

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 15-21 is Maryland Hurricane Preparedness Week

Carroll County Asks Residents to Take Action Now to Prepare

Westminster, MD (**May 16, 2016**) — Maryland Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 15-21 this year. This week, [Carroll County Emergency Management](#) is teaming up with the [Maryland Emergency Management Agency \(MEMA\)](#) and the [National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#) to promote citizen awareness and preparedness. The Atlantic Hurricane season lasts from June to November. Most hurricane-like weather is seen mid-August and late October. Carroll County is at risk for strong winds, heavy rain, inland flooding, and other severe weather whenever hurricanes affect the region.

“Residents should prepare for flooding, since that is a high risk in our area during a hurricane,” said Emergency Management Coordinator Doug Brown. “Find out if you reside or work in an area that is likely to flood during heavy rain, and plan for how you will evacuate if the need arises. If there is a hurricane in the forecast, listen to emergency officials and keep lines of communication open with your friends, family, and neighbors.”

In addition, residents can take the following actions now in order to prepare for hurricane season:

- Clear out rain gutters so water doesn't back up and end up in your house.
- Around the dinner table, talk to your family about where you would meet in the event of an emergency.
- Program “In Case of Emergency” contacts into your phone.
- Teach friends and family members to text on their cell-phone. Text messages can often get through when phone calls can't.
- Make copies of important documents for your emergency kit. (list of medications, medical info, proof of address, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies, etc.) Consider putting them on a secure flash drive, as well.
- Get an extra set of house and car keys made for your emergency kit.
- Download the Prepare Me Carroll mobile app onto your smartphone or tablet. It is available free of charge from the iPhone and Google Play (Android) app stores.
- Pick up canned goods when your store has a sale. They will last a long time and ensure you will have something to eat if you can't go out to the store.

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CARROLL COUNTY

ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE: 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.