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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor McDonnell Urges Virginians to Get Ready for Hurricane Season
Save money on supplies during Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday May 25-31

RICHMOND - Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell has recognized May 23rd-29th as Hurricane and Flooding Preparedness Week to emphasize the importance of emergency preparation. He is encouraging every Virginia family to take action now to get ready for hurricane and flood season.

“It is critical that every Virginian treat hurricane season seriously and understand how they could be affected by flooding, high winds and tornadoes during this time of year,” said Governor McDonnell. “Those who live along coastal areas also need to learn if they are in a storm surge zone and determine where they would go if they have to evacuate. Everyone should take steps now to help keep their families safe.”

“We are partnering with Virginia retailers to get the word out to families about saving money while getting ready for emergencies,” said McDonnell. “Hurricane season is also flood season. Just because you don’t live on the coastline, don’t think you aren’t affected. Past years have brought us heavy rains and slow moving tropical systems that have caused extensive damage and loss of life.”

Individuals and families should have a family emergency plan and put together a kit of essential supplies including at least a three-day supply of bottled water and non-perishable food, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio to hear emergency information, and extra batteries.

To help Virginians get supplies for hurricane and flood season, retailers are stocking up for the Commonwealth's Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, which runs May 25-31.

During those days, no sales tax will be charged on the purchase of many items that can be used to prepare homes and businesses for hurricane and flood season and to fill emergency supply kits. All retailers participate, according to Virginia law.

Batteries, flashlights, bottled water of all types and sizes, cell phone batteries, coolers, portable generators and many other useful items can be purchased with no sales tax added during the week. Many retailers will post signs listing all the allowable items so that Virginians can get ready for hurricane season, which begins June 1. For a complete list, go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

To learn more about getting ready for hurricane and flood season, visit www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

The Hurricane and Flooding Preparedness Week proclamation can be found here: <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/OurCommonwealth/Proclamations/2010/HurricaneFlood.cfm>