



# INTERSTATE 64 LANE REVERSAL

VDOT has created an emergency evacuation plan for Hampton Roads that includes reversing the eastbound lanes of Interstate 64 to allow a rapid evacuation prior to a catastrophic hurricane.

If you evacuate, it is important to decide on a destination before you leave. Try to make arrangements to stay with friends or family, or make reservations at a hotel before an evacuation is ordered.

## When Virginia might reverse the direction of I-64 traffic

- ◆ Localities issue standard evacuations for their areas, shown in two phases here. A standard evacuation issued by a city or county does not reverse traffic on Interstate 64.
- ◆ The direction of traffic on I-64 will only be reversed when ordered by the governor in advance of a storm or other event that threatens the citizens of Hampton Roads.
- ◆ In a lane reversal, the eastbound lanes of I-64 will be used to carry additional traffic westbound so that all vehicles on the highway are headed toward Richmond.
- ◆ In a Category 3 to Category 5 hurricane or other emergency, the governor might issue a traffic direction reversal order for I-64 to evacuate citizens more efficiently.
- ◆ The direction of traffic on I-64 will only be reversed in the most extreme conditions.
- ◆ Plans call for an I-64 reversal to begin on the Norfolk side of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel and end at the Interstate 295 interchange in Richmond.

## During an evacuation, emergency plans call for:

- ◆ Limited emergency motorist assistance, provided by VDOT, on the road or at the safety rest areas and comfort stations.
- ◆ Wreckers to be on standby along I-64 to move disabled cars and trucks from travel lanes.
- ◆ Drinking water to be available at the New Kent rest areas, at the Jefferson Avenue comfort station and at the west Suffolk weigh station on Route 58.
- ◆ Once evacuees arrive at the I-295/64 interchange, they will take I-295 North or South or will continue into Richmond on I-64 West.

Those evacuating from Hampton Roads can use the Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitor's Bureau to help find lodging during an evacuation.

Call (800) 370-9004 or (804) 782-2777.

## In the event of a traffic direction reversal on I-64

- ◆ I-64 West traffic from Norfolk and Virginia Beach will shift onto what are normally the I-64 East lanes just before the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel in Norfolk, near Willoughby Spit.
- ◆ Motorists will travel on the eastbound lanes until they reach I-295 in Richmond.
- ◆ Note: There will be only two possible exits for traffic traveling west in the eastbound lanes between Norfolk and I-295:
- ◆ Exit 234 in Williamsburg, (Route 199) for gas, food, lodging and a hospital
  - ◆ Exit 205 in Bottoms Bridge for gas and food
  - ◆ A comfort station on I-64 near Jefferson Avenue and the rest areas in New Kent County will also be open.
- ◆ No traffic will be allowed to travel east on the interstate during a reversal. All I-64 East lanes and ramps between Norfolk and Richmond will be closed to eastbound traffic, from just east of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel to I-295 in Richmond.
- ◆ Motorists should expect some entrance and exit ramps onto the standard I-64 westbound lanes to be closed to smooth traffic flow onto the interstates and prevent bottlenecks.
- ◆ If motorists exit the reversed I-64 lanes at one of the two available locations, they will use a normal entrance ramp to return to I-64 West.
- ◆ On the Peninsula, there are no entrance ramps leading to the reversed I-64 lanes. Peninsula motorists have access to the standard I-64 westbound lanes in an evacuation.
- ◆ I-64 West traffic from Hampton, Newport News and James City County will be able to enter and exit the highway as usual.

