

2008 VIRGINIA HURRICANE GUIDE



WHAT IS A HURRICANE?

HURRICANE WATCH - The National Hurricane Center issues a hurricane watch to alert specific regions when hurricane conditions are forecast for the area within the next 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan and you should begin protecting your home and property from the storm. Monitor weather reports via television or radio to stay informed.

HURRICANE WARNING - The National Hurricane Center issues a hurricane warning when sustained winds of 74 mph or greater are forecast for the area within the next 24 hours. All precautions must be taken immediately; your family should already be in the process of securing property and relocating to a safe place to wait out the storm. Monitor weather reports via television or radio to stay informed.

SAFFIR/SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

CATEGORY 1

Surge: 4-5 feet Winds and Effects: 74-95 mph (64-82kt)

No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery and trees. Also, some coastal flooding and minor pier damage.



CATEGORY 2

Surge: 6-8 feet Winds and Effects: 96-110 mph (83-95kt)

Some roofing material, door and window damage. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, etc. Flooding damages piers and small craft in unprotected moorings may break their moorings.



CATEGORY 3

Surge: 9-12 feet Winds and Effects: 111-130 mph (96-113kt)

Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings, with a minor amount of structural failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain may be flooded well inland.



CATEGORY 4

Surge: 13-18 feet Winds and Effects: 131-155 mph (114-135kt)

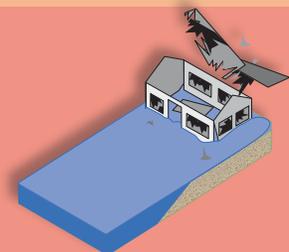
More extensive structural failures with some complete roof failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Terrain may be flooded well inland.



CATEGORY 5

Surge: 19 feet+ Winds and Effects: 156 mph+ (135+ kt)

Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Flooding causes major damage to lower floors of all structures near the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be required.



STORM SURGE

For a hurricane, local officials issue evacuation orders to protect residents from storm surge – not wind. Storm surge results when strong winds make incoming tides deeper than normal.

People who live in storm surge areas and who will actually be adversely affected by the amount of storm surge should understand that they don't have to drive great distances to be safe. If they have family or friends in the region that live on higher ground, then they should go there instead of trying to drive out of the area.

Hampton Roads residents can contact their local emergency management office to learn how storm surge can affect their property. General and local storm surge maps are available at www.vaemergency.com in the "Hurricane" section, located in "Threats and Emergencies."

SHELTER INFORMATION



If emergency officials order an evacuation for your area, you should leave immediately. Make plans now to stay with family or friends who live on higher ground in the area, and remember to make sheltering plans for your pets. If you cannot stay with family or friends or at a hotel or motel, public shelters will be available to you.

Public shelters will provide necessities such as food, water and space for your family until emergency officials can determine that it is safe for you to return home. You should gather supplies to take with you if you have to evacuate. In addition to the basic items in your emergency supply kit, remember to include:

- A three-day supply of special items for any elderly, disabled or infant members of your household

- Copies of important documents, such as insurance policies and birth certificates, that will help you claim assistance after the disaster
- Blankets, pillows, linens and something to sleep on, such as a cot, air mattress or cushion

During an evacuation, listen to your local television and radio stations and watch message signs along the road to learn where public shelters are. Shelters can fill quickly and officials will open new shelters as needed. If you need to go to a different shelter, toll-free call centers will also be open during an evacuation to provide you with the most current information.

For more information about how to prepare your family for a disaster, visit www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

HURRICANE GATES ON I-64



Where are the gates?

Gates are located on the eastbound ramps along I-64 from just before the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel to I-295 in Richmond for use as part of the Interstate 64 lane reversal if one is called by the governor. Other gates are strategically located at various westbound ramps in the Hampton Roads area for use in phased evacuations.

Why did VDOT install the gates?

In the event of a hurricane or other disaster, the governor can order an interstate lane reversal to help evacuate Hampton Roads. Should this occur, all lanes on I-64 will carry westbound traffic. The gates were installed to prevent motorists from trying to enter the interstate traveling east when traffic is reversed and motorists are moving west in all lanes.

Why are there gates on either side of the ramp?

There are gates on either side of each ramp to make sure the ramps are completely inaccessible when closed. This prevents motorists from driving on shoulders to go around gates.

Why are the gates at both ends of the ramp?

The gates are at both ends of the ramp so vehicles traveling in the reversed eastbound lanes (heading west toward Richmond) cannot exit the interstate using these blocked ramps and cause an accident on the connecting roadways. Having the gates positioned at both ends of the ramp provides a final measure to prevent motorists from getting on the interstate heading east while traffic is moving west.

If the gates are down, how do I get off the interstate?

There will be only two exits for reversed traffic before I-295: Exit 234 in Williamsburg (where services include gas, food, lodging and a hospital) and Exit 205 at Bottoms Bridge (where services include gas and food). If motorists exit the reversed I-64 lanes, they can use a standard entry ramp to return to I-64 West. There are no re-entry ramps onto the reversed lanes. A comfort station will also be in place at Jefferson Avenue. There, citizens can rest, use the restroom and get water. In addition, the two New Kent safety rest areas will be open.

Who will monitor the exits and roadway during the evacuation?

VDOT, Virginia State Police and Virginia Army National Guard personnel will be at each of the ramps and at the Jefferson Avenue comfort station. They also will be at the two safety rest areas on I-64 in New Kent County. VDOT's Safety Service Patrol will monitor I-64 during an evacuation to assist motorists who break down on the interstate.

VDOT'S BRIDGE, TUNNEL AND FERRY CLOSURE PLAN



With help from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and local governments, VDOT developed guidelines to safely close area bridges and tunnels prior to the onset of a major storm. These guidelines allow crews enough time to close and evacuate these structures before they become unsafe for travel. Crews look at wind speeds, storm surge, rain bands and other conditions at each bridge and tunnel to decide if and when to close it. The following wind speeds, in combination with the factors previously listed, will force the closure of VDOT bridges and tunnels.

- The Midtown Tunnel and Jamestown-Scotland Ferry will close when an approaching tropical storm or hurricane produces winds of 39 mph that are forecast to intensify.
- The Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, the Monitor Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel, the James River Bridge, the Downtown Tunnel, the Coleman Bridge and the High Rise Bridge will close when an approaching tropical storm or hurricane produces 45 mph winds that are forecast to intensify.

- **Note:** VDOT does not manage the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, which connects Virginia Beach to Virginia's Eastern Shore. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel is not an evacuation route. For closure information, visit www.cbbt.com.

Bridges and tunnels are planned to close after an evacuation is complete and motorists are off the road and into safe shelters. However, local conditions could dictate early closure of bridges and tunnels. Please tune to local television and radio broadcasts for the latest evacuation and facility closure information

Ready
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virginia

Ready Virginia is a statewide public education effort to prepare Virginians for all hazards. State agencies and nonprofit organizations active in disaster preparedness have collaborated to create educational materials and an interactive Web site to teach residents and businesses the basic steps toward preparedness:

Get a kit • Make a plan • Stay informed
www.ReadyVirginia.gov

EVACUATE OR STAY

There are two paths to take. Every Virginian should develop a family preparedness plan well in advance of a storm threat.

Which path should you take?

Do you live in a vulnerable area?
(Mobile home, an area that floods frequently or near the coast or bay)

Have you been advised to evacuate?

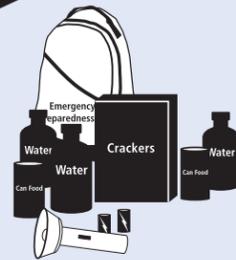
YES

NO

EVACUATE

STAY AT HOME

Assemble your disaster supply kit



Have a place to go
Home of a family member or friend, motel or shelter



When possible, evacuating within your city or county reduces your chance of being stranded in traffic and shortens your time to return home. Before a storm threatens, contact your local emergency management office for evacuation information.



Notify family or friends of your plans
When you are leaving, where you are going and how to reach you

Fill your car with gas

Bring extra cash
Power outages may cause banks and ATMs to be closed

Enact your pet plan

Bring important family documents
in a waterproof container

Secure your home

Bring toys, books and games
for entertainment

Bring pillows and blankets
Also bring rain gear and sturdy shoes

Map out your route
Be familiar with your area's evacuation routes. VDOT Hurricane Evacuation Maps www.VirginiaDOT.org/hurricanes

Assemble your disaster supply kit

Make plans to keep your pet safe

Stock extra supplies
Batteries, water and canned food

Secure your home
Board up windows and secure loose yard objects

Fill your car with gas
Power outages may cause gas stations to be closed

Get extra cash
Power outages may cause banks and ATMs to be closed

Check on your neighbors
Particularly the elderly or disabled

Use your NOAA weather radio
Stay alert to weather advisories

Listen to local officials for the all clear
Virginia Emergency Information Line

Toll Free 1-866-782-3470

Arrive safely at your destination

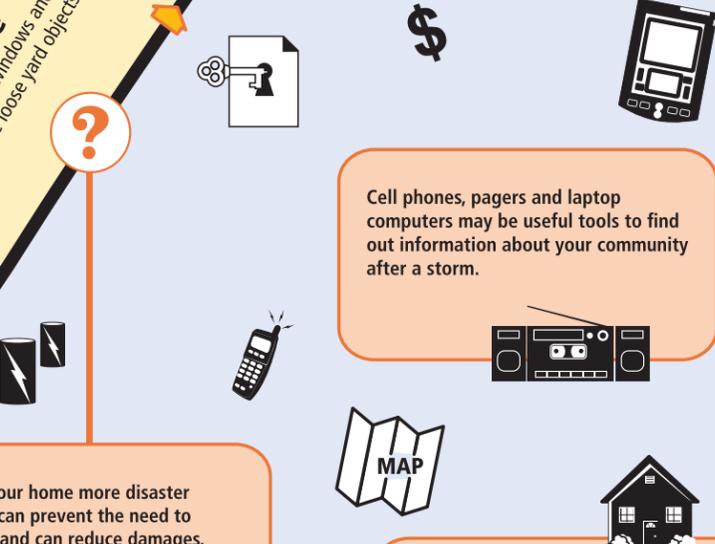
You need at least 3 days supply of water for each person in your household. For more information: www.redcross.org

Not all shelters allow pets. If you evacuate to a shelter, make arrangements for your pets. www.ReadyVirginia.gov

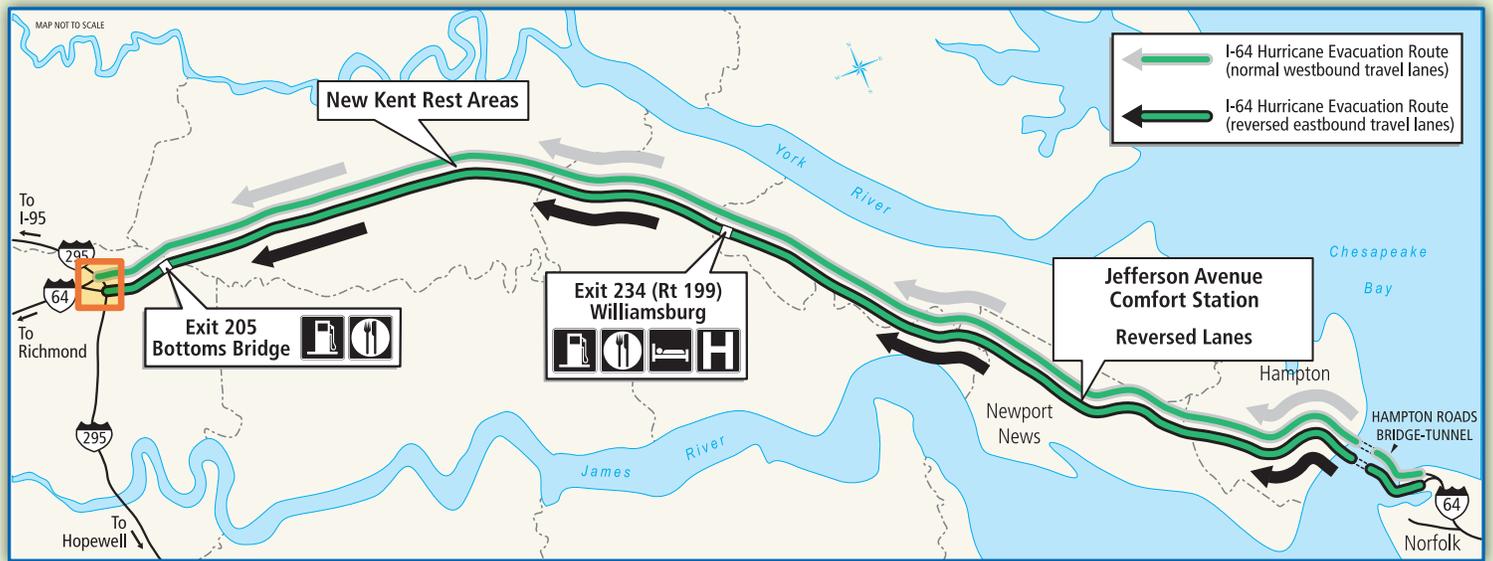
Making your home more disaster resistant can prevent the need to evacuate and can reduce damages. For simple and affordable tips contact: www.ReadyVirginia.gov

Cell phones, pagers and laptop computers may be useful tools to find out information about your community after a storm.

Flood damage is NOT covered by standard homeowner's insurance. Check your policy now. For more information: www.floodsmart.gov 1-888-CALL-FLOOD TTY# 800-427-5593



WHEN MIGHT VIRGINIA REVERSE THE DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC ON I-64?



Cities and counties issue standard evacuations for their areas. A standard evacuation issued by a city or county does not reverse traffic direction on I-64 – only the governor can issue a lane reversal.

The I-64 reversal plan begins just east of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel at mile marker 272 and ends at the I-295 Interchange in Richmond at mile marker 200.

In the event of lane reversal on I-64:

- I-64 westbound traffic traveling from Norfolk and Virginia Beach will shift onto what are normally the eastbound lanes of I-64 just before the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel in Norfolk, near Willoughby Spit. Motorists will continue traveling on the eastbound lanes until they reach I-295 in Richmond.

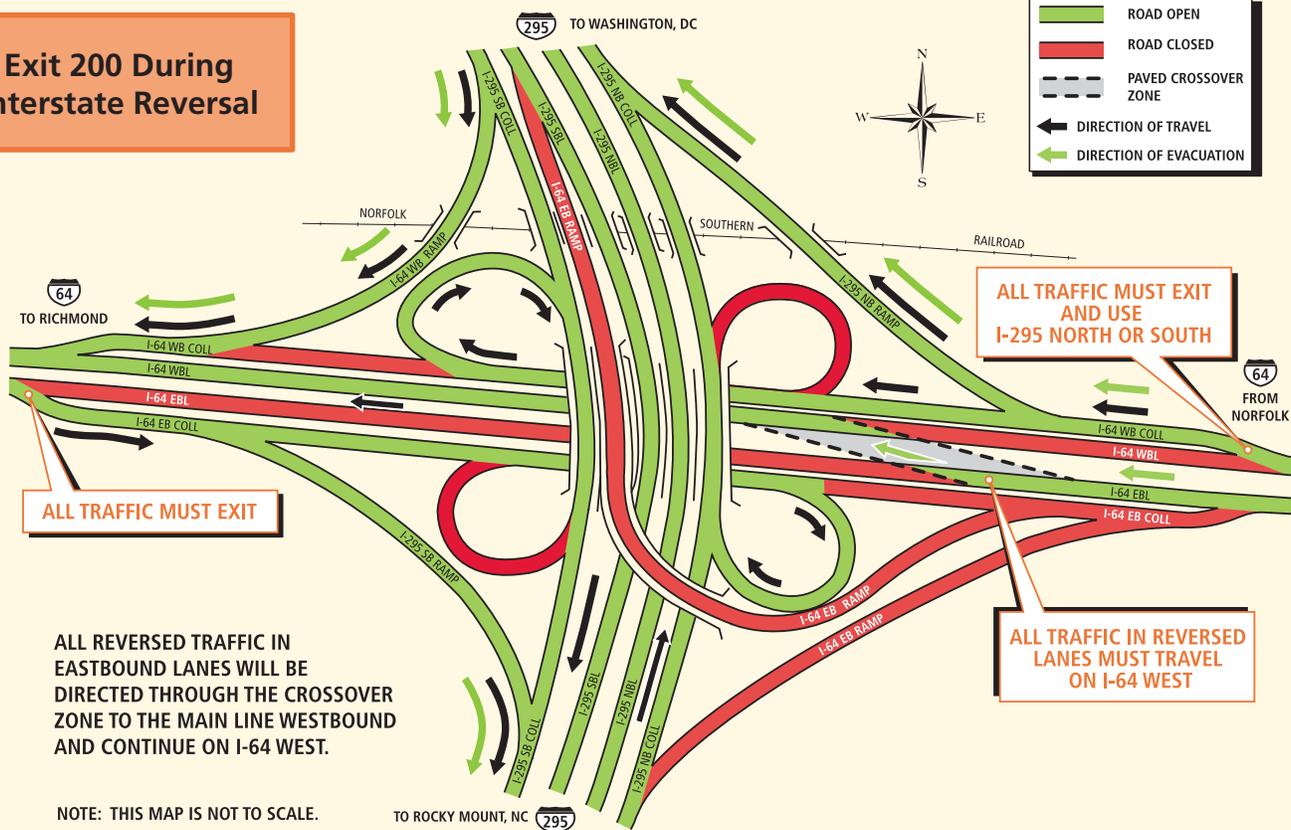
There will be only two possible exits for traffic traveling on the reversed lanes between Norfolk and I-295: Exit 234 in Williamsburg, (Route 199) for gas, food, lodging and hospital; and Exit 205 in Bottoms Bridge for gas and food. A comfort station on I-64 near Jefferson Avenue and the rest areas in New Kent County will also be open.

If motorists traveling on the reversed lanes of I-64 exit at Exit 234 or Exit 205, they can use any normal entrance ramp to return to I-64 West lanes. Traffic on reversed lanes cannot return to the reversed lanes once they exit, except at the New Kent County safety rest areas.

All traffic traveling in the westbound lanes of I-64 will be able to exit and enter the interstate as they normally would, though some entrance and exit ramps could be closed to smooth traffic flow onto the interstates and prevent bottlenecks.

- No traffic will be allowed to travel east on the interstate during a reversal. All I-64 eastbound lanes and ramps between Norfolk and Richmond will be closed to eastbound traffic, from just east of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel to I-295 in Richmond.

Exit 200 During Interstate Reversal



At the I-295 interchange:

- Motorists on I-64 West lanes must exit and use I-295 North or I-295 South.
- Motorists on I-64 reversed lanes will cross over to I-64 West lanes and continue to the I-95 interchanges.
- (See Exit 200 map for more information).
In addition to hurricanes, I-64 might be reversed for other emergencies at the discretion of the governor.

During an evacuation, emergency plans call for:

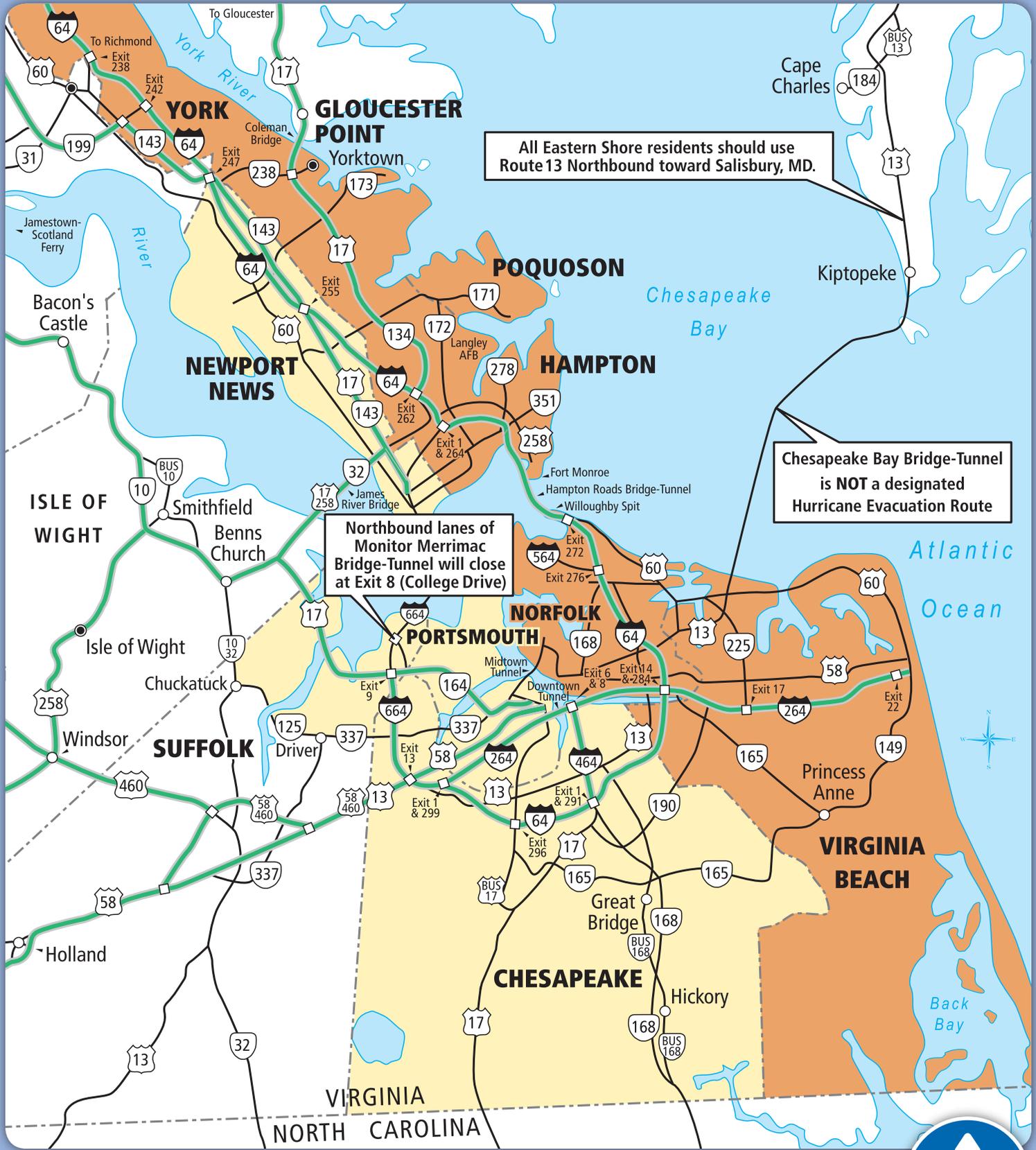
- VDOT Safety Service Patrols to provide basic motorists assistance on the road or at the rest areas and comfort station
- Wreckers to be on standby along I-64 to move disabled cars and trucks out of travel lanes
- Vans to shuttle motorists whose vehicles become disabled to shelter locations
- Drinking water to be available at the New Kent safety rest areas, at the Jefferson Avenue comfort station and at the west Suffolk weigh station on Route 58.

Make an Evacuation Plan Before You Leave

If you evacuate, it is important to decide on a destination before you get in the car. Try to make arrangements to stay with friends or family, or make reservations at a hotel or motel. If you must stay at a shelter, remember to bring pillows, blankets, medications and other necessary items. The state has plans to open sheltering facilities throughout the commonwealth in the event of an evacuation. Emergency officials will announce details about shelter locations through the local media.

VDOT has an agreement with the Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitor's Bureau to encourage the use of their toll-free number during an evacuation. Motorists can call (800) 370-9004 or (804) 782-2777 for help finding lodging in the Richmond area.

EVACUATION ROUTES



All Eastern Shore residents should use Route 13 Northbound toward Salisbury, MD.

Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel is NOT a designated Hurricane Evacuation Route

Northbound lanes of Monitor Merrimac Bridge-Tunnel will close at Exit 8 (College Drive)

BE AWARE OF THESE SIGNS DURING AN EVACUATION



