

STORM SURVIVAL GUIDE

IS COMPILED BY THE OCEAN CITY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES.

PREPARATION

DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!

The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1st until November 30th. August and September are classically the height of the Atlantic Hurricane Season for the East Coast, when tropical storms and the occasional hurricane can threaten Atlantic Coast areas and the Chesapeake Bay region.

We can't change the direction or the strength of a storm, but we can be ready for the challenges it may bring. The Ocean City, Maryland "Storm Survival Guide" includes information you need to prepare yourself, your family and your neighbors long before dark clouds start gathering and winds start picking up.

The topics covered include how to set up a support network for persons with special needs; preparing your home for a safe storm season; what goes into a survival kit; making arrangements for your pets and what needs to go with you in case of evacuation.

Become informed, take action and be a survivor.



A message from the Mayor:

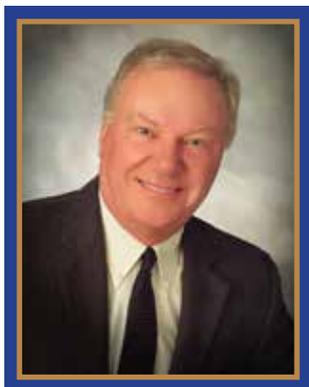
Public safety is the top priority of the Town of Ocean City, MD. We take the safety of our residents and visitors very seriously. As part of our efforts, we are pleased to present the Storm Survival Guide compiled by the Town of Ocean City's Department of Emergency Services.

Citizens can and should be prepared for all types of weather. On the pages of this guide, you will find information on preparedness to help you and your family. While hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30, it is important to be prepared well in advance.

The Town of Ocean City has an emergency plan that is continually reviewed and updated as needed to better ensure the safety of our citizens and visitors. We encourage our citizens also to be prepared by having a family plan. By working together we can ensure our community is safe and ready to handle any and all weather-related events and other emergency situations.

Sincerely,

Rick Meehan
Mayor
Town of Ocean City, MD





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PREPARATION STORMSEASON!

DEVELOP A FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations.

Develop a plan where each family member calls or emails the same friend or relative in the event of an emergency.

It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact, not in the impacted area may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.

For more information, visit www.ready.gov.

MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT HURRICANES

1. Does anyone in the family have SPECIAL NEEDS requiring medical attention?

YES: Contact the Worcester County Health Department at 410-632-1111 for a copy of their confidential special needs survey.

2. Do you live in an area prone to flooding?

PREPARE Make preparations early for your home, yard, vehicles, personal papers, medications, pets and supply kits.

IF YOU LEAVE... If you plan to leave the area, leave as early as you can to avoid traffic jams and being stranded on the road when the storm makes landfall. If you can, leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.

3. Do you have a family emergency plan?

KNOW how to secure your home. **KNOW** where you will go.

OUT OF TOWN? If you plan to leave the area, leave as early as you can to avoid traffic jams and being stranded on the road when the storm makes landfall. If you can, leave during the Hurricane Watch. Evacuation orders are usually given shortly after a Hurricane Warning is issued. The time between a Watch and a Warning could be as short as six hours.

MOTEL? Make your reservations early.

SHELTER? Have your shelter kit ready! Know where you will be going and how you will get there!

PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION Drive yourself or make prior arrangements with a friend or family member.

4. If an evacuation order is issued...

Do You have a family member or friend outside of the region you could stay with?

Refer to pages 5-10 in this brochure for answers to your questions.

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

Visit

www.ocmdemergency.gov

for hurricane news, storm updates, evacuation information and more.

Watch the Ocean City Government Access Channel on COMCAST Channel 4

Listen to Ocean City's FM 99.5 or FM 100.3, for Emergency Operations Center updates.

**Listen to the local EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) RADIO:
WQHQ-FM 104.7
WSCL-FM 89.5
WQJZ-FM 97.1**

**Local TV:
WBOC 16 (Cable Channel 6)
WMDT 47 (Cable Channel 7)**



or listen to OC Recorded information Hotline at 410-723-6666

(activated only during emergency situations)

Not sure if evacuation is recommended, which County shelters are open or what Ocean City is doing to prepare? Ocean City operates a recorded information hotline that addresses citizens' concerns before, during and after the storm.

When activated, the hotline helps in the following ways:

- Distributes accurate, updated emergency information.
- Provides information about shelters, approaching storm threats and actions being taken to protect the public.
- Helps provide accurate information thereby reducing citizen concerns about the threat.



CARING FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

Ocean City residents with special needs, the elderly, the homeless and those without transportation require extra attention to stay protected in weather emergencies.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE STORM IS RAGING. Emergency personnel may not be able to respond when high winds make road travel hazardous; plan for safe shelter now.

Even if you don't have special needs, you can help others who do. Look around your neighborhood, work place or place of worship and reach out to offer a helping hand. Help to answer questions or pick up a few extra survival kit items for someone else.

WEATHER ALERT RADIOS SAVE LIVES

Severe weather can often strike quickly during the very early morning hours. An alarm from a weather alert radio can mean the difference between life and death, because every minute counts in that kind of situation.

The Ocean City Emergency Management staff members strongly urge residents to purchase a weather alert radio. Just like a smoke alarm, this alert can save your life. Weather alert radios can be found at many retailers, in catalogs and online. The NOAA Alert Radio Freq. in Salisbury is 162.475

REGISTER NOW !

If you will require assistance in leaving your residence during an emergency evacuation, complete the Worcester County Special Needs Registry questionnaire available through the Worcester County Health Department. Do not complete the form if you have a support network i.e. family members, neighbor, etc. that can assist you with evacuation. For more information, contact the Health Department at 410-632-1111.



HOME / SMALL BUSINESS

PREPARATION

STORM IS COMING

PREPARE YOUR HOME

Preparing your home to withstand high winds can mean the difference between minor and major repairs after a hurricane. That's why it's so important to strengthen your home to resist high winds. Some key tips are:

Check your garage door. If your door needs replacing, look for a reinforced, wind-rated model. Shutter your windows; glass can be broken by flying debris. Protecting your windows can keep storm winds and rain out. Duct tape provides little or no protection. Check weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors, replacing if necessary. Think about other improvements. Check out the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes step-by-step instructions for reinforcing your home's roof, gable ends and other vulnerable areas. (www.FLASH.org)

If you have questions about your home's storm readiness, consider having a home inspector review your home's condition.

If you are considering hiring help, be sure to use a licensed, reputable contractor. Before signing a contract, see post disaster consumer tips.

PREPARE YOUR INSURANCE

Don't wait another minute! Review your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy and review exactly what coverage you have.

Four important questions:

- What is my deductible?
- What is my hurricane deductible?
- Do I need flood insurance?
- Do I have enough coverage to replace my home and belongings?

Homeowners should check with their insurance agents to determine what improvements could offer discounts on their hurricane insurance premium. Some companies offer rate reductions for reinforcements to the roof, garage, windows and doors.

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLES

During a weather emergency, you will rely on your vehicle to get supplies, provide a cool blast of air-conditioning and recharge your cell phone.

Vehicle maintenance tips:

- Check your tires, belts, hoses, filters, oil and air-conditioning.
- Make sure you have jumper cables, road flares and reflectors, a first aid kit and a can of non-flammable inflatable tire repair compound.
- Have car charges for phones, laptops and/or a small power inverter to convert the car's DC battery power into an AC plug.
- Remove all non-essential items from your vehicle to keep the interior space ready for evacuation items.

PREPARE YOUR YARD

Getting your yard ready to weather the storm can keep you and your home safe. High winds can turn even the heaviest items into deadly projectiles that can break through your windows, doors and even walls. To prepare:

- Properly prune trees and shrubs well before any storms threaten.
- Do not leave piles of branches that can become missiles in high winds.
- Make sure oil and gas tanks are properly anchored so they will not overturn or float away.
- Keep your gutters and down spouts clear and in good repair.
- Replace rock mulch with shredded bark.
- When a hurricane watch is issued, bring in all yard items such as furniture, toys, bird baths/feeders and barbecue grills.
- Make sure all outdoor furniture, garbage cans and other loose items are properly stored or anchored so they will not become projectiles in high wind.
- Persons living in mobile homes should remove several pieces of skirting from around the base of the home so that high water can move freely in and out from underneath.
- Do not drain your pool. Superchlorinate the water and turn off all electricity to the pool for the duration of the storm.

PREPARE

If you are instructed to evacuate, personal papers/documents to take with you in a water-tight container:

Driver's license or personal identification cards; important phone numbers and emergency contacts; credit cards; medical records and blood type; prescription information (list of medications, dosage, prescription numbers, etc.); doctor's name, address and telephone number; cash for emergencies; bank account numbers. List of savings and investments, including Certificates of Deposit, stocks, bonds and mutual funds; household inventory – either a paper copy, videotape or computer disk; list of insurance policies with the name of

BUSINESSES CREATE A GO BOX FOR CRITICAL PAPERS

A waterproof container can be used to hold and carry important documents and helpful forms. Some of those documents and forms might include:

- A list of all employees, key customers, and clients along with their phone #'s.
- Insurance policies and agent contact information.
- Backup files/tapes of server(s) or electronic data.
- Equipment, computer software/hardware and furniture inventories.
- A list of emergency vendors, like plumbers and restoration contractors, who can help once the storm passes.
- Copies of essential business policies, plans and agreements.
- Photographs of the business, both inside and out.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- Cover and move equipment and furniture to a secured area.
- Always protect your data with backup files.
- Make plans to work with limited cash & the possibility of no utilities for some days.
- Protect windows and glass doors.
- Clear the property or tie down any items that could become flying missiles.
- Fill fleet cars and equipment gas tanks.
- Turn off electricity, water and gas.

YOUR IMPORTANT PERSONAL DOCUMENTS

the company, type of policy and policy number; inventory list of items in your home that may be damaged or lost and photograph these items; copy of wills, trust documents and living wills; titles for your house, car and other property; birth, marriage, divorce, death and adoption certificates; passports; list of family advisors: accountant, attorney, banker, doctors, dentist, employer, financial advisor, insurance agent and religious leader; educational and military records; a copy of a utility bill in with your papers as well to assist in validation of the address; other special papers that would be difficult or impossible to replace if lost.

PREPARE

PET EVACUATION **DO'S**

- Plan for your pet well in advance. Write down your plan and create a check list.
- Take your pet when you evacuate. Know your evacuation route and when you will evacuate.
- Make sure you have a collar and leash for keeping your pet under control.
- Keep a pet carrier (portable kennel) for each pet – one that allows your pet to stand and turn around. Each carrier should be marked with pet identification and contact information.
- Make sure all your pet's vaccinations are current. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.
- Make sure your pets have current identification tags at all times.
- Pack supplies for your pet including current veterinary records, a two-week supply of food and water, medications with instructions, bowls, favorite toy and blanket, cat litter/pan, plastic bags, collar/leash, disinfectants to handle pet wastes and a current photo of your pet.

PREPARE

FOR YOUR PET'S CARE

When an emergency evacuation is ordered, pets – except for service animals – will not be allowed in shelters for public health and safety reasons. Planning ahead can save your pet's life and make yours easier, according to Animal Control authorities.

BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

Find a safe place for your pets to stay. Emergency pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics, friends and relatives out of harm's way are all possible choices. Some hotels and motels may allow you to bring pets. Others may suspend their "no pet rules" during an emergency. Don't assume that a boarding kennel or hotel/motel will accept your pet. If arrangements are made to board your pet, ensure that the owners will be there after the threat passes and not abandon them. Check ahead.

PREPARE

PET EVACUATION **DON'TS**

Don't assume an animal shelter, boarding kennel or hotel/motel will accept your pet. Repeat.....Check ahead.



The strongest determinants of adhering to an evacuation order are tied to personal risk perception, and storm intensity. Personal evacuation decisions are based on variables: warning messages, personal experiences, advice of family or friends, the difficulty of previous evacuations, the cost of evacuation, awareness/knowledge of evacuation destinations, storm size (based on wind speed), the actions of neighbors, and flooding propensity near your homes.

Hurricane preparedness is not an option when one lives in a hurricane zone, it is a survival necessity! When advised by government officials to evacuate, versus considering staying on the mainland to ride out the storm in a county shelter, residents are strongly encouraged to stay aware of storm possibilities, take preparation advisories seriously and evacuate when advised to do so.

There is a substantial shelter space deficit in the lower shore of Maryland. There are no hurricane shelters in Ocean City, and limited shelter capacity in Worcester County, Maryland. So, if you have a safe place to go, plan to use that location instead of a public shelter. But, if you have no safe place to go, shelters will be open. Here are some important points to remember if you choose to go to a public shelter.

When you arrive, give your name and address to the shelter manager so you can be located, if necessary. If you leave the shelter, check out with the shelter manager. Accountability is important to your safety.

Shelters are not available to provide conveniences or luxuries. They are not hotels. Food and water will be available, but there may be a delay in initial service. If you need special food items, bring them with you. Bring your families' disaster survival kit to ensure proper provisions.

"Sheltering in place" is only a precaution aimed at keeping citizens safe while remaining indoors for incidents of a localized nature. This is not the same thing as evacuating to a safe location and not recommended for hurricanes. When a "shelter-in-place" order is given by our local government, citizens within the localized affected area should take the following protective measures:

- ◆ Go indoors and close all windows and doors.
- ◆ Turn off all sources of outside air (i.e. air conditioners and ventilation fans/ducts).
- ◆ Remain indoors until notified that it is safe to move outdoors.
- ◆ Stay tuned to Ocean City's FM 99.5 or FM 100.3 and local radio/ television stations to receive official notices.
- ◆ Because of the destructive power of a hurricane, you should never ignore an evacuation order. Once an evacuation is ordered, you should leave as soon as possible. Government decision to evacuate Ocean City is based on specific hazards associated with hurricanes: high winds, tornadoes, heavy rainfall and rain-induced flooding, and storm surge. Evacuation is the protective method of choice since Ocean City is a coastal barrier island susceptible to the storm surge and high wind risks.







PREPARATION EVACUATION

EVACUATION KIT WHAT TO TAKE

- Medications
- Non-perishable foods, especially if diet is restricted
- Several gallons of drinking liquids
- Bedding for a small space
- Any infant or child necessities (wipes, diapers, bottles, etc.)
- Flashlight and portable radio w/batteries
- Personal hygiene items.
- Change of clothes
- Eyeglasses
- Quiet games, toys or reading material
- Important papers with valid ID
- Cash

Please remember shelter space can be limited and your family may not be able to return to your home for days or even weeks. Families may want to consider relocating farther away from the coast to a friend or family member's home away from the area forecasted to be impacted by the storm.

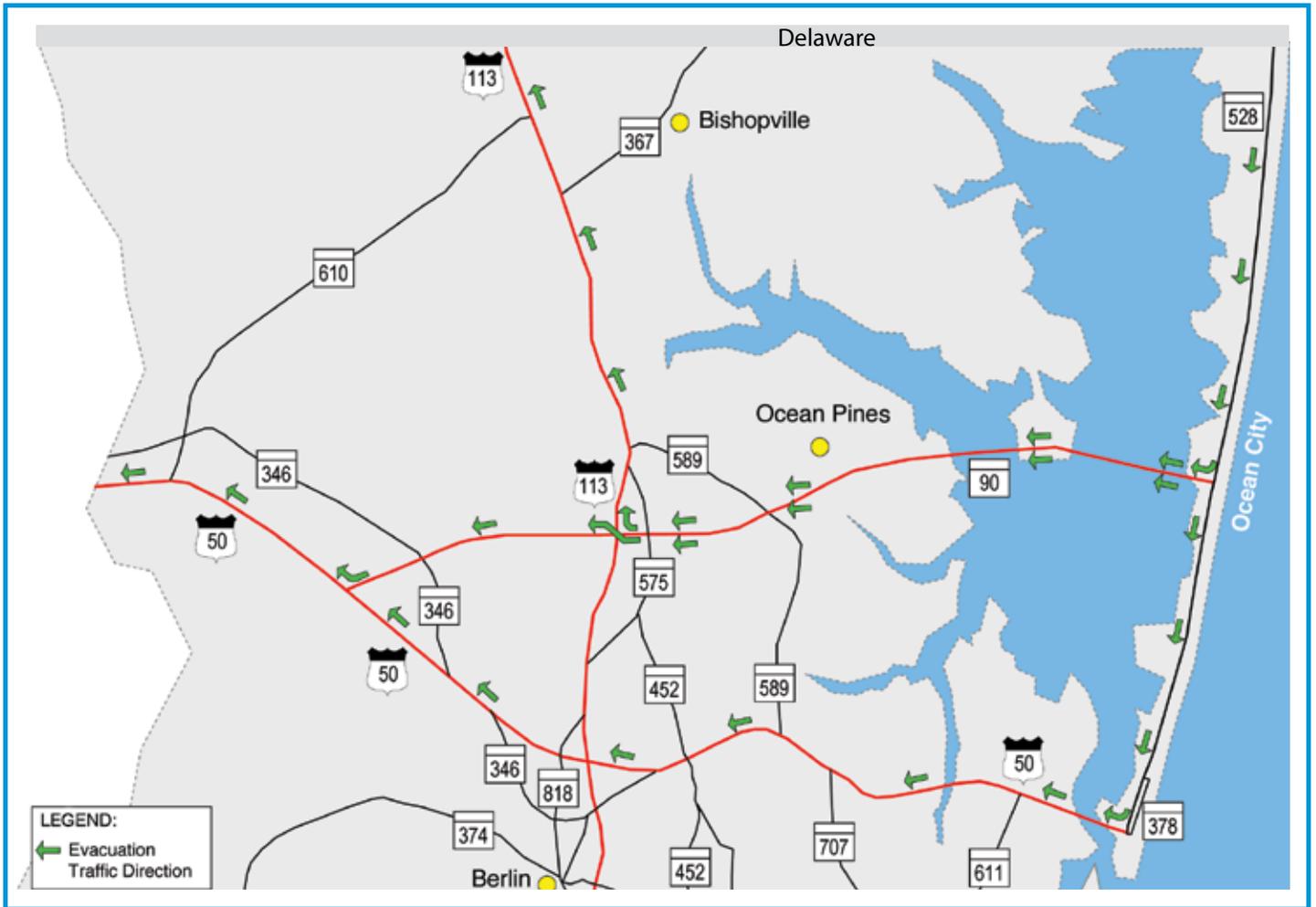
PET DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- Owner name & Pet(s) name ID
- Current photo of pet
- Immunization records
- County license for dogs
- Food and water (2 weeks supply)
- A carrier or portable kennel
- Medications
- Muzzle, collar and leash
- Manual can opener
- Feeding and water bowls
- Cat litter/pan and scoop
- Grooming items
- Plastic bags to handle waste

Additional Information can be obtained at:
The Humane Society of the United States
202-452-1100
www.hsus.org

Worcester County Animal Control
at 410-632-1340

Ocean City Animal Control
at 410-723-6649





PREPARATION DURING THE STORM

STORM SURVIVAL KIT

- One week supply of food that requires no cooking and fluids to drink.
 - One gallon of water per person per day for up to seven days for drinking and sanitation.
Additional water for pets, too.
 - Manual can opener
 - Portable battery-operated radio, flashlights, lanterns.
 - Extra batteries, bulbs
 - Infant and child necessities
 - Pet necessities
 - Clean storage containers for water
 - Cooler and ice
 - First aid kit
 - Home repair materials (lumber, tarps, buckets, plastic sheeting)
 - Portable toilet (5-gallon bucket, heavy trash bags, chlorine bleach)
- *For more information, go to www.ready.gov

WHEN THE STORM'S IMPACT IS FELT!

While the approach of a hurricane can be an anxious time, living through the storm can be terrifying. If you live in an ordered evacuation zone, you should already be at your place of safe haven. If you choose not to evacuate, it's time to get you and your home ready for the storm.

Here are some important tips to remember:

- ▶ Stay tuned to local and regional news.
- ▶ Use your battery-powered weather radio when power is lost.
- ▶ Make sure your emergency supplies are out and ready.
- ▶ Make any last minute preparations to secure yards, windows and vehicles.
- ▶ Sanitize and fill your bath tub with water.
- ▶ Stay indoors.
- ▶ Close all interior doors – secure and brace external doors.
- ▶ Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm – winds will pick up again.

If your power goes out, use flashlights, battery-powered lanterns or chemical light sticks. Burning candles can cause irritation to eyes and airways and should not be left unattended.

Most importantly, stay calm.

HELP KEEP KIDS CALM DURING THE STORM

Whether you stay home or evacuate, young children can feel extremely threatened and frightened by a hurricane. Parents and caretakers should extend greater patience and understanding to a child who is having difficulty coping with the situation. Consider how your children might react in a disaster, what your own reactions might be and how the crisis could affect emotional and physical well-being.

- ▶ Involve children in emergency planning, such as checking supplies and writing a shopping list.
- ▶ Be ready with a hug or a box of supplies with games, books and hobby items.
- ▶ Store or pack kid-friendly food items and drinks.
- ▶ Have a favorite toy or stuffed animal around to help children feel more secure.
- ▶ Help reduce your children's fears by remaining calm yourself.
- ▶ Listen to fears and reassure children often and repeatedly.
- ▶ Encourage them to talk and ask questions, but limit discussion to basic facts.
- ▶ Spend extra time with them before bedtime; leave a door open and a night light on. Do not discipline for unusual signs of anxiety during a crisis.
- ▶ Do not lie to children about the dangers.
- ▶ Reassure them that you are focused on their safety.
- ▶ Be cautious of permitting young children to watch or listen to news.
- ▶ Look for physical symptoms of anxiety that children may demonstrate during and after a hurricane.
- ▶ Allow for mourning and grieving over the loss of meaningful items.



DURING A DISASTER

- ▶Keep pets in the house as emergency situations develop so you can quickly locate them.
- ▶Don't wait until the last minute to get ready. Warnings may be issued hours or days in advance.
- ▶Follow emergency instructions issued by emergency management or other local emergency officials.
- ▶Take your pet's immunization and health records with you to prevent them from being lost or damaged.
- ▶If you have to evacuate and are taking your pet with you or to a boarding facility, take all of the items you have acquired including food and health records.
- ▶If you must leave your pet behind, follow these tips:
 - Bring the pet indoors.
 - Leave plenty of dry food in a non-spill bowl.
 - Leave plenty of water in a non-spill bowl or bathtub.
 - Put large or dangerous animals in carriers to reduce the possibility of them getting loose.

IF YOUR HOME IS BREACHED

Even though you have taken the necessary precautions to protect your home, the exterior can be breached. Debris can break through and trees can crash through your roof. When this happens, take these immediate actions:

- ▶Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level of your home. Remember, put as much house between you and the outside.
- ▶Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object if you cannot make it to a safe room.
- ▶Consider leaving your home **ONLY** if remaining poses an imminent threat to your life.
- ▶Otherwise, wait until the storm has passed to tend to the damage.

GENERATOR SAFETY

Those who use a home generator will have limited power during a prolonged power outage. Use them to help keep a refrigerator cold, run a fan, recharge your cell phone or operate a microwave oven. Portable generators can help your storm recovery more comfortable, but they can also kill if not used correctly. Read instructions carefully and fully understand how to use your specific generator. Here are some important tips on generator safety:

Carbon Monoxide (CO): A colorless, odorless gas produced when the generator burns fuel. CO is deadly in very small concentrations.

- ▶Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents.
- ▶NEVER use generators in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas even with ventilation.
- ▶Install battery-operated or plug in (with battery backup) CO alarms in your home.
- ▶Test CO alarms often and replace batteries when needed.

ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

Generators create electricity, which can kill if you receive a shock.

- ▶Keep the generator dry. Operate on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- ▶Dry your hands before touching the generator.
- ▶Plug appliances directly into generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord. Make sure entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- ▶NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet. This practice, known as backfeeding, can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- ▶If it is necessary to connect the generator to house wiring to power your appliances, have a qualified electrician install appropriate equipment and teach you how to use it.

FIRE HAZARDS

Generators use flammable fuels to generate power, increasing the chance of an accidental fire that can threaten your life and property.

- ▶Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- ▶Always store fuel in properly labeled containers outside of living areas.
- ▶Store fuel away from any fuel-burning appliance.

ESCAPING EXTREME HEAT

Citizens in search of a cool environment during hazy, hot, humid days are welcomed to visit their local branch of the Worcester County Public Library, Northside Park Complex or Convention Center. Those seeking relief from the heat also are encouraged to visit the mall, area movie theaters and other air-conditioned locations.

Ocean City Emergency Management monitors heat conditions during heat waves to determine if the hours at selected community centers should be extended.

CHAINSAW SAFETY

While it is necessary to clear downed trees and branches, take great caution when using a chainsaw. Here are some important safety tips to help keep you safe and injury-free:

Before Starting the Saw

- Read your owner's manual.
- Wear proper safety gear, including eye and hearing protection, heavy work gloves and work boots.
- Check controls, chain tension and all bolts and handles to ensure they are functioning properly.
- Fuel your cool saw at least 10 feet from sources of ignition.

While Running the Saw

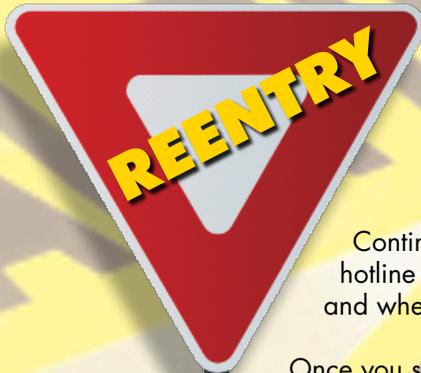
- Keep hands on the handles, and maintain secure footing while operating the chainsaw.
- Clear the area of obstacles that might interfere with cutting, especially downed power lines.
- Do not cut directly overhead or over reach with the saw.
- Be prepared for kickback.



PREPARATION AFTER THE STORM

BEFORE YOU RETURN

The purpose of recovery planning is to anticipate what will be needed to restore the community to a full functioning capability as soon as possible through the pre-event planning and cooperation between citizens, businesses and the Ocean City Town Government. Successful community recovery from disaster will only occur if everyone in the community understands the process and how they fit in. Individuals, agencies, organizations and businesses must understand their responsibilities and coordinate their work efforts with the town government.



Continue to monitor local media, www.ocmdemergency.gov, the Town of Ocean City recorded hotline 410-723-6666 and Ocean City's FM 99.5 & FM 100.3 for instructions and updates on how and when it is safe to return to the town.

Once you safely return to the town, drive only when it is absolutely necessary. Ongoing recovery efforts may still be underway. Avoid sightseeing. Roads may be closed for your protection, so if you encounter barricades, turn around and go another way.

- ▼ Do not drive in flooded areas.
- ▼ Beware of any downed power lines and report them immediately.
- ▼ Stay on firm ground. Moving water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from downed power lines.
- ▼ Beware of animals that have been driven to higher ground from flooding.
- ▼ Enter your home with extreme caution. All homes and businesses will be checked by Structural Safety Teams prior to letting residents back into the town.
- ▼ Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until notified by the Town of Ocean City.
- ▼ Avoid using candles or open flames indoors. Use a flashlight or other battery-powered lighting.
- ▼ Be especially cautious when using chainsaws or other powered tools to cut fallen trees.
- ▼ Never connect portable generators to your home. Use them only to run necessary appliances and plug the appliance into the generator. Make sure that the generator is outside with plenty of ventilation.

DRIVING SAFE

A hurricane can turn a familiar neighborhood into an unfamiliar place very quickly. Downed street signs, traffic lights and debris can make even a short drive dangerous. When you get behind the wheel, consider these tips.

- ▶ You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.
- ▶ Match your speed to road conditions. Cars can quickly become uncontrollable when driving on damaged, debris-choked roads.
- ▶ Visibility may be limited. Increased traffic on congested roadways and large trucks can obstruct your line of sight.
- ▶ Maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you.
- ▶ Traffic patterns may be shifted in work zones; obey the posted work zone speed limit at all times. Be aware of equipment and workers on or near the road.
- ▶ Constantly scan for pedestrians who can quickly lose their footing.
- ▶ Obey all road closed signs. Just because you can't see roadway damage doesn't mean it is safe to drive on.
- ▶ Traffic signals may not work.
- ▶ Treat any intersection with non-working traffic signals as an all-way stop. Be prepared to stop at every intersection.
- ▶ Not all road signs that were damaged or destroyed have been replaced; be prepared to yield to a pedestrian or another driver, or to stop unexpectedly.
- ▶ Know where you are going and give yourself ample time to make your trip.
- ▶ Drive with car lights on in rainy conditions at a safe speed.

DRINKING WATER

A boil water order can be issued during a heavy rain, a hurricane, a water main break or another significant event that affects the drinking water supply. What that means is that the possibility of some microbial contamination exists for tap water. How do you make your water safe to drink? While there are advanced and expensive filters and specialized water treatment tablets on the market that can accomplish this, there are two methods that are typically used by homeowners:

BOILING

Boiling is the most effective way to kill bacteria, viruses and parasites in water. Bringing a pot of water to a full rolling boil for one minute is enough, health officials say, to kill pathogens and make the water safe to consume. A very important thing to remember is that water must be brought to a full rolling boil before you start counting one minute. Let the water come to room temperature before drinking it.

BLEACH

Bleach is a less effective way to sanitize water, but can work if you don't have access to power or cooking fuel. Add 1/8 tsp. of common unscented household bleach (check the label, it should contain 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite) per gallon of water and let the water stand for at least 30 minutes.

Remember these methods work with water that is clear but possibly contaminated. These methods won't work for sanitizing murky water taken from a ditch, for example.

For more information, visit the Center for Disease Control food and water safety page at www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floodwater.asp.

FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINES

A hurricane can cut power to your house for days – even weeks. While power outages can be annoying, they also present health concerns from food spoilage, especially when held above 40 degrees F. Here are some tips to help keep you safe:

- ▶ Before a storm's arrival, take an inventory of the items in your refrigerator and freezer. Put this list on the refrigerator door. This way, you know where everything is located.
- ▶ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- ▶ A full freezer with minimal door opening can keep frozen items safe for about two days.
- ▶ Refrigerated foods should be safe as long as the power is out no more than about four to six hours. Discard any perishable food that has been above 40 degrees F for two hours or more and any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture.
- ▶ If power will be off more than six hours, transfer refrigerated perishable items to an insulated cooler filled with ice or frozen gel packs. Keep a thermometer in the cooler to be sure the food stays at 40 degrees or below.
- ▶ Never taste food to determine its safety! Some foods may look and smell fine, but if they've been at room temperature longer than two hours, the bacteria that causes food-borne illness can multiply quite rapidly.
- ▶ For more information about food safety, contact the Worcester County Health Department at 410-632-1111.

LOCATING PETS AFTER THE DISASTER

- ▶ Bring along a picture of your pet for identification at the emergency shelter.
- ▶ Walk pets on leash until they become reoriented to their home. Often familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and pets could easily be confused and become lost.
- ▶ After a disaster, animals can become aggressive or defensive. Monitor their behavior.

RESTROOM FACILITIES

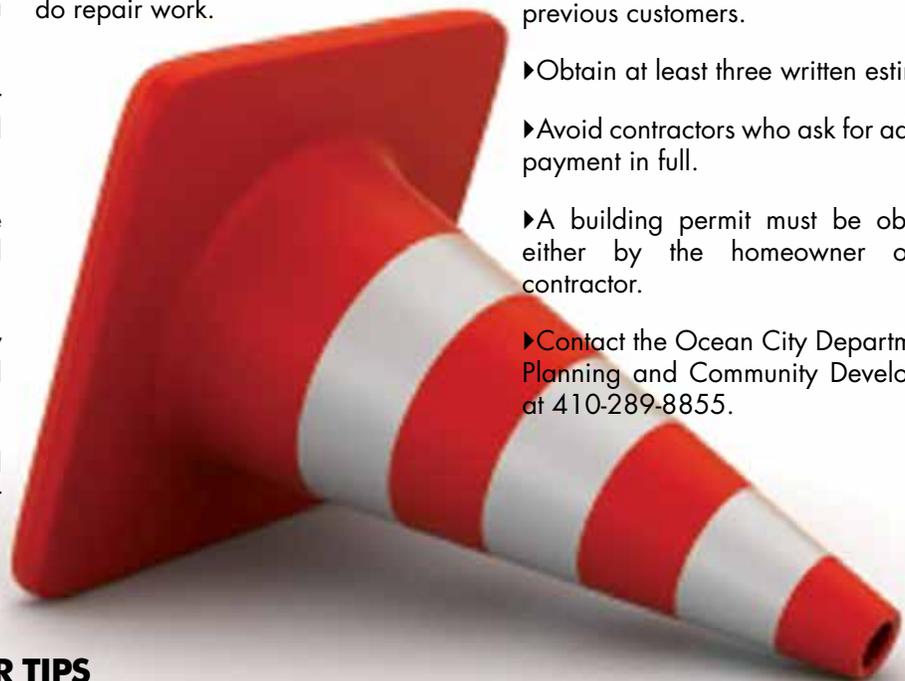
Flooding and power outages can affect the sanitary sewer system. Improperly disposed human waste can lead to outbreaks of cholera, dysentery and other diseases. Here are some tips for dealing with a sewage outage:

- ▶When instructed, do not use and flush your toilet. Powered sewer lift stations may be out of order, which could lead to a sewage back up into homes.
- ▶Use a chemical toilet if one is available.
- ▶Create an emergency toilet by using a five-gallon plastic bucket with a tight fitting lid, a heavy duty trash bag and household bleach.
- ▶You can also use your toilet bowl. Turn off the water, flush one time to empty water and line with a heavy-duty trash bag. Add chlorine bleach to serve as a deodorant and disinfectant.
- ▶DO NOT use kitty litter in your emergency toilet. This cannot be flushed after the sewage system is operational.
- ▶Once given the OK, dispose of the toilet's contents into your household commode.
- ▶Thoroughly sanitize your emergency toilet with bleach before storing and disposing.
- ▶Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or use a hand sanitizing gel after handling the emergency toilet.

HOUSE INSPECTION

If your home has been flooded during the storm, use extreme caution around electrical service. Have a licensed electrician check to see if it is safe before using the power; licensee information may be obtained by calling Ocean City Planning and Community Development at 410-289-8855.

- ▶Promptly report any damage to your insurance company and take pictures before any cleanup begins.
- ▶Remove any water from your home as soon as possible to reduce any further water damage.
- ▶Make sure you have plenty of ventilation moving through the house.
- ▶Consult post disaster consumer tips on this page before hiring a contractor to do repair work.



HOME REPAIR & CONTRACTORS

- ▶Never let anyone into your home without first asking for identification. Representatives of utilities, government officials and reputable businesses will have proper identification.
- ▶Hire only licensed and insured contractors. Any company or person doing work at a residence must have a Maryland Home Improvement License and they must be insured through the Maryland Home Improvement Commission in Baltimore, 410-230-6309/1-888-218-5925.
- ▶The Ocean City Planning and Community Development Department can verify MHIC, plumber and electrical contractor license numbers. Contact the Department at 410-289-8855.
- ▶Insist on and check references of previous customers.
- ▶Obtain at least three written estimates.
- ▶Avoid contractors who ask for advance payment in full.
- ▶A building permit must be obtained either by the homeowner or the contractor.
- ▶Contact the Ocean City Department of Planning and Community Development at 410-289-8855.

POST-DISASTER CONSUMER TIPS

Know the laws protecting your rights. Because the demand for qualified contractors after a disaster usually exceeds the supply, do not lose your money to a home repair con artist.

TO REGISTER A COMPLAINT

Any matter relating to consumer complaints about services rendered by someone or purchases made of materials that were faulty is handled by the Consumer Protection Division of the Maryland Attorney General's Office, 410-528-8662/ www.oag.state.md.us/consumer. Complaints from homeowners about licensed contractors or general questions about a contractor performing any home improvement (any repair, replacement, remodeling or modernization of home or property) can be made to the Maryland Home Improvement Commission, 410-230-6309/1-888-218-5925/ www.dllr.state.md.us/license/ocprof/homeim.html.



PREPARATION TSUNAMIS



TSUNAMI WARNING

When information is received from the National Weather Service that our area is under a Tsunami Warning the general population should be aware and react to the following:

Individual Citizens:

- **Listen for the Tsunami Siren Alert.**
- **Leave the beach immediately!** If you can see the wave you are too close to escape it.
- **Proceed to at least the 2nd floor level** of a structurally sound high rise building nearby. Remain in the building until conditions are safe to leave.
- **Tune into the Town of Ocean City's Radio Station at FM 99.5 or FM 100.3** for emergency information.
- **Turn on your Television to any COMCAST Channel in Ocean City.** Our Town's Division of Emergency Management will make voice override announcements, during the emergency over this system.

CAUTION - If there is noticeable recession in water away from the shoreline, and **NO WARNING IS HEARD**, this is nature's tsunami warning and it should be heeded. You should move away immediately. The following are guidelines for the period following a tsunami:

- Stay away from flooded and damaged areas until officials say it is safe to return.
- Stay away from debris in the water; it may pose a safety hazard to boats and people.

SAVE YOURSELF NOT YOUR POSSESSIONS!

T S U N A M I S

pronounced soo-ná-mees, also known as seismic sea waves (mistakenly called "tidal waves"), are a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance such as an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption or meteorite. A tsunami can move hundreds of miles per hour in the open ocean and smash into land with a series of waves.

From the area where the tsunami originates, waves travel outward in all directions. Once the wave approaches the shore, it builds in height. The topography of the coastline and the ocean floor will influence the size of the wave. There may be more than one wave and the succeeding one may be larger than the one before. That is why a small tsunami at one beach can be a giant wave a few miles away.

All tsunamis are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike. A tsunami can strike anywhere along most of the U.S. coastline.



PHONE & INTERNET

**Police, Fire
or Medical Emergency
dial 911**

City Hall

410-289-8221

www.oceancitymd.gov**Emergency Management**

410-723-6646

www.ocmdemergency.gov

410-723-6650

<http://twitter.com/ocmd911>**Emergency Services**

410-723-6616

Recorded Information

410-723-6666

Fire Department

410-289-4346

Fire Marshal

410-289-8780

Police Department

410-723-6610

Public Works

410-524-7716

Health Department

410-632-1100

**Maryland
Emergency Management Agency**

877-636-2872 or 410-517-3600

The Emergency Services Department

mission is to contribute toward the quality of our community's life by fostering a stable environment in which security is balanced with community needs.

The success of this mission depends upon a true partnership between our government and the diverse population of residents and visitors that constitute the Ocean City community — a partnership built on mutual respect and responsibility.

The members of the Emergency Services Department pledge their respect for the needs and rights of the community, their diligence and professionalism in the protection of persons, property and rights. And, to their determination to ever seek new and better ways through technology to reduce the effects of natural and man-made events, opportunity for crime, to increase safety and planning awareness, and to encourage a sense of communal concern for each other's safety and well-being.

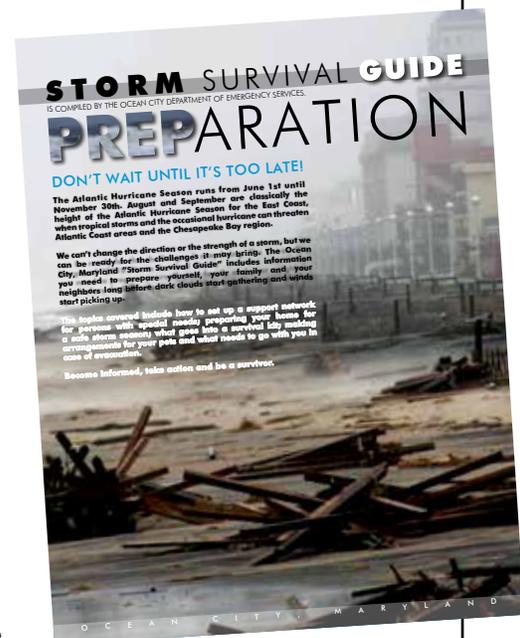
Toward that partnership, we contend that all residents and visitors must also accept their individual and collective responsibilities to make the Town of Ocean City a safe community.

In achieving these goals, the Emergency Services Department stands accountable to the community and open to the ideas and concerns of its members and the people we serve.

Thank you,



Joseph J. Theobald
Director



KEY TERMS

Advisory Official information issued by tropical cyclone warning centers describing all tropical cyclone watches and warnings in effect along with details concerning tropical cyclone locations, intensity and movement, and precautions that should be taken. Advisories are also issued to describe: (a) tropical cyclones prior to issuance of watches and warnings and (b) subtropical cyclones.

Center Generally speaking, the vertical axis of a tropical cyclone, usually defined by the location of minimum wind or minimum pressure. The cyclone center position can vary with altitude. In advisory products, refers to the center position at the surface.

Cyclone An atmospheric closed circulation rotating counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

Eye The roughly circular area of comparatively light winds that encompasses the center of a severe tropical cyclone. The eye is either completely or partially surrounded by the eye wall cloud.

Gale Warning A warning of 1-minute sustained surface winds in the range 34 kt (39 mph or 63 km/hr) to 47 kt (54 mph or 87 km/hr) inclusive, either predicted or occurring and not directly associated with tropical cyclones.

High Wind Warning A high wind warning is defined as 1-minute average surface winds of 35 kt (40 mph or 64 km/hr) or greater lasting for 1 hour or longer, or winds gusting to 50 kt (58 mph or 93 km/hr) or greater regardless of duration that are either expected or observed over land.

Hurricane/Typhoon A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind (using the U.S. 1-minute average) is 64 kt (74 mph or 119 km/hr) or more. The term hurricane is used for Northern Hemisphere tropical cyclones east of the International Dateline to the Greenwich Meridian. The term typhoon is used for Pacific tropical cyclones north of the Equator west of the International Dateline.

Hurricane Season The portion of the year having a relatively high incidence of hurricanes. The hurricane season in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico runs from June 1 to November 30. The hurricane season in the Eastern Pacific basin runs from May 15 to November 30. The hurricane season in the Central Pacific basin runs from June 1 to November 30.

Hurricane Warning A warning that sustained winds 64 kt (74 mph or 119 km/hr) or higher associated with a hurricane are expected in a specified coastal area in 36 hours or less. A hurricane warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force.

Hurricane Watch An announcement for specific coastal areas that hurricane conditions are possible within 48 hours.

Landfall The intersection of the surface center of a tropical cyclone with a coastline. Because the strongest winds in a tropical cyclone are not located precisely at the center, it is possible for a cyclone's strongest winds to be experienced over land even if landfall does not occur. Similarly, it is possible for a tropical cyclone to make landfall and have its strongest winds remain over the water.

Major Hurricane A hurricane that is classified as Category 3 or higher.

Present Movement The best estimate of the movement of the center of a tropical cyclone at a given time and given position. This estimate does not reflect the short-period, small scale oscillations of the cyclone center.

Storm Surge An abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm, and whose height is the difference between the observed level of the sea surface and the level that would have occurred in the absence of the cyclone. Storm surge is usually estimated by subtracting the normal or astronomic high tide from the observed storm tide.

Storm Tide The actual level of sea water resulting from the astronomic tide combined with the storm surge.

Storm Warning A warning of 1-minute sustained surface winds of 48 kt (55 mph or 88 km/hr) or greater, either predicted or occurring, not directly associated with tropical cyclones.

Subtropical Depression A subtropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed (using the U.S. 1-minute average) is 33 kt (38 mph or 62 km/hr) or less.

Subtropical Storm A subtropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed (using the U.S. 1-minute average) is 34 kt (39 mph or 63 km/hr) or more.

Tropical Cyclone A warm-core non-frontal synoptic-scale cyclone, originating over tropical or subtropical waters, with organized deep convection and a closed surface wind circulation about a well-defined center. Once formed, a tropical cyclone is maintained by the extraction of heat energy from the ocean at high temperature and heat export at the low temperatures of the upper troposphere. In this they differ from extra tropical cyclones, which derive their energy from horizontal temperature contrasts in the atmosphere (bar clinic effects).

Tropical Depression A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed (using the U.S. 1-minute average) is 33 kt (38 mph or 62 km/hr) or less.

Tropical Disturbance A discrete tropical weather system of apparently organized convection -- generally 100 to 300 miles in diameter -- originating in the tropics or subtropics, having a non-frontal migratory character, and maintaining its identity for 24 hours or more. It may or may not be associated with a detectable perturbation of the wind field.

Tropical Storm A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed (using the U.S. 1-minute average) ranges from 34 kt (39 mph or 63 km/hr) to 63 kt (73 mph or 118 km/hr).

Tropical Storm Warning A warning that sustained winds within the range of 34 to 63 kt (39 to 73 mph or 63 to 118 km/hr) associated with a tropical cyclone are expected in a specified coastal area within 24 hours or less.

Tropical Storm Watch An announcement for specific coastal areas that tropical storm conditions are possible within 36 hours.

Tropical Wave A trough or cyclonic curvature maximum in the trade-wind easterlies. The wave may reach maximum amplitude in the lower middle troposphere.

Tsunamis pronounced soo-ná-mees, also known as seismic sea waves (mistakenly called "tidal waves"), are a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance such as an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption or meteorite. A tsunami can move hundreds of miles per hour in the open ocean and smash into land with a series of waves.



A very Special Thanks to: Harford County, Maryland, Emergency Operations Division and the Pinellas County, Florida Department of Emergency Management for their assistance with this publication. Special thanks to Maryland Emergency Management Agency.

MITIGATION

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

Part of your long term preparation for storm events can include mitigation measures to provide permanent protection from storm damages. Ocean City works in cooperation with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency to develop hazard mitigation strategies for the city, and to provide opportunities for property owners to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

The HMGP provides grants to State and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major storm disaster declaration. The purpose is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.

HMGP funds may be used for projects that will reduce or eliminate losses from future disasters, and must provide savings greater than the cost of the project. All mitigation projects must be cost-effective, technically feasible, and meet Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation requirements in accordance with FEMA Guidance. In addition, all mitigation activities must adhere to all relevant state and local regulations, and requirements.

Who is eligible to Apply?

County and municipal governments are eligible, and can submit an application to MEMA on behalf of participating property owners.



Eligible Projects

- ✓ Property Acquisition/Demolition
- ✓ Property Acquisition/Relocation
- ✓ Structure Elevation
- ✓ Non-residential Floodproofing

How do I apply for a Mitigation Grant?

1. Contact the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, or your local emergency management agency for more information.
2. Prepare a scope of work with the general concept of the project.
3. Get estimates of project cost.
4. Agree to the cost sharing formula: 75% Federal, 25% non-federal.



MARYLAND
Emergency Management Agency
410-517-3649 mema.maryland.gov