

READY Frederick County



Just-in-Time Storm Preparedness

In a perfect world, everyone would have their emergency kit and plan in place and know what steps to take to prepare for flooding, winds and power outages. We know no-one is perfect, so here are 10 quick steps you can take to be better prepared just-in-time.

- ✓ Sign up for emergency messages direct from the source at www.frederickcountymd.gov/alert.
- ✓ Know the National Weather Service's lingo. A **WATCH** means conditions are right for the weather condition to occur; be aware and take precautions. A **WARNING** means the weather condition is occurring or is likely to occur; take action.
- ✓ Be aware of flood dangers.
 - ⚡ Most flood deaths are preventable and occur when people enter flood water on foot or in a vehicle. Turn Around, Don't Drown.
 - ⚡ It's not just the danger of being swept away. Flood waters hide hazards like debris and washed out roads, and can contain dangerous bacteria and other contaminants.
 - ⚡ Parent especially should make sure their children know never to play in or around flood water or areas prone to flash flooding like creeks and culverts.
- ✓ Clear drains and gutters.
- ✓ Consider elevating items stored in basements or moving them to higher ground.
- ✓ Move outside objects inside or anchor securely.
- ✓ Be prepared for power outages. Candles increase fire risk so use flashlights. Make sure you have a radio too and don't forget extra batteries.
- ✓ Fill jugs with water for drinking and the tub with water to flush the toilet. If you have small children make sure they cannot access the bathroom with a filled tub.
- ✓ Fill up your gas tank. Fuel supply can be disrupted after a hurricane even if it hits states away.
- ✓ If you decide to use a generator or grill due to power outage, never operate inside a home or garage. They produce potentially deadly carbon-monoxide fumes. Always keep these and similar devices in an open and ventilated area.