



Calvert County NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Calvert County Public Safety Department Offers Hurricane Preparedness Tips *Officials Closely Watch Hurricane Earl to Determine Potential Local Impacts*

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – September 1, 2010 – As Calvert County prepares for Hurricane Earl, the Calvert County Department of Public Safety encourages residents to review hurricane preparedness procedures in the event that the storm poses a risk for the region.

Current forecasts show Hurricane Earl skirting the East Coast with a relatively mild impact on Calvert County, including high tides late Thursday into Friday morning one to three feet above normal. Forecasters warn, however, that the storm could potentially track farther west with more significant impacts for the area. With the Atlantic hurricane season stretching from June 1 through November 30, residents should consider the following actions to be prepared when these potentially dangerous storms threaten.

Prepare for High Winds

- If necessary, protect all windows with shutters or 5/8-inch plywood panels.
- Reinforce garage doors.
- Designate an interior room with no windows or external doors as a “safe room.”
- Assess your landscaping and trees to ensure they do not become a wind hazard.

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Prepare for Flooding

- When you hear hurricane, think inland flooding.
- Determine the elevation of your property to learn your vulnerability to flooding.
- Evaluate your insurance coverage.
- In flood-prone areas, keep on hand materials such as sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, plastic garbage bags, lumber, shovels, work boots and gloves.
- Be aware of areas known to flood so your evacuation routes are not cut off.

As the Storm Approaches

- Most mobile/manufactured homes are not built to withstand hurricane-force winds. Residents of these homes should relocate to a safer structure when an evacuation order is issued.
- Secure lawn furniture and other outside objects that could become projectiles in high winds.
- Listen carefully for safety instructions from local officials. Monitor NOAA weather radio.

During the Storm

- Stay inside and away from windows, skylights and doors.
- Listen to a battery-powered radio for storm updates.
- Have flashlights/batteries handy and avoid open flames and candles.
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce damage when power is restored.

After the Storm

- Stay away from downed or dangling lines.
- Beware of weakened tree limbs.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate your house.
- Use your phone only in emergencies.
- Do not drive into water of unknown depth.
- Restrict children from playing in flooded areas.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Do not use fresh food that has come in contact with flood waters.
- Wells should be pumped out and the water tested before drinking.

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If you have questions about hurricanes or other disaster preparedness, please contact the Calvert County Division of Emergency Management at 410-535-1600, ext 2638, or e-mail Oem@co.cal.md.us. Further hurricane preparedness information is available through the Maryland Emergency Management Agency online at www.mema.state.md.us. For the most up-to-date forecasts on the track of Hurricane Earl, visit the National Weather Service at www.weather.gov.

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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.