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## HURRICANE AND TROPICAL STORM TIPS

**BE READY – THE KEY TO WEATHER SAFETY IS TO BE PREPARED**

### **Alert Prince George's:**

The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) recommends that residents, and those who work or commute through Prince George's County, register for "Alert Prince George's" text, email, and/or voice alerts for emergency messages. To sign-up for the system, visit [Alert.mypgc.us](http://Alert.mypgc.us). Current subscribers are also encouraged to log-in and update their existing accounts.

During weather emergencies, DPW&T works very closely with the Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Management to provide information to the public. However, DPW&T is responsible for public infrastructure in Prince George's County and will ensure that adequate supplies and staff are available to respond to all weather-related emergencies. DPW&T will remove trees and tree debris from public infrastructure as deemed necessary. Prior to all weather events DPW&T staff will check public storm water infrastructure to include flood prone areas, storm water management ponds, levee systems, and the Prince George's County pumping stations for clearing of debris. Please see a few tips below to assist you during and after a severe storm.

### **Storm Preparedness Tips:**

#### **Before a Storm**

- Make a Family Emergency Plan. Know how you will contact one another in case of an emergency.
- Build an Emergency Supply Kit, which includes such items as non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries.
- Visit our local hardware supply store should you desire to purchase sandbags for your private property. (DPW&T does not provide sandbags for private property and will place any bags needed in the public infrastructure.)
- Check drains on your property to ensure they are not covered with debris. Check your sump pump and sump pump drains to make sure they are clear of debris.
- Check and clear out any debris from your yard grates or clean out point for the sump pump.

#### **During a Storm**

- Follow instructions and emergency advice from County officials or heed shelter or evacuation requests made through announcements on radio/television.
- If your residence could flood, store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths.

- “Turn Around, Don’t Drown.” Do not attempt to drive through a flooded road. Six inches of water can cause loss of vehicle control and stalling. Twenty-four inches of rushing water will carry away most vehicles, even SUVs and trucks.
- Stay indoors and limit travel only to necessary trips. Listen to radio/television for updates.

**After a Storm**

- Stay off roads to allow emergency crews to clear roads and provide emergency assistance.
- Use care around downed power lines. Assume a downed wire is a live wire.
- Utility companies are responsible for clearing power lines. Please do not attempt to move trees or power lines.
- Exercise extreme caution when removing trees and tree debris from private property.
- Contact your home owner’s insurance company for information on tree removal from private property.

For additional emergency information and planning resources please visit the Prince George’s County Office of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security website at: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/533/Emergency-Management>