



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 12, 2018

For more information, contact:
Orange County Fire and EMS
(540) 672-7044

ORANGE COUNTY DECLARES LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Orange County, VA – Ahead of the arrival of Hurricane Florence, Orange County officials have declared a **Local State of Emergency** that went into effect at 5:00 p.m. on September 11, 2018. This declaration will allow the Orange County Emergency Management team to access all the essential public safety tools available based on the projected severity of Hurricane Florence.

There is the potential for heavy rain and flooding, high winds, downed trees, and loss of electricity. Because of this potentially dangerous weather event, Orange County residents are encouraged to adhere to the following safety measures during this weather-related emergency:

- Never operate a generator inside a home or an enclosed space. Do not use camp stoves or lanterns without ventilation. Never use stoves for heating. Any of these uses can cause a deadly build-up of carbon monoxide.
- Keep refrigerators and freezers closed for as long as possible to maintain cold temperatures.
- Have flashlights, battery-powered or hand-crank radios, and extra batteries available.
- Have non-perishable food and one gallon of water available, per person, per day. Other essential items include a first aid kit, prescription medications, blankets, and personal sanitation items. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be charged and have backup batteries.
- Stay tuned to local TV and radio stations for instructions and updated information.
- Make sure family members, friends, and neighbors are prepared for an extended weather event.
- Delay travel until unsafe weather conditions have passed, if at all possible. Information regarding road conditions can be obtained by calling 511 or at www.511virginia.org.

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

- 211 – A toll-free number serving as the public inquiry hotline for Virginia residents.
- www.vaemergency.gov – An online source for State-wide storm updates.
- VAemergency – The Facebook page for Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- @vdem – Twitter feed for storm updates from Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Orange County will remain vigilant in its emergency preparations, response, and recovery and will provide updated information as it becomes available. Check the County's website (www.orangecountyva.gov) or the Orange County Fire and EMS Facebook page for up-to-date information regarding local conditions.

For more information about our emergency efforts, please contact the Orange County Department of Fire and EMS at (540) 672-7044. For non-emergency concerns or to report issues related to this storm, please contact the Emergency Communications Center at (540) 672-1234.

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