

Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 3:58 PM
Subject: Important message from Montgomery County Public Safety
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Montgomery County ReadyNotifyPA

Montgomery County Prepares for Major Storm

Norristown, PA (October 25, 2012) Montgomery County is preparing, and asking residents to prepare, for the possibility of major flooding and power outages in anticipation of Hurricane Sandy and the potential for torrential downpours and very high winds beginning Sunday night and lasting until Wednesday or beyond.

Strong winds accompanied by heavy rains with the leaves still on the trees would create the potential for storm-drains to become clogged and cause severe flooding, even in areas that don't normally experience it.

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety stands ready to assist our first responders and our residents with whatever emergencies this storm might bring, Montgomery County Commissioners Chair Josh Shapiro said. I ask everyone to heed their advice and prepare to take care of themselves and their loved ones for up to three days. That will free up resources that can be used to help anyone who may sustain severe damage if the worst happens.

The Montgomery County Public Safety Department will increase staffing in its 9-1-1 emergency call center and open its Emergency Operations Center.

Residents are asked to only call 9-1-1 if they need a response by police, fire or EMS. Power outages should be reported directly to your utility: for PECO, call 1-800-841-4141; for PPL, call 1-800-DIAL-PPL (1-800-342-5775); for First Energy, call 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877).

For other non-emergency storm related issues, residents are urged to contact their township or borough emergency operations center.

To take care of yourself and your loved ones, please have the following on-hand:

- Three day supply of drinking water (one gallon per person/per day)
- Non-perishable food, ready-to-eat canned food
- A manual can opener (in case power is out)
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight, w/extra batteries
- Personal care items/toiletries
- Prescription medicine
- Special items for infants/disabled/elderly (formula, diapers, etc.)
- Eyeglasses
- Whistle to signal for help

For a more detailed list and other preparedness instructions, please go to:
<http://www.readymontco.montcopa.org>.

To receive emergency text messages with real time public safety updates, instructions and other important information, please go to <https://montco.alertpa.org/>.

Develop an emergency communication plan. In the event family members are separated from one another during floods, have a plan for getting back together.

Ask an out-of-town relative or friend to serve as the family contact. After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address and phone number of the contact person.

Do not drive during the storm unless absolutely necessary. If you do end up out on the roads, watch for debris, downed trees and limbs and utility lines, which could be live. If you encounter a flooded roadway, do not attempt to drive through it. The average automobile can be swept off the road in 12 inches of moving water, and roads covered by water are prone to collapse. If you come upon a flooded street, take an alternate route.

Also, it is now illegal for drivers to go around a traffic control device that indicates a road closure due to a hazardous condition. The law imposes a fine of \$250 to \$500 on violators and two points on their driver's license, and requires they pay restitution for the cost for any fire, police and EMS response.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the biggest sources of injury or death following a major storm due to the use of gasoline powered generators and other tools, such as power washers, that are not properly ventilated. Also, do not use charcoal grills indoors.

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