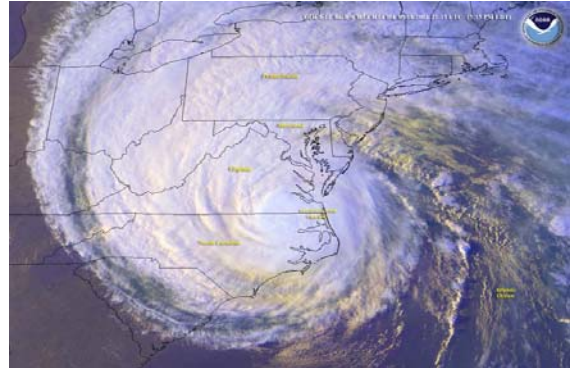


Hurricanes

Hurricane season generally runs from late June through November with August and September usually serving as the most active months of the season.

Residents living in coastal regions are more susceptible to being effected by a hurricane. Harford County Maryland is vulnerable to hurricanes as it borders the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean region.



Q: What is a Hurricane?

A: A hurricane is a tropical storm with winds that have reached a constant speed of at least 74 miles per hour.

Take Action Before, During and After a Hurricane

Before

- Trim back dead or weak branches from trees and shrubbery.
- Make emergency plans for pets.
- Check on emergency equipment: working flashlights, generators, batter-powered radio and cell phones.
- Gas up and service family vehicles.
- Prepare to cover all windows with shutters or other shield material.
- Clear your yard and porch area of light-weight objects.
- Review your evacuation plan.
- It's suggested you evacuate if you live in a mobile home, on the coastline, near a river or near a flood plain.
- Follow emergency procedures in your Harford County Public Information Calendar.

During

- Closely monitor radio or television broadcasts for official instructions.
- Close storm shutters.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials.
- Notify family members or friends outside of the warning zone of your evacuation plans.
- Take pets with you, if possible.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- If sheltering in place stay inside, away from windows, skylights and glass doors.

After

- Return home only when authorities say its safe to do so.
- Look for hazards such as broken or leaking gas lines, flooded electrical circuits or submerged furnaces or electrical appliances.
- Open windows and leave if you smell gas.
- Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until officials say it is safe.

Adopted in part from Hurricanes. . .Unleashing Nature's Fury: A Preparedness Guide from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service and the American Red Cross.