



Save Before the Storm

By Allison Farole

Hurricane Season is just around the corner! Spanning June 1 through November 30, Hurricane Season easily creeps up on our busy summer plans. Regardless of where you are located in Virginia, hurricanes are always a threat. Flooding and wind damage can extend for miles inland.

To help prepare, the state of Virginia offers a Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday every year. This year, between Saturday, May 25 and Friday, May 31, you can save on supplies that will protect your home and business. To qualify, portable generators must be priced at \$1,000 or less. Other eligible items must be priced at \$60 or less for each item. Here's a sample.

Sales Tax-Exempt Products for Under \$60

1. Ice packs
2. Batteries
3. First aid kits
4. Flashlights
5. Radios (battery-powered, hand-crank, and electric)
6. Two-way radios
7. Fire extinguishers
8. Smoke detectors
9. Bottled water
10. Manual can openers
11. Fuel containers
12. Non-electric food storage coolers
13. Cell phone chargers
14. NOAA weather radios
15. Duct tape

16. Tarps
17. Buckets
18. Rope
19. Storm shutters

In addition to portable generators, generator power cords, inverters and inverter power cables for \$1,000 or less are tax-free. Customers can use manufacturer's coupons to lower the price of an item so that it will qualify for the \$60 or \$1,000 price cap.

Remember: The best defense is to prepare for any storm.

For more information about the sales tax holiday or how to prepare for hurricane season, visit www.readyvirginia.gov.

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<http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stay-informed/hurricanes/sales-tax-holiday>]