

Emergency Shelter Information

Accomack County has six emergency shelter locations that can open on an “as needed” basis. Northampton County has four. Some possible reasons for opening emergency shelters are:

- Long term and/or severe flooding over a large portion of the county
- Hurricane force winds (sometimes from a large nor’easter) and the resulting coastal flooding conditions
- Wide spread power outages as a result of severe weather
- A large and dangerous hazardous material event

Emergency shelters will not all open at the same time and emergency shelter openings will be announced on local radio stations. You cannot enter an emergency shelter until it is open.

These shelters are emergency shelters for the general population. They are designed to keep you safe from a severe emergency event – not long term sheltering. Planning ahead of time to stay with family or friends can help ease the stress that comes during a disaster. Also, if your family has special needs – medically fragile household members for instance – your planning process needs to include accommodations for those special needs that these emergency shelters cannot provide.

Things to bring to the emergency shelter:

- Photo Identification - All adults must have photo identification and all adults must sign in their complete family upon arrival to the shelter.
- Bedding items
- Personal hygiene items
- Nonperishable food
- Manual can opener if bringing canned foods
- Bottled water
- Special needs food if applicable
- Baby items if applicable
- Change of clothing
- “Quiet” entertainment such as reading materials and games
- Medications - If you have a medical condition and/or take prescription medication please notify the shelter at the time of registration
- A way home – if you arrive in something other than your personal vehicle, be sure you and your family have a way to depart the shelter when it closes

You should be self sustaining for three days at an emergency shelter.

Things NOT to bring to the emergency shelter

- Cooking utensils
- Expensive personal items (you will be responsible for your personal items - the shelter is not responsible for lost or stolen items)
- Pets – please make sure your pets can be safely cared for elsewhere before you come to the shelter
- Electronic games that are not battery powered
- Loud music
- Weapons
- Drugs
- Alcohol

General Guidelines:

- Smoking is NOT permitted inside the shelter at any time
- Parents are responsible for controlling the actions of their children
- Children are never to be left unattended
- Noise levels should be kept to a minimum at all times
- Everyone needs to be courteous to others

If these guidelines are not followed, you may be asked to leave the shelter. If you decide to leave the shelter before the emergency has ended, you will not be allowed back into the shelter.

There are six emergency shelter locations in Accomack County, there is one in Northampton County:

Accawmacke Elementary School
Arcadia Middle School
Arcadia High School
Metompkin Elementary School
Nandua Middle School
Nandua High School

Northampton County has one primary shelter and three secondary shelters. Shelters will be open on an "as needed" basis. Shelter openings will be announced on local radio stations.

Primary:

Northampton High School
16041 Courthouse Road
Eastville, VA

Secondary:

Kiptopeke Elementary School
24023 Fairview Road
Cape Charles, VA
Occohannock Elementary School
4208 Seaside Road
Exmore, VA
Northampton Middle School
7247 Young Street
Machipongo, VA

Evacuation Information

An evacuation notice is an order issued by Accomack County and Northampton County advising everyone in a particular area to evacuate their homes. Possible events that would necessitate an evacuation notice include flooding, high winds, storm surge, and/or hazmat incidents.

There are several possible levels of evacuation:

Partial Evacuation (may include some or all of the following):

- All islands - not just barrier islands
- Waterfront properties including creeks and canals
- All low lying areas adjacent to marshes and wetlands
- Flood prone areas including rainfall flood prone areas

- Mobile & manufactured type homes or substandard housing
- Evacuation Zones as identified on the map below. Property in these zones may be susceptible to storm surge and are primarily divided by utilizing roads or waterways as boundaries.

Full Evacuation

- Entire County – the evacuation route out of Accomack County is Route 13 NORTH.

Voluntary Evacuation

- Local government officials strongly recommend that citizens located in specified evacuation zones relocate to a safer location. The evacuation route out of Accomack and Northampton Counties is Route 13 NORTH.

Mandatory Evacuation

- Local government officials order citizens in specified evacuation zones to relocate to a safer location. The evacuation route out of Accomack and Northampton Counties is Route 13 NORTH. This evacuation order would apply to the general public. Essential personnel, i.e. public safety officials, disaster response personnel, etc. are exceptions but would be expected to eventually seek adequate shelter before the onset of the storm. Citizens that refuse to evacuate will not be arrested nor removed forcibly from their homes. However, please note that emergency services personnel will not respond when wind speeds are in excess of 50 mph and transportation routes are flooded.

Prior to any evacuation, date & time evacuation notices for all affected areas will be announced over local radio stations. If local emergency shelters will be opening, that information will be announced via radio also. Though citizens will be given as much advance notice as possible, everyone should already have evacuation & sheltering plans in place prior to any evacuation notice.

[Listen to WESR 103.3 for full coverage and important local information before, during and after the storm.](#)

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