

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release October 28, 2012

For more information contact: John Harkness Fire and EMS Chief (540) 406-1271

ORANGE COUNTY DECLARES LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Orange County, VA – Orange County officials have declared a Local State of Emergency that will go into effect as of 6:00pm, October 28, 2012. This will allow the Orange County Emergency Management team to have all the necessary tools available in case the severity of Hurricane Sandy necessitates it.

Orange County residents are advised to adhere to the following safety measures during this weather related emergency:

- Do not operate a generator inside your home or in any enclosed space. Do not use camp stoves and lanterns without ventilation. Never use stoves for heating. Any of these can cause a deadly buildup of carbon monoxide.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer closed as long as possible to maintain the cold temperature.
- Citizens are advised to have flashlights, a battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio, and extra batteries. Have food that does not need refrigeration and one gallon of water per person per day. Other important items are a first aid kit and medications, blankets and other supplies.
- Stay tuned to local TV and radio stations for instructions and information.
- Make sure your family members, friends and neighbors are prepared for an extended weather event.
- VDOT recommends drivers delay travel until unsafe weather conditions have passed, if at all possible. Information regarding roads can be obtained by calling 511 or at www.511virginia.org



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Pertinent information can be found at www.readyvirginia.gov. Other resources for information include:

- 211 toll-free number serving as the public inquiry number for Virginia residents
- <u>www.vaemergency.gov</u> online source for statewide storm updates
- VAemergency the Facebook page for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- @vdem Twitter feed for storm updates from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

Orange County will remain vigilant in its preparations and pass along information as it is received. Please check Orange County's webpage at www.orangecountyva.gov for up-to-date information about local conditions. For more information about our emergency efforts, please call John Harkness at 540-406-1271. If you have a non-emergent issue to report regarding this storm, please call 540-672-1234.

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