



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. Slaughenhoupt Jr.
Steven R. Weems

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts: Mark Volland, Marketing Communications Specialist
410-535-4583 Email: vollanrm@co.cal.md.us
Carrie Lovejoy, Public Information Specialist
410-535-4583 Email: lovejocb@co.cal.md.us

Start of Spring Brings Threat of Extreme Weather *Calvert County Department of Public Safety Urges Residents to Be Prepared*

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – April 17, 2014 – With spring in full swing, the region can experience extreme weather that can include high winds, heavy rains, lightning, hail and the formation of tornadoes. The Calvert County Department of Public Safety’s Division of Emergency Management encourages all residents to be prepared.

April 1 marked the beginning of tornado season. Often associated with severe thunderstorms, tornadoes can produce wind speeds greater than 250 miles per hour, can be one mile wide and can stay on the ground for up to 50 miles. They are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. but can occur at any time of the day.

Residents are urged to follow these tips on preparing for severe weather and taking action if a tornado develops.

Before the Storm

- Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school, when outdoors and especially when boating.
- Purchase an NOAA weather radio with battery back-up to receive weather warnings.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit that includes a NOAA weather radio with a battery backup to receive warnings.
- Listen to radio and television for information.
- If taking a trip outdoors, listen to the latest forecasts and plan accordingly if threatening weather is possible.

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- Be familiar with the various types of watches and warnings issued for severe weather.
 - **Severe thunderstorm watch:** severe thunderstorms are possible in your area
 - **Severe thunderstorm warning:** thunderstorms are occurring
 - **Tornado watch:** conditions are favorable for a tornado to form
 - **Tornado warning:** a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar

If a Tornado Warning is Issued

- Take shelter immediately. If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Stay away from windows.
- Abandon mobile homes; they offer little protection, even if tied down.
- Get out of automobiles. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, leave it immediately.
- If you are caught outside with no shelter, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Do not get under an overpass or bridge.
- Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- After the tornado passes, stay away from storm-damaged areas.
- Listen to the radio for information and instructions.

To learn more about emergency preparedness, contact the Calvert County Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, at 410-535-1600, ext. 2638, or visit us online at www.co.cal.md.us. This time of year is a good time to sign up for Calvert ALERT, a notification system that can send messages by text, email, fax, land line and pager.

Residents are urged to visit the county website at www.co.cal.md.us and click on the Emergency Alerts link to register for the notification service. Those without Internet access can call 410-535-1600, ext. 2638, to sign up.

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Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to more than 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.