

# HARFORD COUNTY

## Emergency Preparedness Guide



*Hurricane Isabel, 2003*

**Emergency Guide  
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*Tropical Storm Isabel, Havre de Grace, 2003*



*Tropical Storm Lee, Conowingo Dam, 2011*



*Hurricane Sandy, Harford County, 2012*

**Plan ■ Prepare ■ Practice**

**BARRY GLASSMAN**  
HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE



**BILLY BONIFACE**  
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Harford Countians,

As a volunteer firefighter and EMT, I saw tragedy strike citizens who were unprepared for a disaster. As your county executive, I urge you to act now to safeguard yourself, your loved ones and your neighbors - because you never know when disaster will strike. My administration is here to help, along with our volunteer first-responders. But the most important first response must come from you. Please review this Emergency Preparedness Guide, follow the instructions and keep it handy as a resource. Working together, we will keep public safety a priority in Harford County.



Barry Glassman  
County Executive

**MARYLAND'S NEW CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY**

410.638.3350 | 410.879.2038 | TTY Maryland Relay 711 | [www.harfordcountymd.gov](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov)  
220 South Main Street, Bel Air, Maryland 21014  
THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT UPON REQUEST

## Stay Informed



**REGISTER** your  
contact information

[www.harfordpublicsafety.org](http://www.harfordpublicsafety.org)

**410-638-4900**

HarfordCoEM @HarfordCoDES

Dear Harford County Residents:

Harford County is not immune from severe weather and both natural and manmade disastrous events. These events include hurricanes, severe storms, significant power outages, fires, tornadoes, paralyzing ice and snowstorms and earthquakes. Left unprepared, citizens can suffer disastrous consequences, serious injury, and death. The key to recovering from these disasters lies in proper planning. Citizens and communities who prepare and plan for any disaster reduce the likelihood of injury and more quickly recover from the crisis. But the time to prepare is now!

Our "Emergency Preparedness Guide" contains many tips and suggestions to help our citizens effectively mitigate these critical incidents. Please take a few minutes to read through our publication and learn what you can do. Keep a copy in your desk as a ready reference. So, **Are You Ready?** Take time now to read, "Harford County Emergency Preparedness Guide" and get ready. Your life and the lives of your family and friends depend on your preparedness.

Sincerely,

Edward Hopkins

Director, Department of Emergency Services



## HURRICANE HAZARDS...

The months of August and September represent the height of hurricane season for Harford County. This is the time of year when tropical storms and the occasional hurricane can travel up the Atlantic Coast and impact the Mid-Atlantic. Depending upon the category and other weather factors, a hurricane can bring along many hazards identified in this guide. The higher the category, the worse the impacts can be from a storm. Damaging winds and heavy rain can lead a myriad of potential problems across the county.

### High Winds

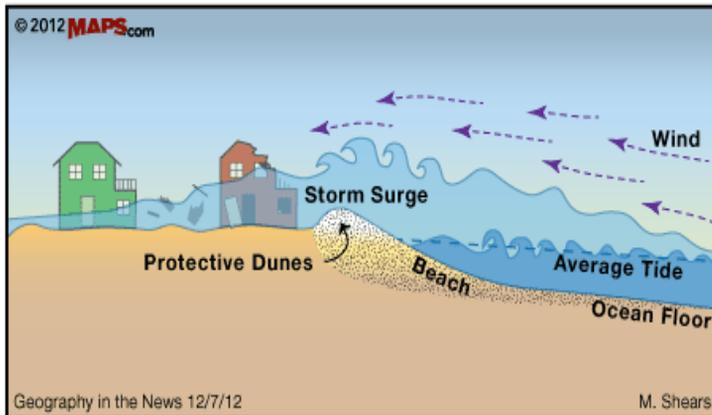
Category	Winds	Summary
1	74-95 mph	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage
2	96-110 mph	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage
3	111-129 mph	Devastating damage will occur
4	130-156 mph	Catastrophic damage will occur
5	157 + mph	Catastrophic damage will occur

### Watch out for:

- Flying debris such as signs, roofing material, small items left outside
- Extensive damage to trees
- Widespread power outages
- Damage to underground utilities (due to uprooted trees)
- Structural damage

**Hide from the wind,  
run from the water.**

### Storm Surge



*Havre de Grace Storm Surge, Isabel, 2003*

Storm surge is caused by a dome of water pushed ashore by powerful tropical cyclone winds. Storm surge can washout buildings, trees, marinas, boats, roads and bridges. It is often the greatest threat to life and property from a tropical storm or hurricane.

If you reside on a coastline in Harford County, you must:

- Strictly follow local building codes.
- Evacuate when ordered.
- Have a go-kit ready for your family and your pets.

## THUNDERSTORM HAZARDS...

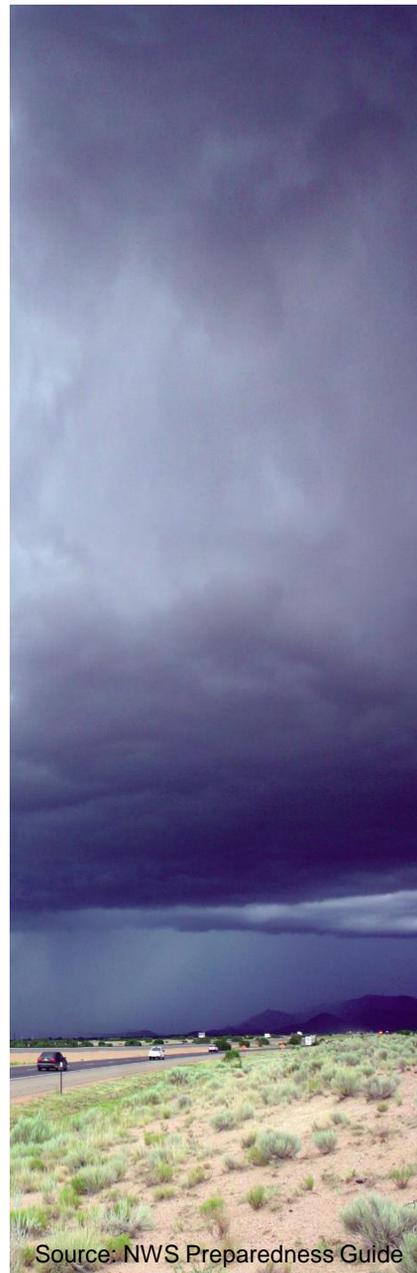
A thunderstorm impacts a relatively small area when compared to a hurricane or a winter storm. A typical thunderstorm lasts an average of 30 minutes. Despite their size, **ALL** thunderstorms are dangerous! Of the estimated 100,000 thunderstorms that occur each year in the United States, about 10 percent are classified as severe.

Thunderstorms can feature damaging winds, lightning, hail, flooding, and an occasional tornado. Hail and lightning are explained in this section, while tornadoes and flooding are described later in this guide as they can also be caused by a tropical storm or hurricane.

### Hail

#### What do you need to know about hail?

- Strong updrafts within a thunderstorm carry water droplets to a height where they freeze. Ice particles grow in size, becoming too heavy to be supported by the updraft, and fall to the ground as hail.
- Hail is larger than sleet; it can be larger than a softball (5 inches in diameter)



Source: NWS Preparedness Guide



- Large hailstones can fall at speeds faster than 100 mph!
- Hail causes more than \$1 billion in crop and property damage each year in U.S.
- Harford County has a long history of hail producing thunderstorms.

## THUNDERSTORM HAZARDS...

## Lightning



## What do you need to know about lightning?

- There is **NO** safe place **OUTDOORS** when a thunderstorm is nearby. Almost all fatalities related to lightning have occurred during outdoor activities such as swimming, camping, fishing, golfing, etc.
- The energy from one lightning flash could light a 100-watt light bulb for more than 3 months.
- Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide **NO** protection from lightning. The steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal.
- Lightning-strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be helped immediately. Call 9-1-1 and begin CPR immediately if the person has stopped breathing.

## How can you avoid the lightning threat?

- **Have a lightning safety plan.** Know where you'll go for safety and how much time it will take to get there. If on a boat, pay attention to an approaching storm and take action!
- **Postpone activities.** Before going outdoors, check the forecast and postpone activities to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.
- **Get to a safe place.** If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, immediately move to a safe place. Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing provide the best protection. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents, or covered porches do not protect you from lightning. If a sturdy building is not nearby, get into a hard-topped vehicle and close all the windows.
- **If you hear thunder, don't use a corded phone.** Cordless phones, cell phones, and other wireless handheld devices are safe to use.
- **Keep away from electrical equipment, wiring, and water pipes.** Sensitive electronics should be unplugged well in advance of thunderstorms. Don't take a bath, shower, or use other plumbing during a thunderstorm.

*When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!*

## TORNADOES

In an average year, 1,200 tornadoes cause 60-65 fatalities and 1,500 injuries nationwide. Approximately 10 tornadoes have been recorded in Harford County in the past ten years. Warm, humid, and windy weather is ideal for tornadoes; they can occur in thunderstorms or in a tropical storm/hurricane. Tornadoes often come with very little warning time and it is crucial to identify the signs of imminent tornadic conditions.

### Watch for tornado danger signs:

- Dark, often greenish clouds – a phenomenon caused by hail
- Wall cloud – an isolated lowering of the base of a thunderstorm
- Funnel cloud – a visible rotating extension of the cloud base
- Roaring noise
- Cloud of debris
- Large hail

### Tornado Safety Tips

#### If at home,

- Go to basement, away from windows.
- If there is no basement, go to lowest level possible, preferably a bathroom with no windows, lay down in tub.
- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.

#### If in a vehicle,

- Immediately seek shelter in a sturdy building if you have the time,
- OR, stay in the car with the seat belt on; put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible.

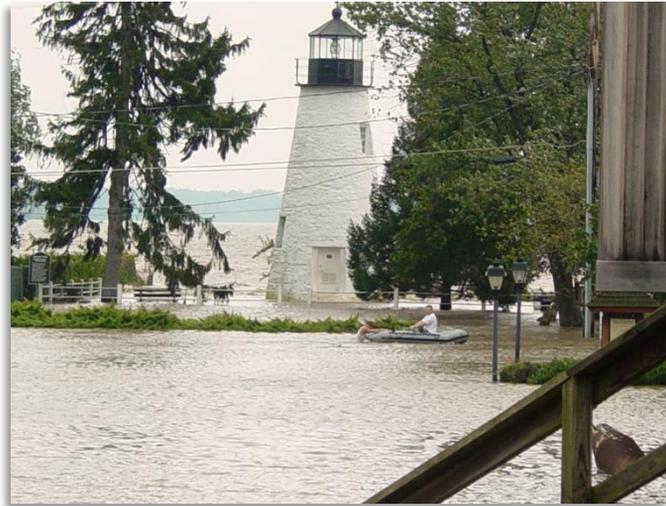
	<p>Damage: <b>Incredible</b></p> <p><b>EF5</b></p> <p>Windspeeds: <b>Greater than 322km/h (200mph)</b></p>
	<p>Damage: <b>Devastating</b></p> <p><b>EF4</b></p> <p>Windspeeds: <b>267-322km/h (166-200mph)</b></p>
	<p>Damage: <b>Severe</b></p> <p><b>EF3</b></p> <p>Windspeeds: <b>218-266km/h (136-165mph)</b></p>
	<p>Damage: <b>Considerable</b></p> <p><b>EF2</b></p> <p>Windspeeds: <b>178-217km/h (111-135mph)</b></p>
	<p>Damage: <b>Moderate</b></p> <p><b>EF1</b></p> <p>Windspeeds: <b>138-177km/h (86-110 mph)</b></p>
	<p>Damage: <b>Light</b></p> <p><b>EF0</b></p> <p>Windspeeds: <b>105-137km/h (65-85mph)</b></p>



Source: NWS, Kansas

## FLOODING

- A **flash flood** occurs within a few hours (usually less than 6 hours) of heavy or excessive rainfall, a dam or levee failure, or the sudden release of water impounded by an ice jam.
- A **flood** is the inundation of a normally dry area caused by abnormal high water flow. Floods develop more slowly than flash floods, normally greater than 6 hours.



Havre de Grace, Hurricane Isabel, 2003

**“TURN AROUND,  
DON’T DROWN.”**



### Flooding Facts:

- Flash floods and floods are the **#1 cause of deaths associated with thunderstorms**, more than 90 fatalities each year.
- More than half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water.
- Many flash flood fatalities occur at night.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pickups.

### Flash Flood Safety Rules

- Avoid driving, walking, or swimming in flood waters.
- Stay away from high water, storm drains, ditches, ravines, or culverts. Even moving water only six inches deep can knock you off your feet. Move to higher ground.
- Do not let children play near storm drains.
- If you come upon a flooded roadway never drive through it.



Photo Credit: Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company/The Aegis

## WINTER WEATHER

## Extreme Cold, Snow, Ice, Sleet and Freezing Rain

Dozens of Americans die each year due to exposure to cold. Add to that the number of vehicle accidents and fatalities; fires due to dangerous use of heaters, and other winter weather fatalities. Heavy accumulations of ice can bring down trees and topple utility poles/communication towers, disrupting communications and power for days. Even small accumulations of ice can be extremely dangerous to motorists and pedestrians. Bridges and overpasses are particularly dangerous because they freeze before other surfaces. Harford County often experiences extreme winters accompanied by widespread power outages. You must prepare properly to avoid the winter weather hazards.

## Winter Weather Safety Tips

- Dress warmly with layers of loose-fitting light weight clothing and stay dry. Wear mittens, hats, scarves, and water repellent coats.
- Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extremely cold air.
- Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat.
- Avoid overexertion. Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart.
- Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow can bring on a heart attack or make a preexisting medical condition worse.
- Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters to avoid build-up of toxic fumes. Refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep them at least three feet from flammable objects.
- Do NOT run a generator inside your house or in the garage. Make sure the generator is located in a well ventilated area outside your home.
- Use the County Snow Plow Tracking App to learn about road conditions and when it is safe to travel.



**Signs of Frostbite:** Occurs when the skin and body tissue just beneath it freezes. Loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, earlobes, face, and the tip of the nose.

## What to Do?

- Cover exposed skin, but do not rub the affected area in an attempt to warm it up.
- Seek medical help immediately.

**Signs of Hypothermia:** Dangerously low body temperature. Uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion.

## What to Do?

- Seek medical attention immediately, if necessary.
- Get the victim to a warm location.
- Remove wet clothing.
- Warm the center of the body first by wrapping the person in blankets or putting on dry clothing.
- Give warm, non-alcoholic beverages if the victim is conscious.

## EXTREME HEAT

An Extreme Heat Event is a weather condition with excessive heat and/or humidity that is defined as a day or series of days when: the heat index is forecasted to be approximately 105 degrees or higher, or; NWS has issued a Heat Advisory, or; weather/environmental conditions are high enough to cause heat-related illnesses.

Anyone can be a victim of a heat-related illness. However, high-risk groups such as children under five, young athletes, seniors, people with chronic illnesses or functional needs are more vulnerable to these illnesses and should take extra precautions.

### How to Prevent Heat-Related Illness?

- **Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing;** use a hat or an umbrella; apply sunscreen if outside.
- **Drink plenty of water;** sugary drinks like soda or juice are not as good at cooling your body.
- **Avoid drinks with alcohol or caffeine** to avoid dehydration of the body.
- **Avoid using salt tablets** unless your doctor told you to take them.
- **Slow down;** avoid heavy activity; if you must be active, do it during the coolest part of the day. **Take regular breaks** when active; rest in a cool place.
- **Stay indoors** as much as possible; turn on the air conditioning.

**Signs of Heat Exhaustion:** A condition characterized by faintness, rapid pulse, nausea, profuse sweating, cool skin, and collapse, caused by prolonged exposure to heat accompanied by loss of adequate fluid and salt from the body.

**Signs of Heat Stroke :** A severe condition caused by impairment of the body's temperature-regulating abilities, resulting from prolonged exposure to excessive heat and characterized by cessation of sweating, high fever, severe headache, hot dry skin, and in serious cases collapse and coma.

### What to Do?

Seek medical attention, if necessary. Get the person to a cool place and have him/her rest in a comfortable position. Remove or loosen tight clothing and apply cool, wet cloths such as sheets or towels. If the person is conscious, give cool water to drink. Make sure he/she drinks slowly. Give a half glass of water every 15 minutes. Watch carefully for changes in his/her condition.

**What to Do?** Heat Stroke is a life threatening situation. Help is needed FAST! Call 911. Move the person to a cooler place. Quickly cool the person by putting them in a cool bath or wrap wet sheets around their body and fan them. Watch for signs of breathing problems. Keep the person lying down. If the victim refuses water or is vomiting, or has fainted, do not give anything to eat or drink.

## OTHER HAZARDS

In addition to the hazards listed in the guide so far, Harford County is vulnerable to other natural and man-made hazards. The Department of Emergency Services works with its stakeholders to plan for each of these hazards. By gaining familiarity with such hazards, you are taking the first step towards preparation.

### EARTHQUAKE

Earthquakes did not appear on the hazard list for Maryland for a good number of years until 2011 when the Virginia earthquake rattled Washington D.C. and Maryland, including Harford County. Make sure that you and your kids are aware of basic earthquake safety tips. You can find more information on <http://www.ready.gov/earthquakes>.



**“Drop, Cover, and Hold On!”**

### KNOW THE TERMS:

Prior to or during a severe weather event, the National Weather Service (NWS) may put out a message to inform the public of possible hazardous conditions or weather. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the following terms so that you know the difference between messages.

**Watch:** Hazardous weather is possible, but not yet occurring.

**Advisory:** Hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, imminent or likely, but is less serious than a warning. Events that trigger advisories may cause a significant inconvenience and if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that may threaten life or property.

**Warning:** Hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, imminent or likely. A warning means weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People are advised to take immediate action.

## FLOOD INSURANCE

### Protect Your Property Before the Storm!

Dangerous or damaging floods don't always mean dramatic, rushing waters through the streets of your hometown. County officials encourage homeowners to get flood insurance because the rates are favorable; and the policy will cover losses due to flooding when homeowner coverage will not take care of damage resulting from river or coastal flood events. If you decide flood insurance is something you need, apply immediately as it takes 30 days for a policy to take affect. Both homeowners and renters are eligible for flood insurance. For more information, contact the Department of Emergency Services at 410-638-4900 or the Department of Planning and Zoning at 410-638-3103. You can also check out:

<https://www.floodsmart.gov> for great flood insurance resources.



NOAA weather radios can save lives by providing up to the minute 24-hour broadcasts of local weather information and warnings of severe weather specific to each of its broadcast locations. The Specific Area Message Encoding (S.A.M.E.) code for Harford County is 024025. Radios may be purchased at home goods and electronics stores throughout the county.

## Small Business Owners Need to Prepare

Proper planning for small business continuity can make all the difference when it comes to surviving a hurricane.

### CREATE A GO KIT FOR CRITICAL RECORDS

A Go Kit is a plastic, waterproof container that 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 numbers.
- 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, inside and out.

If told to evacuate to a shelter, remember that you'll need to be prepared and take a few things with you! Refer to page 13 for important items to include in your Go Kit!



Photo courtesy American Red Cross

## GO 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 with batteries
- Personal hygiene items
- Change of clothes
- Eyeglasses
- Quiet games, toys or reading material
- Important papers with valid ID
- Cash



## SURVIVAL KIT: STAYING HOME



- One week supply of food that requires no cooking/non-perishable food items.
- One gallon of water per person per day for up to seven days for drinking and sanitation. Water for pets, too
- Manual can opener
- Portable battery-operated radio, flashlights, lanterns.
- Extra batteries
- 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)



## DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

### Personal papers to take with you:

- Driver's license or ID card
- Important numbers and emergency contacts
- Credit cards and list of creditors
- Medical records and blood type
- Prescription information (list of medications, dosage, prescription numbers, etc.)
- Doctor's contact information
- Cash and bank account numbers
- List of savings and investments, including CDs, stocks, bonds and mutual funds
- Household inventory: paper copy, photos, video tape or computer disk
- List of insurance policies with name of company, type of policy and policy number
- Copy of wills, trust documents and living wills
- Titles for your house, car and other property
- Birth, marriage, divorce, death and adoption certificates, and passports

### Do Not Forget Your Pets

- ✓ Proper Identification
- ✓ Current Photo of Pet
- ✓ Immunization Records
- ✓ County license for dogs
- ✓ Food and water (2 week supply)
- ✓ Carrier or portable kennel
- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Muzzle, collar, leash
- ✓ Manual can opener
- ✓ Food and water bowls
- ✓ Cat litter pan/scoop
- ✓ Grooming Items
- ✓ Plastic bags for waste
- ✓ Personal Item with your scent and a favorite toy



## Residents with Functional Needs Should Have a Plan

### Suggestions from the Maryland Department of Disabilities

- ✓ Identify all the dangers in your home and any medical equipment that requires power.
- ✓ Determine basic survival needs in case of emergency for you and your household.
- ✓ Post emergency phone numbers in an accessible place, along with your family/friends/neighbors' contact information.
- ✓ Plan and practice how to evacuate your home in an emergency.
- ✓ Determine a place where you will meet with your contacts after an emergency or evacuation.
- ✓ Keep your personal records in a waterproof container with your emergency supplies, so you can take it in case you must evacuate.
- ✓ Create and carry a personal emergency information card for emergency personnel/first responders.
- ✓ For more information visit <http://www.mdod.maryland.gov/> or call 410-767-3660 voice/TTY/voice 1-800-637-4113.



### Need help to develop a plan or to assemble a Go-Kit?

Visit <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/189/Citizens-With-Special-Needs>. You may also contact the Harford County Disabilities Office 410-638-3373 voice/TTY for a copy of the "Path to Disaster Readiness".

### Some additional items that you may include in your supply kit:

- ✓ Medical supplies (dressing materials, nasal cannulas, suction catheters)
- ✓ Extra oxygen tanks
- ✓ Extra batteries for hearing aids
- ✓ Talking or Braille clock



### What can I do to help others with functional needs?

Reach out and offer a hand. Check on neighbors, family members, co-workers and/or with members of your place of worship. You can be part of their support network, serve as a host home, help to answer questions or pick up items for a survival kit for someone who has problems getting out to shop.

## HELP KEEP KIDS CALM

Whether you stay home or evacuate, young children can feel extremely threatened and frightened by a storm. 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.
- 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.

These brochures, available on [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov), provide you and your kids with tools to help your family to prepare for emergencies.

**Are You READY!**

Electricity lights up our world! Think of all the ways we rely on electricity: keeping food fresh, cooking meals, and getting information through the internet or TV. It keeps us warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and connected with each other year round. Oftentimes, we use electricity to play and have fun! Are you and your family ready if disaster strikes and your home is without power?

How would we see it right without power?

Help your family build an emergency kit! Collect these items and keep them together in a safe place that you can find easily. Make sure you have enough supplies to last for at least **three days**.

**Emergency Supplies List**

- 3-day supply of non-perishable food (dried fruit, canned tuna fish, peanut butter, etc.)
- Water – at least a gallon per person, per day
- Can opener
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for everyone in your family
- Cell phone with charger, extra battery and solar charger
- Change of clothes to last 3 days, including sturdy shoes, consider the weather where you live
- Whistle to signal for help
- Matches in a waterproof container (let a grown-up handle these)
- Local maps
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap
- Pet supplies
- Paper plates, plastic cups and utensils, paper towels
- Baby supplies
- Books, games or puzzles
- A favorite stuffed animal or blanket

Remember, traffic lights will not work!

Go on a quest with your family! Create a scavenger hunt! Make planning fun!

**BE A HERO!** <http://www.ready.gov/kids>

**Family Communication Plan**

Emergencies can happen at any time. Do you know how to get in touch with your family if you are not together?

Let them know you're OK! Pick the same person for each family member to contact. It might be easier to reach someone who's out of town.

Text, don't talk! Unless you are in immediate danger, send a text. Texts often have an easier time getting through during emergencies, and you don't want to tie up phone lines needed by emergency responders (like 911).

**Know the Numbers!**

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Neighbor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Neighbor: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Neighbor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 My cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Out of state friend/relative:  
 Sibling: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sibling: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Memorize your home and parents' cell phone numbers!

BE A HERO! Cut this out and keep it somewhere safe like your backpack, school notebook, or wallet. Or input these numbers into your cell phone if you have one.

**BE A HERO!** <http://www.ready.gov/kids>



### HARFORD COUNTY: CARING FOR CITIZENS WITH FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Residents with disabilities or functional needs who require assistance when evacuating should call the Information Hotline during the time of need for assistance (410-838-5800). Remember that the Hotline is only activated during true emergencies. If you have a true life-threatening emergency, please dial 911. Citizens with functional needs should develop a support network and should prepare before the storm. Need assistance to get prepared?

Call the Emergency Operations Center at 410-638-4900.



# HURRICANE SURVIVAL: PREPARATION IS KEY!

Improve the vulnerable areas of your home before a storm's approach. **BE PREPARED.**

**BEFORE**

## 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:**

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

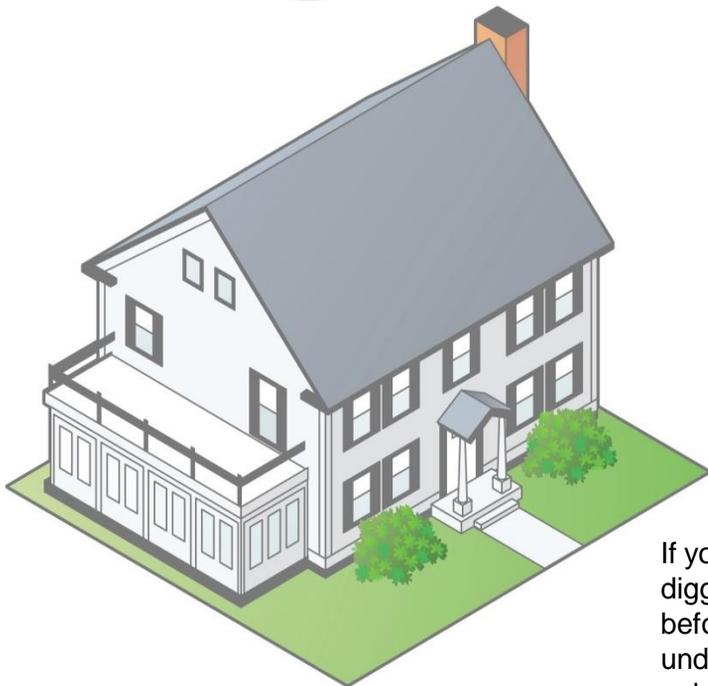
THE  
**STORM**

## 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 walls. **To prepare:**

- Before any storms threaten, properly prune trees and shrubs. Do not leave piles of branches that can become flying debris in high winds.
- Keep your gutters and down spouts clear and in good repair.
- When a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Warning is issued, bring in all yard items such as furniture, toys, bird baths, bird feeders and barbecue grills.
- Do not drain your pool. Super chlorinate the water and turn off all electricity to the pool for the duration of the storm.

If you are doing any home renovations that require digging, **call Miss Utility @ 1-800-257-777 or 8-1-1** before you start. This free service will help you locate underground utilities before you damage them. Not only will it keep you safe, it's the law!



## DURING

## WHEN THE STORM'S IMPACT IS FELT

## Here are some important tips to remember:

- ✓ Stay tuned to local news (WXCY- 103.7FM, WHFC-91.1FM and Harford Cable Network (COMCAST Channel 21, Armstrong Channel 7, and Verizon Channel 31) for updates.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Stay indoors.
- ✓ Close all interior doors – secure and brace external doors.

If your power goes out, use flashlights, battery-powered lanterns or chemical light sticks. Burning candles can become hazardous if left unattended.



Havre de Grace Promenade,  
Hurricane Sandy, Oct 2012

## FOOD SAFETY AND GUIDELINES

Severe storms 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 the storm's arrival, take inventory of items in your refrigerator and freezer.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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, bacteria that causes food-borne illness can multiply quite rapidly.
- ✓ For more information, contact the County Health Department's Environmental Section at 443-643-0300.

# AFTER DRINKING WATER

A boil water order may be issued during a heavy rain, a tropical storm/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.

Boiling is the most effective way to kill bacteria, viruses, and parasites in water. Health officials recommend bringing a pot of water to a full rolling boil for one minute 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 cool to room temperature before drinking it.

## HOUSE INSPECTION

If your home has been flooded, use extreme caution around electrical service. Have a licensed electrician check to see if it is safe before using the power.

- Promptly report any damage to your insurance company and take pictures before any clean-up 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.

The storm has gone through and it's time to assess the damage. Hopefully you have stored enough batteries to keep your radio running if power is out because you'll want to hear news reports about damage, road closures, power outages and all other emergency instructions.

Expect between three and seven days of uncertainty, depending on the storm, so you'll need to rely upon what you've stored for food, water, medications and entertainment. The stronger the storm, the more severe the damage. It could be weeks or longer before life gets back to normal.

Consider these realities in your planning. Also, heed the following common sense safety steps during the recovery.

## HOME REPAIR & CONTRACTORS

- Never let anyone into your home without first asking for identification. Representatives of utilities, government agencies, 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 Harford County Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits' Plumbing Section (**410-638-3215**) issues licenses to plumbing contractors; and the Electrical Section (**410-638-3363**) handles licenses for electrical contractors. Both sections can verify a license.
- 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.

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.

# Peach Bottom Planning

## The Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station

A portion of northern Harford County lies within the 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania. Residents in the EPZ must prepare for shelter-in-place or evacuation, in case the facility is ever impacted. If you reside within Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 as indicated on the map at right, special emergency plans have been developed to ensure your safety in the event of a nuclear incident at Peach Bottom.



The single most important step you can make to ensure the safety of you and your family is to register your cell phone and email address with the county's Connect-CTY Emergency Notification System. Emergency Services can reach every registered contact quickly and efficiently to keep you out of harm's way. To register for the Connect-CTY service, simply log on to [www.harfordpublicsafety.org](http://www.harfordpublicsafety.org), follow the Connect-CTY link on the home page, and enter your information, easily and securely. Your information will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION IS GIVEN:

**Shelter-in-Place:** When instructed to shelter-in-place, go inside and stay there. Close all windows and doors and shut off any systems that draw in outside air. If traveling, close all windows and vents.

**Evacuation:** If an evacuation is ordered, those in the affected area will be instructed to proceed to one of the two following Reception Centers:

### *APGFCU Arena at Harford Community College*

• Take local roads to Route 136. Turn Right onto Cool Spring Road. Make a left onto Thomas Run Road. The college is 2.2 miles on the left. Signs at the site will direct you to the facility.

### *Fallston High School*

• Take local roads to either Route 24 or Route 543 and continue until reaching Route 1. Follow Route 1 south then turn right onto Route 152. Turn right onto Carrs Mill Road and take the first right into Fallston High School. Signs on campus will direct you where to proceed.

Additional emergency instructions and follow-up will be provided at the Reception Centers. A wide range of further information regarding emergency preparedness for those within the Peach Bottom Planning Zone is available online on the Harford County Emergency Services' website at [www.harfordpublicsafety.org](http://www.harfordpublicsafety.org).

## WHEN YOU HEAR THE SIRENS

Emergency instructions will be provided on:

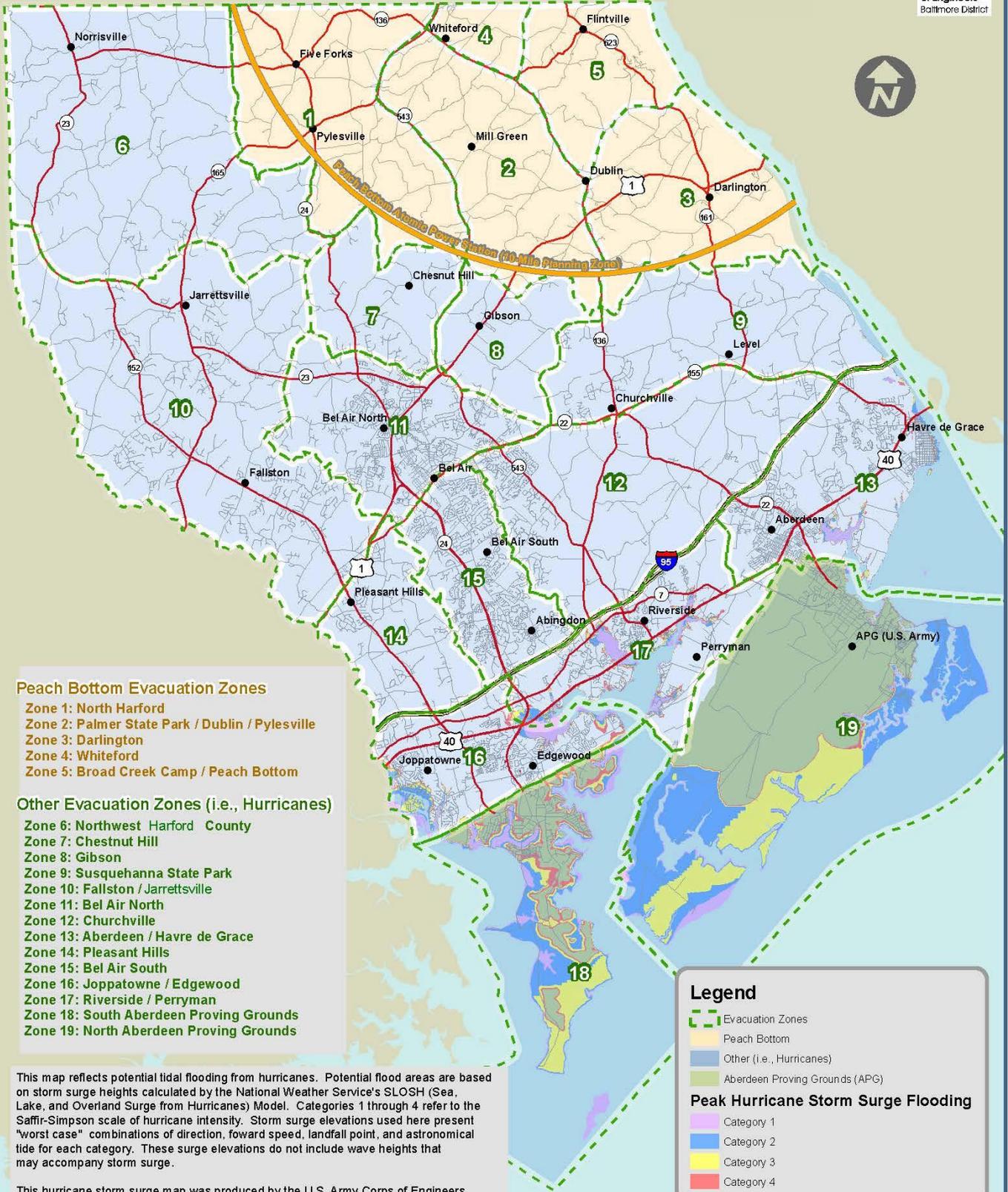
- WXCY – 103.7FM
- WHFC – 91.1FM
- Harford Cable Network (Comcast Channel 21, Armstrong Channel 7, Verizon Channel 31)
- [www.harfordpublicsafety.org](http://www.harfordpublicsafety.org) (Emergency Services' website)
- [www.harfordcountymd.gov](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov) (Harford County Government's website)
- 410-838-5800 (Harford County Emergency Information Hotline)

# EVACUATION ZONES

## HARFORD COUNTY, MD



US Army Corps of Engineers  
Baltimore District



### Peach Bottom Evacuation Zones

- Zone 1: North Harford
- Zone 2: Palmer State Park / Dublin / Pylesville
- Zone 3: Darlington
- Zone 4: Whiteford
- Zone 5: Broad Creek Camp / Peach Bottom

### Other Evacuation Zones (i.e., Hurricanes)

- Zone 6: Northwest Harford County
- Zone 7: Chestnut Hill
- Zone 8: Gibson
- Zone 9: Susquehanna State Park
- Zone 10: Fallston / Jarrettsville
- Zone 11: Bel Air North
- Zone 12: Churchville
- Zone 13: Aberdeen / Havre de Grace
- Zone 14: Pleasant Hills
- Zone 15: Bel Air South
- Zone 16: Joppatowne / Edgewood
- Zone 17: Riverside / Perryman
- Zone 18: South Aberdeen Proving Grounds
- Zone 19: North Aberdeen Proving Grounds

This map reflects potential tidal flooding from hurricanes. Potential flood areas are based on storm surge heights calculated by the National Weather Service's SLOSH (Sea, Lake, and Overland Surge from Hurricanes) Model. Categories 1 through 4 refer to the Saffir-Simpson scale of hurricane intensity. Storm surge elevations used here present "worst case" combinations of direction, forward speed, landfall point, and astronomical tide for each category. These surge elevations do not include wave heights that may accompany storm surge.

This hurricane storm surge map was produced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District and reviewed by the State of Maryland, local government emergency management, and other interested agencies.

### Legend

- Evacuation Zones
- Peach Bottom
- Other (i.e., Hurricanes)
- Aberdeen Proving Grounds (APG)

### Peak Hurricane Storm Surge Flooding

- Category 1
- Category 2
- Category 3
- Category 4

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Baltimore Gas & Electric**  
800-685-0123

**Delmarva Power**  
800-898-8042

**Harford County Dept. of Inspections, Licenses & Permits**  
410-638-3344

**Harford County Planning & Zoning Dept.**  
410-638-3103

**Harford County Disabilities Commission**  
410-638-3373



## PREPARE AS A FAMILY, INVOLVE YOUR KIDS!

☺ **Weather Wiz Kids**  
[www.weatherwizkids.com](http://www.weatherwizkids.com)

☺ **FEMA for Kids**  
[www.fema.gov/kids](http://www.fema.gov/kids)

☺ **How Stuff Works:**  
**Hurricanes science**  
[howstuffworks.com/hurricane.htm](http://howstuffworks.com/hurricane.htm)

## HOW YOU CAN REACH US

**Visit**  
[www.harfordpublicsafety.org](http://www.harfordpublicsafety.org)

**Sign up for Emergency Notifications**  
[www.harfordcounty.bbcportal.com](http://www.harfordcounty.bbcportal.com)

**Call**  
410-638-4900 (General inquiries)  
410-838-5800 (During disaster period)

## EMERGENCY ALERT STATIONS:

- WXCY – 103.7FM
- WHFC – 91.1FM
- Harford Cable Network
  - Comcast Channel 21
  - Armstrong Channel 7
  - Verizon Channel 31
- 410-838-5800 (Harford County Emergency Information Hotline)

## FOLLOW US!



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[www.facebook.com/HarfordCountyMD](http://www.facebook.com/HarfordCountyMD)



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