



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Department of Emergency Preparedness

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County Executive

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: June 1, 2016

Start of Hurricane Season Brings Reminder to Review Preparedness Plans

FREDERICK, MD - During the hurricane season, which starts today and runs through November 30, the Frederick County Department of Emergency Preparedness encourages residents and businesses to review their preparedness plans and update their disaster supply kits. Frederick County can be affected by heavy rains and flooding even if a hurricane remains offshore.

Hurricanes are not just a threat to coastal communities. High winds, heavy rainfall, tornadoes, and flooding can be felt hundreds of miles inland, potentially causing loss of life and catastrophic damage to property. With Hurricanes Sandy and Isaac as reminders, it is not just major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher) that citizens need to be concerned about, but all hurricanes have the ability to cause significant damage.

The best time to prepare is well before something happens. As with any emergency, residents and businesses should have a kit, a plan, and know where to find local information.

1. Make a kit - Include a three-day supply of water for each individual in a household and ready-to-eat non-perishable foods. Don't forget a manual can opener, battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries. The kit should also have a first aid kit, prescription and non-prescription medications, and copies of important documents.
2. Make a plan - Identify two meeting places: one near home and one outside the area in case it's not possible to return home. Make plans for pets. Select an out-of-area emergency contact person.
3. Be informed - Residents are strongly encouraged to register to receive emergency information from ALERT Frederick County at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT. Emergency messages are also broadcast on WFMD 930 AM, WFRE 99.9 FM, WAFY 103.1 FM, Frederick County Government cable channel 19, Frederick County Public Schools cable channel 18, municipal government cable channel 99 (where available), and NBC 25 WHAG TV.

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Specific steps can be taken to prepare for a hurricane or tropical storm:

If a WATCH is issued:

- Listen to weather updates.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, hanging plants, bicycles, toys and garden tools. Anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Close all windows and doors.
- Cover windows with storm shutters or pre-cut plywood.
- Fill vehicle gas tanks.

If a WARNING is issued:

- Listen to the advice of local officials.
- Secure the home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve. Stay inside and away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
- Do not use open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light.
- If power is lost, turn off appliances to reduce damage from a power surge when electricity is restored.

If you are vacationing near the coast this summer:

- Know where the trusted sources of information are and sign up for alerts.
- Know the Evacuation Zone of the vacation area you are staying.
- Monitor local news for hurricane watches and warnings in the area and follow directions of local officials.
- Take a battery operated radio on vacation and an emergency kit in the car.

For more information on preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies and hazards, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/READY. Additionally, the Department of Emergency Preparedness can be contacted at 301-600-1746 or EM@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Citizens are also encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT.

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