[COMMUNITY LOGO]

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**[Date]

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**[Community Name] Recognizes Virginia Flood Awareness Week**
*Residents are urged to learn about flood risk and obtain flood insurance March 9-15*

[COMMUNITY, VIRGINIA] — March 9-15 is Virginia Flood Awareness Week, and [Community Name(s) is/are] joining the statewide effort to inform residents about flood risk and flood insurance.

“Flooding is the most common and costly natural hazard in the United States,” [Local Official Name] said. “Anywhere it can rain, it can flood. We urge that residents not be caught off guard and to plan now for potential flooding.”

The Virginia Flood Risk Information System (VFRIS) is an online tool Virginians can use to learn about the risk of flooding to their homes, businesses, or community. The tool, provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, is publicly available at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/vfris](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/vfris).

One of the most important steps residents can take to prepare today is to obtain flood insurance. Flood insurance, whether it’s through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) or a private carrier, allows individuals, businesses, and communities to quickly and sufficiently recover after a flood. Most homeowners and renters insurance policies do not cover damage caused by floods.

“Just 1 inch of water in a home can cause up to $25,000 in damages, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency,” [Local Official Name] said. “Flood insurance can mean the difference between recovering and being financially devastated. [Community Name] participates in the NFIP, which means all of our residents are eligible for flood insurance, even if they don’t live in a high risk flood zone.

Flood insurance policies take a minimum of 30 days to go into effect. Protect the life you’ve built, and purchase coverage well in advance of a disaster.

Contact an insurance agent or visit [FloodSmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) for further details.

More information about Virginia Flood Awareness Week is available at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/floodawarenessweek](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/floodawarenessweek).

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