



CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

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UPDATE ON HURRICANE IRENE IMPACT

Dominion Virginia Power estimates 85% of residents and businesses are without power in the City of Colonial Heights. According to Dominion Virginia Power, some residents could experience a loss of power for up to two weeks. Please call 1-866-DOM-HELP (1-866-366-4357) to report power outages.

Crews are working on debris clean up throughout the City. Citizens are encouraged to place debris curbside (NOT in the street or gutter). Debris pick up will continue over the next several days and trucks will make multiple passes through neighborhoods.

Residents may also bring their storm-related debris to the City's Recycling Center, located behind Sheetz at 2701 Conduit Road. Emergency hours of operation for the Recycling Center are 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, today through Saturday, September 3, 2011.

Citizens are reminded to **STAY OFF THE ROADS** to allow all of our emergency personnel to do their jobs in a safe and efficient manner. If you must drive anywhere in the City, remember that four-way stops are in place at uncontrolled intersections.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

If using a portable generator, residents are urged to run them outside the home. The primary hazards to avoid when using generators include carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire. To avoid the danger of electrical shock,

portable generators should never be connected to building wiring systems. If you must use a portable generator, connect appliances directly to the generator. Residents should also avoid using lighted candles. Flashlights are safer when the power is out. In addition, remember to use safety precautions when cooking on outdoor grills. Grills should be placed off of decks and a safe distance from buildings when in use.

For up-to-date information, visit the City's website at www.colonial-heights.com, Facebook at www.facebook.com/colonialheightsva or follow us on Twitter @ ColHtsEmergMgmt.