

DPIE Alert: STORMS

The Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE)

Steps to Help Mitigate Storm Damage to Your Property

The following steps may help you prevent damage to your property from heavy rains and high winds during storms:

- Make sure your storm drains are debris free.
- Make sure your gutters are cleared.
- Make sure your downspouts are open.
- Make sure limbs are removed from your rooftops and in front of your windows.
- Secure yard furniture, tents or coverings and large toys to prevent them from causing damage and potential injury if swept away by strong winds.
- Check your sump pumps regularly to ensure they are operational.
- Periodically check to see if water is entering your home during heavy rains and take steps to remove it before it accumulates, such as using a wet vacuum.
- Sandbags may be used to prevent water from entering low-lying areas on your property.

Remember, you may not mitigate water in your yard by diverting it onto your neighbor's property!

And, don't forget the storm basics:

- Charge your phones and tablets.
- Make sure to have flashlights and batteries available.
- Have on hand drinking water and food that can be eaten without cooking.
- Make sure vulnerable family and friends are prepared for the storm.
- Discuss emergency plans with your family.
- Bring inside your furry family members.
- Never use a generator inside a home or garage.
- Stay away from downed wires and assume they are live.
- Don't drive through high water as cars may be swept away during floods.

Important numbers

- **911** — Call to report life-threatening emergencies such as motorists or pedestrians trapped in floodwater, structure collapses, live power lines, etc.
- **311** — Call to report property damage where no potential for injury to people exists.
- If you see downed power lines or smell natural gas, stay away and immediately call **911** and your utility company.
 - ◆ **PEPCO:** 1-877-PEPCO-62 (1-877-737-2662)
 - ◆ **BGE:** 1-877-778-7798 or 1-800-685-0123 for the smell of natural gas; 1-877-778-2222 or 1-800-685-0123 for downed power lines
 - ◆ **SMECO:** 1-877-74-SMECO at 1-877-747-6326



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