

Board of County Commissioners

Dennis E. Frazier, President
Stephen A. Wantz, Vice President
C. Richard Weaver, Secretary
Doug Howard
Richard S. Rothschild



Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
fax 410-386-2485
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Douglas Brown 410-386-2296

Spring Season Brings Chances for Hazardous Weather in Carroll County April 8-14 is Severe Storms Awareness Week

Westminster, MD, April 10, 2018 — Although it doesn't quite feel like spring yet, now is the time to begin thinking about the upcoming severe storms season. This is Severe Storms Awareness Week, and the Carroll County Department of Public Safety – Emergency Management is teaming up with the National Weather Service and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to promote citizen awareness and preparedness.

During spring, Carroll County is at risk for flooding, damaging winds, tornadoes, hail, and lightning. All of these hazards typically occur throughout the state; however, residents can "be weather prepared" by ensuring that they know how to receive warnings and practice safety tips.

"This is the time of year when we can experience dangerous thunderstorms, flooding, and even tornadoes," said Board of County Commissioners President Dennis Frazier. "I urge everyone to use common sense and follow the advice of local and state officials when severe weather is in the forecast."

The National Weather Service agrees with that assessment. "Maryland frequently experiences severe storms during the spring," said NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Christopher Strong. "Damaging winds and flooding are the primary threats, but we also see hailstorms and even tornadoes."

The National Weather Service, MEMA, and the Carroll County Department of Public Safety – Emergency Management work closely together with to identify and monitor severe weather systems, develop preparedness plans and safety information and coordinate the response to these storms.

"Severe Storms Awareness Week is a chance to highlight dangerous weather that often occurs in Maryland," said Russ Strickland, Executive Director of MEMA. "This is the time to plan for what you or your family should do in case of a severe weather warning. Get to a safe space, then communicate with your neighbors, friends and family to make sure they're aware of the situation and are safe."

[MORE]

CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 or email ada@ccg.carr.org as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

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Now is the time for residents to prepare for severe storms by taking the following actions:

- During flooding, never enter an area where water is flowing over a road and you cannot see the pavement. Turn around, don't drown!
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued or you are experiencing strong winds, get to a sturdy shelter and stay indoors away from windows.
- Tornadoes can form rapidly in the right conditions. If there is a tornado warning or you see a tornado, quickly get inside and go to the lowest floor possible.
- If you hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck from a fringe lightning strike. More than 98% of lightning casualties are from people outdoors—get indoors or inside your vehicle if possible.

Additional severe weather preparedness and safety information can be found on the [Carroll County Emergency Management website](#), on [MEMA's website](#), and on the website of the [National Weather Service Baltimore/Washington Forecast Office](#).

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