

# VDACS Emergency Page

## **QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION**

Call the Office of Communications:

- Elaine Lidholm, 804.786.7686
- Mike Wallace, 804.786.1904

## **HURRICANE FLORENCE UPDATES:**

The National Weather Service has classified Hurricane Florence as a major hurricane that is expected to impact the southeast coast of the United States on Thursday. While the hurricane's exact track is uncertain at this time, it appears increasingly likely that areas of Virginia may experience significant flooding, high winds, and storm surge.

Click here for up-to-date information on Hurricane Florence.

(Link to [https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphics\\_at1.shtml?cone#contents](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphics_at1.shtml?cone#contents))

## **VDACS UPDATES ON HURRICANE FLORENCE**

Temporary Waiver of Animal Import Requirements into Virginia

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/press-releases-180911-animalimportrequirements.shtml>

Virginia Farmers Should Prepare Now For Potential Impact From Hurricane Florence

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/press-releases-180911-farmers-evacuation.shtml>

Equine Severe Weather Resources

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/animals-animal-care-and-emergency.shtml>

## **WEATHER DIASTER PLANNING FOR FARMERS**

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services advises farmers to take the following precautions now to help protect their families, farms and livestock in the event of severe weather.

- Monitor local weather reports for up-to-the-minute information on the storm
- Prepare your household for the storm by creating an emergency kit with flashlights, batteries, drinking water for humans and pets, medications, emergency numbers, first aid kit, dust masks and a supply of food to last 3 or 4 days.
- Make a communication plan that identifies your evacuation routes to where your family will meet and how everyone would get there should you need to evacuate.

- Charge cell phone batteries and have extra batteries for radios.
- Store or secure items or equipment that may blow away or blow into structures. This includes lawn furniture and ornaments.
- Inspect all barns, outbuildings and other structures for broken or weak components and make repairs before the storm hits.
- Stock up on feed, food and livestock supplies. Be prepared to be self-sustainable for three days.
- Secure livestock and other animals. If necessary, build berms for them to stand on in low-lying areas.
- Stock up on nails, screws, and plywood to board up windows and nail doors and windows shut.
- If your operation uses vent fans, water pumps, milking machines or other critical electrical equipment, purchase a gas-powered generator and plenty of fuel.
- Ensure a source of clean water so livestock won't have to drink flood water.
- Store fertilizers, pesticides, treated seeds and other such compounds up high and away from floodwaters and animals.
- Do not drive across any flooded roadway, as it only takes six inches of water to move a vehicle and roads may be washed out beneath the floodwaters.
- Mark animals with an identifier so they can be returned if lost. This can include ear tags with name of farm and/or phone numbers, brands, paint markings on hooves or coat, or clipped initials in the hair.
- Know your local emergency managers, including the sheriff and animal control officer. They are in charge during a disaster.
- If strong winds knock down trees, make farm lanes and houses accessible to delivery vehicles as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Coordinate with neighbors before the storm to discuss what resources can be shared in the event of power outages or flooding.
- For more emergency preparation tips, please visit [www.readyvirginia.gov/](http://www.readyvirginia.gov/).

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Virginia Department of Emergency Management  
<http://www.vaemergency.gov/>

Virginia Department of Health  
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>

VA Cooperative Extension Disaster Education Network  
<https://ext.vt.edu/family/vceden.html>

Food and Water Safety During Power Outages and Floods  
<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/ucm076962.pdf>