

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2011



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UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 28, 2011) The following is a list of recent road openings and closures:

- The Police Department advises the right and center lanes of eastbound Portsmouth Boulevard (in the 1900 block) are clear now.
- Freeman Mill Road between Mineral Springs Road and Route 13 (south end) is closed, due to downed trees and downed power lines.
- West Riverview Drive is closed due to downed trees.
- Leafwood Road has restricted access in both directions, due to a downed tree blocking one lane.
- The downed tree at Brittle Tree is not affecting traffic flow at this time.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 28, 2011) The Division of Public Utilities reports that they will have filling stations set up in two locations, for those who wish to bring clean jugs. Potable water will be dispensed at Lakeland High School and at the

Suffolk Airport's main gate. The stations will be open today, August 28th, from 1-6 p.m., and beginning Monday, August 29th at 8:30 a.m.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 28, 2011) All emergency shelter guests have returned home. All emergency shelters were deactivated at 9:30 a.m.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 28, 2011) Evaluation and recovery plans are underway in the City of Suffolk. All critical departments have developed operational plans to implement as recovery begins. All plans make public safety the primary concern.

Public Works will begin assessment and evaluation of roadway conditions, debris amounts and removal, and drainage structures and bridges and culverts.

The following is a list of major road closures and affected corridors:

Old Myrtle Rd -Trees blocking roadway / flooding

E Washington St -Several locations – flooding, downed power lines and trees

Holland Rd corridor -Flooding

Whaleyville corridor -Flooding

Sleepy Hole Rd/ Bennett's Pasture Rd -Trees / power lines down.

800 block Wilroy Rd -Bridge flooded one lane passable

E Constance Rd/Kingsboro St -Downed power lines/ impassible

1100 Whitemarsh Rd -Damaged roadway due to washout

164 / College Dr westbound -Poles & wires down across two lanes

Note: Many secondary roads closed due to downed trees and high water not listed on this report but can be viewed on the City's website.

Majority of trees cleared by Public Works were on Rt. 58. The public is asked to call Public Works at 757-514-7630 to report issues regarding debris.

Public Utilities will concentrate efforts on the numerous pumping stations without power or experiencing high water levels.

Stand down plans are underway for all Emergency Shelters. Shelter Managers will begin coordinating with citizens to have shelters deactivated by 3:00 Sunday.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 28, 2011) As a reminder, a Curfew is in effect until 8:00 a.m. for the entire City of Suffolk due to unsafe road conditions throughout the City.

This order does not apply to regular members of law enforcement bodies. Regular employees of local industries, while traveling to and from their jobs, are exempt, provided they have identification if stopped by any law enforcement personnel. Violators of the curfew may be subject to fines or imprisonment.

The following is a list of road closure updates:

S. 6th St/E. Washington St.
Finney St./Moore Ave. (restricted)
1900 block Carolina Rd. (restricted)
Pitchkettle/Meade Parkway (restricted)
430 block Wedgewood Dr.
1400 block Holland Rd.
4800 block Gardner Lane
E. Washington/County St.
Airport Rd./Carolina Rd. (restricted)
Sleepy Hole/Bennett's Pasture Rd.
500 and 700 block Lummis Rd.
Sleepy Hole/Sandy Lakes (restricted)
8800 block Adams Dr.
Rt. 189/Old S. Quay
4900 block Nansemond Parkway (restricted)
Rt. 58/Pruden Blvd. (westbound restricted)
17/Shoulder's Hill Rd. (northbound restricted)
Indian Trail/King's Fork Rd.
800 block Liberty Springs Rd.
S. Quay/Brentwood (restricted)
5100 block Holy Neck Rd.
3800 block Whaleyville Blvd.
1300 block Holland Rd.
Arthur Dr/Pittmantown Rd.
O'Kelly near Quaker
6600 block Whaleyville Blvd (southbound restricted)
Fayette St at Cedar and S. Main
300 block Pioneer
Wilroy/E. Constance Rd.
Wilroy/Jotom
100 block Roundtree Crescent

Main St/Market St.

Roundtree Crescent between Greenway and Whaleyville Blvd.

Bosley between Smith and Gittings

Moore past Finney (restricted)

3000 block Holland Rd. (westbound restricted)

Smith/Bosley

Whaleyville Blvd/Herman Ct.

3800 block Whaleyville Blvd.

2400 block E. Washington St.

W. Riverview/Darden Lane

800 block Wilroy Rd.

Wilroy Rd./Progress Rd (restricted)

County St/Spruce St

Holland Rd./Manning Bridge Rd. (restricted)

1100 block White Marsh Rd.

900 block Murphy's Mill Rd.

Rt 164/College Dr. (westbound)

200 block Locust St.

4300 block Sleepy Hole Rd (southbound)

400 block Pinner St. (northbound)

2200 block Wilroy Rd.

Park Rd./Maryland Ave.

4900 & 5300 block Mineral Springs Rd.

900 & 1200 block Murphy's Mill Rd.

S. Broad/Virginia Ave.

Locust St.

2700-2800 Godwin Blvd.

4800 block Gardner Lane

8000 block Clubhouse Dr. (restricted)

N. Main St/Godwin Blvd.

E. Pinner/Finney

Shoulder's Hill/Nansemond Parkway
Arthur Dr. near Boone Town
Sleepy Hole Rd. at River Breeze
County St. at Culloden St.
600 block County St
400 block East Pinner (restricted)
2200 block King's Highway
300 block Beech St (restricted)
3700 block Indian Trail
Great Fork between Little Fork & Mineral Springs Rd.
Holland at underpass from downtown Holland
900 block Dutch Rd.
4200 block Arthur Drive
200 block Little Fork Rd.
2600 block Manning Rd.
100 block Greenfield Cres.
Constance/Kingsboro
2600 block Manning Bridge Rd.
Liberty/E. Washington St.
5700 block Old Myrtle Rd.
7500 block Indian Trail

Many tunnels remain closed. Contact VDOT at 511 for updates.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 27, 2011) Flooding, downed trees, poles and power lines across many of our roadways continue to be a major problem throughout the City.

Weather conditions are slowly improving, with wind speeds dropping and recent gusts recorded at 35 mph. Rainfall amounts across the City range from 4.77" to 8". There is a chance of isolated showers until noon tomorrow, with weather clearing to aid in clean-up efforts.

Teams from the City's Public Works and Public Utilities Departments will be out in the early morning hours to assess storm damages. Citizens can call 757-514-7630 tomorrow morning after 8:30 a.m. to report issues regarding storm debris.

Suffolk Emergency Dispatchers have responded to more than 377 calls for service throughout this severe weather incident. The public continues to be assisted with calls for general information at the Emergency Operations Center at 757-514-4100.

Emergency Shelters at this report have 42 residents at King's Fork High School, 41 at Lakeland High School, and 50 at Nansemond River High School.

Transportation issues will be assessed tomorrow contingent on road conditions with shelters closing by 3:00 p.m.

Citizens are again reminded of the curfew for the entire City of Suffolk between the hours of 8:00p.m. Saturday evening and 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 27, 2011) City of Suffolk public safety officials continue to receive reports of trees, poles and power lines across many of our roadways.

Due to unsafe road conditions throughout the City, Suffolk City Manager Selena Cuffee-Glenn has signed a Declared State of Local Emergency Declaration, which imposes a Curfew for the entire City of Suffolk between the hours of 8:00p.m. Saturday evening and 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

This order does not apply to regular members of law enforcement bodies. Regular employees of local industries, while traveling to and from their jobs, are exempt, provided they have identification if stopped by any law enforcement personnel. Violators of the curfew may be subject to fines or imprisonment.

Dominion Power will not be responding to any issues until after the storm passes. Of the 35,762 customers they serve in Suffolk, 20,759 customers are without power at this time.

The public information telephone number has been changed to 757-514-4100 for the Emergency Operations Center.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 27, 2011) City of Suffolk public safety officials continue to receive calls regarding trees blocking roadways and falling on houses.

The latest incidents include a tree falling through homes in the 1000 block of Delaware Avenue and the 2200 block of White Marsh Road. The White Marsh Road area in the 1100 block is also experiencing issues as the roadway is starting to deteriorate.

A roof has been blown off a house in the 1900 block of King's Fork Road.

Trees and downed wires are completely blocking the road in the 2200 block of Wilroy Road near Progress Road. The 2300 block of King's Highway is completely obstructed by fallen trees.

The number of citizens who have relocated to emergency shelters have risen due to residents of damaged homes relocating.

Dominion Power advises that 17,700 accounts are currently without power in the Suffolk area.

The public information telephone number has been changed to 757-514-4100 for the Emergency Operations Center.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 27, 2011) The Nansemond River and its tributaries are expected to reach record levels at high tide this evening at 8:30 p.m. The storm surge will rapidly increase water levels 3 to 5 feet, and then decrease just as rapidly. This situation will have a major impact at the Kimberly Bridge on North Main Street.

Winds will continue at 50 to 60 mph, with higher gusts possible until 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning. It is anticipated that winds will die down to 30 to 40 mph after that time. Winds in certain areas of Suffolk have been somewhat buffered by the Great Dismal Swamp.

The Suffolk Police Department advise there are a number of abandoned vehicles in roadways where drivers have attempted to drive through flooded areas and have left their vehicles. Citizens are again encouraged to refrain from driving, as many areas are flooded and impassable. Further, there have been reports of deaths in Virginia and North Carolina from fallen trees, some of which have fallen on vehicles.

Damage Assessment Teams will go in to neighborhoods in a systematic fashion working closely with Public Utilities and Public Works officials once the severe weather threats have lessened.

The public information telephone number for the EOC is 757-514-4570.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 27, 2011) Weather conditions are worsening, with hurricane force winds expected between 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Peak winds at 4:00 p.m. are anticipated to reach 74 mph.

Flooding continues to be a major issue, and is a special concern with high tides later this evening. Holland at the underpass from downtown Holland is flooded and impassable. North Main Street at Constance Road continues to be closed due to heavy flooding. The 2600 block of Manning Road is closed, and Manning Bridge Road is closed due to downed trees.

Additional damages to homes reported with a tree falling on a house in the 6100 block of Old Town Point Road.

The Monitor/Merrimac Bridge Tunnel and the Downtown Tunnel are still open. All other tunnels remain closed. Citizens are again encouraged to stay off the roads for their own safety, as well as to not jeopardize emergency responses.

Citizens continue to arrive at Emergency Shelters, with 35 currently at King's Fork High School, 29 at Lakeland High School, and 43 at Nansemond River High School.

Dominion Power advises that 19,000 accounts are currently without power in the Suffolk area.

The public information telephone number for the EOC is 757-514-4570.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 27, 2011) Suffolk Police Communications advise of a multitude of calls received for downed trees, wires hanging and power poles leaning.

Residents in the Crittenden area continue to remain without power.

Road closures include the following: E. Washington Street at County Street due to downed power lines, North Main Street at Constance Road remains closed due to flooding, and the 1200 block of Nansemond Parkway is closed due to downed trees. Citizens are encouraged to stay off of the roads due to extremely dangerous driving conditions.

There are currently 24 people at the King's Fork High School emergency shelter, 17 at Lakeland High School, and 44 at Nansemond River High School, with citizens continuing to arrive at that location. The Nansemond River High School is the site of the City's first "pet friendly" shelter, and is currently housing 2 dogs and 3 cats.

There have been reports of awnings blown off of commercial buildings on E. Washington Street in the downtown area, as well as a partial roof blown off of a residence in that area, in addition to roofs blown off homes in the Spruce Street and South Main Street areas.

The Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel closed at 11:00 a.m.

The public information telephone number for the Emergency Operations Center is 757-514-4570.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 27, 2011) The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was fully activated at 7 a.m. this morning. Representatives from all City Departments are on site monitoring situations throughout the city.

The city has experienced 2.24" of rain since midnight, with highest winds reported thus far of 44 mph. It is anticipated that the strongest winds of this event will be between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m., gusting to 69 mph.

There are currently approximately 350-400 people without power. Dominion Power crews are working to restore power at this time.

Public Works has six crews currently out working to clear downed trees from roadways. Nine road blockages have already been cleared, and crews are currently working 4 additional locations. Roads are closed in the 6600 block of O'Kelly Drive, 3400 block of Waters Avenue, 600 block of Battery Avenue and the 2300 block of King's Highway due to downed trees. North Main Street is closed at the Kimberly Bridge.

There are currently 15 people at the King's Fork High School Shelter, 35 at Nansemond River High School, and 12 at Lakeland High School. There was a brief power outage at the Lakeland High School emergency shelter, but power is back up at this time.

The midtown tunnel will be closing at 10:00 a.m.

The public information telephone number for the EOC is 757-514-4570.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 25, 2011) The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is scheduled to be fully activated at 7 a.m. Saturday. The public information telephone number for the EOC is 757-514-4570.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 25, 2011) In preparation for Hurricane Irene, City Manager Selena Cuffee-Glenn signed a Declaration of Emergency this afternoon.

All weekend City Sponsored activities have been canceled including the Farmer's Market at Market Park, TGIF at Bennett's Creek Park, Suffolk Summer Slam at Bennett's Creek Park, all picnic shelter rentals at Lake Meade Park, Bennett's Creek Park, Sleepy Hole Park and Lone Star Lakes Lounge and Jericho Community Day.

Suffolk Prepares for Storm

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 28, 2011) – Hurricane preparations are in full effect in the City of Suffolk. The Emergency Operations Center will open on limited activation status Friday, August 26th at 8:30 a.m. and full activation status on Saturday, August 27th.

In order to prepare for the storm, City of Suffolk Offices will close at 12:00 noon on Friday, August 26th. City facilities typically open on Saturday, to include all Public Libraries, the Visitor's Center, and all Parks & Recreation Centers, will be closed on Saturday, August 27th. The Visitor's Center will remain closed on Sunday, August 28th.

Evacuation Shelters will open Friday night at 8:00 p.m. The shelters being activated include: Nansemond River High School, located at 3301 Nansemond Pkwy., Lakeland High School, located at 214 Kenyon Rd. and Kings Fork High School, located at 351 Kings Fork Rd.

The City continues to keep citizens informed with regular updates via their website at www.suffolkva.us, as well as Municipal Channel 8 on Charter and social media outlets including Facebook, Twitter and Nixle.

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