

What You Should Know When an Emergency Strikes in Montgomery County

Whether it's power outages, water main breaks, hurricanes, blizzards, or leaking dams, Montgomery County has seen its share of emergency situations.

BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

PREPARING FOR A STORM: Keep flashlights, battery-powered radios and extra batteries on hand, along with a basic first aid kit, emergency food and water for two to three days, and a non-electric can opener. Clean out gutters, turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting in case of a power outage, and bring in outdoor objects that may be tossed by high winds.

DURING AN EMERGENCY

FOOD SAFETY: In case of a power outage, refrigerated food will remain unspoiled only about four hours if the refrigerator is unopened. A full freezer will hold the temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed. Use ice to keep your refrigerator at 40°F or below and the freezer at 0° or lower if there is a prolonged power outage.

AVOID CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING: It can be fatal for residents without power to use gas or charcoal grills, propane heaters and stoves, kerosene space heaters or generators indoors. These items are a source of carbon monoxide, which can build up indoors and cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

PREVENT FIRES: To prevent fires, appliances should be unplugged until the power is restored. Avoid using candles or outdoor grills indoors.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR: Check on your friends and neighbors, especially seniors and those with special needs. Lend a hand where you can.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL OUTAGES: Treat all "dark" intersections as four-way stops. Stop - then proceed cautiously.

FLOODING: Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road – you can be stranded or trapped. The depth of the water and the condition of the road is not always obvious.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: Dial 911 – including reports of downed or "hot" wires.

POWER OUTAGES: Call PEPCO at 1-877-737-2662; Allegheny Power at 1-800-255-3443 or Baltimore Gas and Electric at 1-877-778-2222.

WATER UTILITIES: Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) at 301-206-4002; Rockville residents call 240-314-8567; or Poolesville residents call 301-428-8927.

COUNTY NON-EMERGENCY INFORMATION & SERVICES, OR REPORT DOWNED TREES: Call 311 within Montgomery County. Call 240-777-0311 from outside the County or from a cell phone.

SIGN UP FOR UPDATED INFORMATION



SIGN UP FOR ALERT MONTGOMERY: Sign up for Alert Montgomery at <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov> to receive emergency messages on cell phones, text pagers, wireless PDA's and home and work emails.

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