

# Hurricane Protection Procedures

## Plan Ahead!

### **Pets:**

Most shelters do not allow pets. Please consider your pets in advance of any plans.

### **Evacuation:**

If a hurricane threatens our area, one of the most important decisions you will make is whether to stay or go. You are encouraged to evacuate if advised by city authorities, especially those who rely on electricity to power medical equipment or have special needs. Plan now so that when the time comes, you already know where you will go.

Your city's Public Information Office (see list of cities and numbers below) will not assign shelters until an evacuation has been issued. However, it is generally the closest high school. You can try contacting your city before the storm to see if they have any advance information that may be helpful.

**Virginia Beach: 385-3111**

**Chesapeake: 382-6241**

**Norfolk: 664-6510**

**Newport News: 933-2311**

If you plan to evacuate the area, leave early and in daylight! Prepare your unit for the storm before you leave. Learn your evacuation route and plan your destination before the storm hits. The following link is a good resource: <https://www.vaemergency.gov/hurricane-evacuation-zone-lookup/>

There are some things you need to do in advance:

### **Balconies** (if applicable):

Please close and secure your storm shutters if you have them and close your balcony doors securely. If you do not have storm shutters, bring in all items from your balcony and close your balcony doors and lock them securely. Close your blinds and drapes to help protect from flying glass. Place towels in tracks of the balcony doors. If you are able and willing, please offer to help your neighbors with this chore. Remember to close your storm window if you have them.

### **Vehicles:**

Vehicles will need to be moved to available spaces that are most protected (highest elevation is recommended to avoid flooding), or to another location if possible.

### **Supplies:**

Run some extra water in your bathtub and any buckets you have for washing and flushing. Some water pressure may remain for the lower floors. Stock some ice in a cooler. Have your emergency supplies ready, particularly any medications! See attached lists for suggestions.

### **Electricity:**

Be sure to have functioning flashlights and fresh batteries in case of loss of power.

### **Water:**

When power goes off, there is limited water pressure. Water may not be available to you during prolonged outages.

**During the storm:**

Stay indoors and seek shelter in an inside room away from doors and windows at the highest elevation.

**After the storm:**

You may experience polluted water, limited communications, and no electricity. Use extreme caution when using candles, never leave one unattended. Food in refrigerator will spoil in just a few hours; the freezer will keep longer but be on guard. If perishable food is no longer cold, don't eat it! When in doubt, throw it out! Beware of outdoor hazards such as downed power lines and debris if venturing out. Be a good neighbor and help others and have patience, patience, patience!

**Please note, if an evacuation is advised, CFM Staff will evacuate in order to ensure our safety and that of our families. We will return as soon as it is safe and physically possible to do so. Upon our return, we will do our best to assist, but our abilities may be limited do to utilities being down and other factors outside of our control. For additional information, please email [MDavis@CommunityFirstManagement.com](mailto:MDavis@CommunityFirstManagement.com).**

Unfortunately, during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, the CFM Office complex and a good part of Virginia Beach completely lost power, phones and internet for several days. People should reach out to the Emergency Services Division of their City in the event of a true emergency. Services will eventually be restored, and our staff will assist all community residents on a first come, first serve basis. Multiple calls on the same issue may delay our response, and we appreciate your patience.