



Calvert County NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Start of Summer Season Signals Threat of Extreme Weather *Calvert County Department of Public Safety Urges Residents to be Prepared*

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – July 8, 2010 – With the summer season in full swing, the region is experiencing bouts of extreme weather that can include high winds, heavy rains, lightning, hail and the formation of tornadoes. The Calvert County Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management encourages all residents to be prepared.

April 1 marked the beginning of tornado season. Often associated with severe thunderstorms, tornadoes can produce wind speeds greater than 250 miles per hour, can be one mile wide and can stay on the ground for up to 50 miles. They are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m., but can occur at any time of the day.

Residents are urged to follow these tips on preparing for severe weather and taking action if a tornado develops.

Before the Storm

- Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school, when outdoors, and especially when you are boating out on the water.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit that includes a NOAA weather radio with a battery back-up to receive warnings.
- Listen to radio and television for information.

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- If planning a trip outdoors, listen to the latest forecasts and take necessary action if threatening weather is possible.
- Be familiar with the various types of watches and warnings issued for severe summer weather.
 - **Severe thunderstorm watch:** severe thunderstorms are possible in your area
 - **Severe thunderstorm warning:** thunderstorms are occurring
 - **Tornado watch:** conditions are favorable for a tornado to form
 - **Tornado warning:** a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar

If a Tornado Warning is Issued

- Take shelter immediately. If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Stay away from windows.
- Abandon mobile homes; they offer little protection, even if tied down.
- Get out of automobiles. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, leave it immediately.
- If you are caught outside with no shelter, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Do not get under an overpass or bridge.
- Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- After the tornado passes, stay away from storm-damaged areas.
- Listen to the radio for information and instructions.

To learn more about emergency preparedness, contact the Calvert County Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, at 410-535-1600 ext. 2638 or visit us on the web at www.co.cal.md.us

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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.