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Craven County Serves as Pilot for North Carolina Know Your Zone (KYZ) Evacuation Program

NEW BERN, N.C. – Craven County is one of three counties in North Carolina participating in the North Carolina Department of Public Safety’s Know Your Zone (KYZ) pilot program. North Carolina Know Your Zone (KYZ) is a new tiered evacuation system that highlights areas most at risk to storm surge and flooding impacts from hurricanes, tropical storms, and other hazards. Know Your Zone relies on a color-coded approach for users to determine the evacuation zone where they live, work, or are visiting based upon their street address.

When a storm is approaching, Craven County officials will determine the zones that are most threatened to assess which residents should evacuate according to their level of vulnerability. Areas in Zone A will typically be evacuated first, followed by areas in Zone B, etc. While all zones won’t be evacuated in every event, emergency managers will work with local media and use other outreach tools to notify residents and visitors of impacted zones and evacuation instructions.

Know Your Zone is intended to streamline the evacuation process by supporting personal readiness as residents prepare for hazardous weather events. In addition to helping avoid unnecessary evacuation travel, zones can also ease overcrowding at local storm shelters and increase public safety. Knowing your zone and when to evacuate can ultimately save your family’s life.

Evacuations are only called for when the lives and safety of those in the area being evacuated will be at risk. Once an evacuation has been called, gather your belongings (including your emergency supply kit) and leave as soon as possible for your personal safety. If time allows, secure your home by locking doors and windows. By following evacuation orders, you are protecting both yourself and first responders.

Residents in Craven County can locate their assigned evacuation zone by visiting <http://bit.ly/cravenKYZ>.

While evacuation zones won’t be fully implemented across eastern NC until hurricane season 2020, Craven County residents will be assigned a zone this year given the County’s participation in the KYZ pilot program.

Craven County Government Emergency Management updates will appear on the Craven County website at www.cravencountync.gov, on the Craven County Facebook page [@cravencounty](https://www.facebook.com/cravencounty) and the Craven County Emergency Management Twitter account [@cravencountync](https://twitter.com/cravencountync).

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