



Calvert County NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Calvert County Residents Urged to Inspect Their Decks

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – August 16, 2010 – Deck failures are most often caused by faulty construction methods, unsuitable or improper materials and/or lack of maintenance. The harsh weather conditions of the past winter, coupled with this summer's high heat and humidity, may have left some decks the worse for wear. Additionally, decks that are more than 10 years old may not have been built to currently acceptable building code requirements for safety.

For these reasons, staff from Calvert County's Division of Inspections and Permits urges all Calvert County residents to visually inspect their decks for damage or decay. Some obvious conditions to check and consider for repair include:

- Attachment points and fasteners between the deck and the house that may be loose, corroded or missing;
- Split or decayed support posts and beams, especially in areas that remain damp or which are in contact with fasteners;
- Metal or plastic guards (flashing) that are not sound or firmly in place;
- Loose railings, banisters and stairways; and
- Improperly functioning electrical outlets or those which are not up to code.

Also, at least annually tighten loose fasteners and pound nails which may have popped up. If any fasteners appear to have corroded or rusted, consider replacing them and check that decking wood and stairs do not sag or sway when tested.

Residents who wish additional assistance or direction for having a deck inspected may contact the Division of Inspections and Permits at 410-535-1600 x2552 or 301-855-1243 x2552.

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Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to approximately 90,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. There are more than 5,000 businesses in the County and a labor force of at least 1.8 million resides within a one-hour drive. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, utilities, light manufacturing and administrative services.