEMA TO OPEN DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER IN SUFFOLK

SUFFOLK, VA (November 22, 2016) The City of Suffolk learned Friday evening that it had been added to the list of other Hampton Roads cities that had already been included in the Federal Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance (IA) related to damage suffered from Hurricane Matthew.

The designation came following the submission of additional information as part of the appeals process based on citizen and business reported damages to the Planning & Community Development Department. The City of Suffolk had previously been designated for Public Assistance (PA) funding for the repair of critical infrastructure to include roadways, bridges, etc.

FEMA has advised that they will be opening a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at the East Suffolk Recreation Center, located at 138 S. 6th Street, on Monday, November 28th to help affected residents and businesses register in person. The center will initially be open 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. until further notice. Staff at the recovery centers can check individuals' cases, answer questions about claims, or review information needed to process their claims. Specialists from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and VDEM staff will be at each location.

The Individual Assistance (IA) programs made available to communities through the disaster declaration provide several forms of recovery assistance for individuals and households. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Even if damages have already been reported to Planning & Community Development, residents and businesses must apply for Federal assistance aid directly with FEMA. In addition to the ability to register in person at the Disaster Recovery Center, there are three additional ways to register:

- Call toll-free at (800) 621-FEMA (3362) or TTY (800) 462-7585. The telephone lines are staffed daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. EDT until further notice. Help is available in almost any language.
- Register on your computer at <http://www.disasterassistance.gov/>
- Register your smartphone at m.fema.gov

To learn more about the aid available and to apply for assistance visit FEMA's website at: www.disasterassistance.gov.

To find out more about how a DRC operates, go to: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster-recovery-centers>

Additional information about this disaster is available at www.fema.gov and www.vaemergency.gov.

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