



Calvert County NEWS

175 Main Street
Courthouse
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
Phone: 410-535-4583 • 301-855-1880
www.co.cal.md.us

Board of Commissioners
Gerald W. Clark
Pat Nutter
Susan Shaw
Evan K. Slaughenhaupt Jr.
Steven R. Weems

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts: Linda Vassallo, Director
410-535-4583 Email: lindav@co.cal.md.us
Carrie Lovejoy, Public Information Specialist
410-535-4583 Email: lovejocb@co.cal.md.us

Calvert County Government Urges Preparations for Winter Weather

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – Jan. 2, 2014 – Calvert County government urges citizens to be prepared for extreme cold weather.

During extreme cold weather events, the primary concern is the potential loss of heat, power, telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm or weather conditions continue for more than one day. Residents should have the following items available:

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-operated NOAA weather radio and portable radio to receive emergency information; these may be your only links to the outside
- Extra food and water; high-energy food and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration is best
- Extra medicine and baby items
- First aid supplies
- 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.
- Heating fuel
- Emergency heating source (fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc.)
- Fire extinguisher and smoke detector

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If travel or outside activity is required, citizens should:

- Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat
- Watch for frostbite. Symptoms include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Watch for hypothermia. Symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. If symptoms are detected, get the victim to a warm location, remove wet clothing, warm the center of the body first and give warm, non-alcoholic beverages if the victim is conscious. Get medical help immediately.

Residents are encouraged to consider family members or neighbors with special needs and assist them in preparing for the winter weather. To stay informed on the approaching weather event, residents should monitor local television channels, radio stations and the Internet. The Calvert County government Web site at www.co.cal.md.us and Facebook page will have updates on local preparations and county government closures should they become necessary.

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Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to over 90,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. There are more than 4,000 businesses in the County and a labor force of at least 1.8 million resides within a one-hour drive. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, utilities, light manufacturing and administrative services.