



For Immediate Release
May 22, 2015

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City Encourages Residents to Be Prepared

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg, along with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, recognizes next week as Hurricane and Flooding Preparedness Week.

During the week of May 24-30, residents should prepare themselves and their homes for the season of hurricanes and flooding.

“This area is not immune to significant storms and rising waters. We want residents to prepare now before a storm hits our community,” said Harrisonburg Fire Chief, Larry Shifflett.

In preparing for an emergency, Harrisonburg and Rockingham County residents should sign up for the **Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Alert System** by visiting www.HREmergencyAlert.com. When registering a cell phone for this service, it is encouraged to sign up to receive text message alerts as this alert is distributed significantly faster than a telephone call.

After registering for this service, participants will be notified in the event of an emergency or life threatening weather event (tornado, flash flood warning, etc.). While registering for this service is free, text messaging rates may still apply depending upon cellular phone providers.

Next week also marks a time when Virginians can purchase emergency equipment and supplies tax-free, during the Virginia Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday (May 25-31). Items such as batteries (including cell phone batteries), bottled water, first aid kits, coolers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios, portable generators, and many other items are on sale at local, Harrisonburg retailers. Shop local to prepare for an emergency.

More information is available at www.vaemergency.gov or www.Harrisonburgva.gov/safety-tips.

*Who will notify you if an emergency-related event is happening in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County? Sign up to receive free alerts through the **Harrisonburg and Rockingham County Emergency Alert System** by visiting www.HREmergencyAlert.com.*



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