

IWAlert

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Keeping Citizens Informed



Get alerted about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Isle of Wight County's IWAlert Emergency Notification System. This system enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations.

You can sign up for the IWAlert system at www.iwalert.net. From the IWAlert home page, click on the "Sign Up" link located on the menu line at the top of the screen or on the "Sign Up" link located under the blue login button in the middle of the screen. In the new IWAlert system an account should be established for each person not by family or other group.

The website has additional information under the FAQ tab which may be able to answer any questions you have. If you have any difficulty signing up, you can contact our offices at (757)365-6308 from 8:30-5 M-F and we will assist you.

The IWAlert System will allow you to:

- 1 Choose up to **5 locations** in Isle of Wight you want to be contacted about - your home, your parent's home, your workplace, your child's school or daycare, etc.
- 2 Choose **how** you would like to be notified: by text message, email, cell phone, home phone, work phone, etc. and the order in which you would like us to attempt to notify you.
- 3 Sign up for various weather alerts directly from the National Weather Service and to control when you receive these weather alerts by setting up a **quiet period**.



Local Roots, Global Reach

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
P.O. Box 109, 17130 Monument Circle
Isle of Wight, VA 23397
(757) 365-6308, FAX: (757) 357-3631
www.co.isle-of-wight.va.us

Brochure Information was adapted from NWS, FEMA,
Red Cross and Pinellas County, Fl. information



ISLE OF WIGHT
COUNTY, VIRGINIA

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS



Never Ride out a Hurricane in a Mobile Home



Hurricane season is June 1st to November 30th each year and residents should be prepared to take action should a hurricane threaten Isle of Wight.

The Atlantic hurricane season peaks during August and September, but destructive tropical storms or hurricanes could occur anytime during the season.

No Isle of Wight residents are more vulnerable during hurricane season than those who live in mobile homes.

According to the National Hurricane Center, no mobile or manufactured home – however new it is – is a safe shelter from hurricane force winds.

As soon as an evacuation order is announced, make plans to leave your mobile home and shelter in a safer place.

Tornados Come Without Warning

Unlike hurricanes, tornados generally come without warning. Mobile homes are especially vulnerable to high winds from severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Tornados are often generated by hurricanes.

Mobile homes cannot stand up to even a weak tornado, and you should make plans **BEFORE** the storm arrives to get to a safe shelter. In a tornado, you will likely not be safe in a mobile home, whether you're in a hallway, a closet or a bathroom. If a tornado warning is issued for your area, you should immediately seek shelter in a nearby structure with a solid foundation.

If You're in a Mobile Home:

- Make an emergency plan **NOW!**
- Do not remain in a mobile home during a tornado. Even mobile homes equipped with tie-down systems cannot withstand the force of a tornado's winds.
- Heed all local watches and warnings, and leave your mobile home to seek shelter as quickly as possible before a tornado strikes, preferably in a nearby building with a solid foundation.
- If no shelter is immediately available, find the lowest-lying area near you and lie face down in it, covering your head with your hands.

Before Hurricane Season

Mobile home residents should make sure all the items on this to-do list have been completed:

- **Sign up Isle of Wight's emergency alerting system, IWAAlert.** Go to www.iwalert.net to sign up.
- **Make an emergency plan** for you and your family. Go to www.ready.gov/make-a-plan for more information on making a plan.
- **Decide where you will go if you need to evacuate.** You should never plan to ride out a hurricane or tornado in a mobile home. Seek shelter with friends or family in a more substantial building with a strong foundation.
- **Take all important papers with you or keep them in a location other than your home when you evacuate.**
- **If you're planning to go to a shelter,** pack medications, special dietary items you may need and games or books to pass the time. You'll also need to take a chair, cot or bedding, since they are not provided at county shelters.
- **Include pets in your hurricane plan.** Seek shelter with a friend or relative who will accept you and your pets, or find separate accommodations for your pets in advance.
- **Inform relatives or friends of your plans.**
- **Have a mobile home contractor inspect and/or install or fortify the tie-downs or straps on your mobile home.**

Make sure they're anchored securely to the foundation. While mobile homes are never a safe place to ride out a storm, tie-downs and straps can prevent your mobile home from coming loose and causing damage or blocking the right-of-way.



- **Always monitor the media for announcements of evacuations and any shelter openings.** Don't assume that every shelter will be open during every evacuation.

TERMS TO KNOW

HURRICANE WATCH – Be Prepared!

Hurricane conditions are possible within a specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, a hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

HURRICANE WARNING – Take Action!

Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning. Hurricane Warnings are generally issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical force winds. Hurricane winds = 74 miles per hour or greater.

Tropical Storm Watches and Warnings

Take these alerts seriously. Although tropical storms have lower winds speeds than hurricanes, they often bring life threatening flooding and dangerous winds. Tropical storm winds are between 39-73 miles per hour.

TORNADO WATCH – Be Prepared!

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

TORNADO WARNING – Take Action!

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is imminent danger to life and property.

