



Calvert County NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Calvert County Citizens Encouraged to Use Extreme Caution during Hurricane Sandy *County Commissioners Offer Safety Tips for Citizens*

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – Oct. 28, 2012 – The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners offer the following safety tips during Hurricane Sandy:

Downed Power Lines:

Be aware of hazards presented by downed power lines.

- Consider all wires ENERGIZED and dangerous. Even lines that are de-energized may become energized at any time.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from the wire.
- Electricity can travel through the ground. Therefore, a live wire touching the ground can harm you even if you do not touch the wire.
- Electricity can also travel through tree limbs. Never remove tree limbs or other items that are touching or near a downed wire.
- Never use **any** object to move a downed wire.
- If a broken power line should fall on your vehicle:
 - Stay inside the vehicle until help arrives, as your car may be energized.
 - Warn others not to touch the vehicle and have them call for help.
 - If you must leave the vehicle, jump as far away as possible with both feet landing on the ground at the same time. **DO NOT** touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
 - If someone makes contact with a downed power line, don't try to rescue them because you risk becoming a victim yourself. Call 911.

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Standing Water:

Do not drive through standing water on roads or in parking lots.

- The average automobile can be swept off the road in 12 inches of moving water, and roads covered by water are prone to collapse. Attempting to drive through water also may stall your engine, with the potential to cause irreparable damage if you try to restart the engine. If you come upon a flooded street turn around and take an alternate route.

The county has established rumor control numbers and can be reached at 410-535-0396 or 410-535-0314. These lines will be staffed until the immediate event passes. During regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), call 410-535-1600, ext. 2638. Questions or requests for information can also be sent by email to oem@co.cal.md.us.

Visit the Calvert County Government website at www.co.cal.md.us for updates.

Further hurricane preparedness information is available through the Maryland Emergency Management Agency online at www.mema.state.md.us. For the most up-to-date forecasts on the track of Hurricane Sandy, visit the National Weather Service at www.weather.gov.

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Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to nearly 90,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, energy, advanced manufacturing and administrative services.