



# Calvert County NEWS

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

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** Oct. 2, 2015  
**Contact:** Mark Volland, Marketing/Communications Specialist  
410-535-4583 Email: [vollanrm@co.cal.md.us](mailto:vollanrm@co.cal.md.us)  
Angela Walters, Public Information Specialist  
410-535-4583 Email: [walteram@co.cal.md.us](mailto:walteram@co.cal.md.us)

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### **Calvert County Department of Public Safety Offers Hurricane Preparedness Tips**

**PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – Oct. 2, 2015** – As Calvert County prepares for Hurricane Joaquin, the Calvert County Department of Public Safety encourages residents to review hurricane preparedness procedures in the event the storm poses a risk for the region.

#### **Prepare for High Winds**

- If necessary, protect all windows with shutters or 5/8-inch plywood panels.
- Reinforce garage doors.
- Designate an interior room with no windows or external doors as a “safe room.”
- Assess your landscaping and trees to ensure they do not become a wind hazard.

#### **Prepare for Flooding**

- When you hear hurricane, think inland flooding.
- Determine the elevation of your property to learn your vulnerability to flooding.
- In flood-prone areas, keep on hand materials such as sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, plastic garbage bags, lumber, shovels, work boots and gloves.
- Be aware of areas known to flood so your evacuation routes are not cut off.

#### **As the Storm Approaches**

- Most mobile/manufactured homes are not built to withstand hurricane-force winds. Residents of these homes should relocate to a safer structure when an evacuation order is issued.
- Secure lawn furniture and other outside objects that could become projectiles in high winds.

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- Listen carefully for safety instructions from local officials. Monitor NOAA weather radio.

### During the Storm

- Stay inside and away from windows, skylights and doors.
- Listen to a battery-powered radio for storm updates.
- Have flashlights/batteries handy and avoid open flames and candles.
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce damage when power is restored.

### After the Storm

- Stay away from downed or dangling power lines.
- Beware of weakened tree limbs.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate your house.
- Use your phone only in emergencies.
- Do not drive into water of unknown depth.
- Restrict children from playing in flooded areas.
- Do not use fresh food that has come in contact with flood waters.
- Wells should be pumped out and the water tested before drinking.

To stay informed about local conditions and emergency information, residents are encouraged to sign up for Calvert County ALERT. To sign up, visit [www.co.cal.md.us](http://www.co.cal.md.us) and click on the Emergency Alerts button. Residents are also encouraged to “like” the county’s [Facebook](#) page or download the free “Prepare Me Calvert” emergency preparedness mobile application now available for iOS (Apple) and Android devices through the Apple App Store or the Google Play market. Those without Internet can contact the Calvert County Division of Emergency Management at 410-535-1600, ext. 2638, to sign up or for additional emergency preparedness information.

Further hurricane preparedness information is available through the Maryland Emergency Management Agency online at [www.mema.state.md.us](http://www.mema.state.md.us). For the most up-to-date forecasts on the track of the storm, visit the National Weather Service at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov). Questions or requests for information can also be sent by email to [oem@co.cal.md.us](mailto:oem@co.cal.md.us). For information on Calvert County Government, visit [www.co.cal.md.us](http://www.co.cal.md.us) or like us on [Facebook](#).

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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.*