

## Board of County Commissioners

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## Carroll County Government

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Maryland Severe Storms Awareness Week March 21 to 25, 2016

Westminster, Monday, March 21, 2016 – Maryland Severe Storms Awareness Week begins today. Carroll County Emergency Management is teaming up with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the National Weather Service to promote citizen awareness and preparedness. During spring, Carroll County is at risk for flooding, damaging winds, tornadoes, hail, and lightning. All of these hazards typically occur in our area every year; however, residents can “be weather prepared” by ensuring that they know how to get a warning, have a plan and practice safety tips.

“Severe storms can affect Carroll County at any time of the year, but they tend to be more likely during the spring and summer months,” said Emergency Management Coordinator Doug Brown. “Now is a good time to make sure that individuals and families have an emergency supplies kit and that they’ve developed a family emergency plan.”

“Severe Storms Awareness Week is a reminder that hazardous weather regularly occurs in Maryland,” said Russ Strickland, Executive Director of MEMA. “If a strong storm is in the forecast or you receive an alert or warning, first, get indoors, then, communicate with your neighbors, friends and family to make sure they’re aware of the situation and are safe.”

Residents can also take actions to remain safe by practicing the following tips:

- During flooding, never enter an area where water is flowing over a road and you cannot see the pavement. Turn around, don’t drown!
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued or you are experiencing strong winds, get to a sturdy shelter and stay indoors away from windows.
- Tornadoes can form rapidly under the right conditions. If there is a tornado warning or you see a tornado, quickly get inside and go to the lowest floor possible.
- If you hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck from a fringe lightning strike. Over 98% of lightning casualties are from people outdoors—get indoors or inside your vehicle if possible.

Additional information can be found on the Carroll County Emergency Management webpage <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/emermang/>, the NWS “Weather Ready” website at [www.weather.gov/baltimore/weatherready](http://www.weather.gov/baltimore/weatherready), and the MEMA website at [www.mema.maryland.gov](http://www.mema.maryland.gov).

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## CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.