

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2016



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FEMA NOW REQUESTING SUFFOLK CITIZENS REGISTER THEIR HURRICANE MATTHEW DAMAGES

SUFFOLK, Virginia (November 7, 2016) – The Suffolk Department of Emergency Management received notification earlier this evening that the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) is now requesting that citizens who suffered damage from Hurricane Matthew call FEMA and register.

FEMA will be examining how many residents from Suffolk have registered and will use this as part of their evaluation to determine if Suffolk should receive an Individual Assistance (IA) declaration which was initially denied late last week.

City staff will be reaching out to those individuals that have previously contacted Planning & Community Development and that have been working with Social Services in order to make them aware of this latest development so that they can register their damages.

Deputy Fire Chief Brian Spicer, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Suffolk, continues to urge citizens who experienced any damages as a result of Hurricane Matthew to immediately contact Planning & Community Development at 757-514-4150 so that their impact can also be included in the appeals process. He previously noted, "If we are not made aware of these damages, our submission figures aren't complete and may have a bearing on future determinations." The City must submit information for the appeals process by Wednesday, November 9, 2016.

As it relates to contacting FEMA, citizens who experienced any damages as a result of Hurricane Matthew are instructed to call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY users may call 1-800-462-7585. The phone lines are staffed daily from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. EDT until further notice. Citizens should NOT use the web (www.disasterassistance.gov) to register as FEMA's system will not recognize Citizens from Suffolk since we are not currently part of the IA declaration. Citizens do not need to visit a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC).

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