The Mayor Michael O'Connor
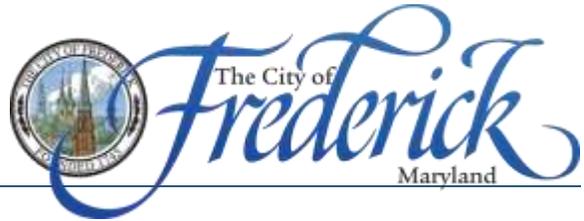101 N Court Street
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NEWS RELEASE

Hurricane Preparation Time Is Now

FREDERICK, MD – Sept. 11, 2018: In partnership with local emergency management officials, Mayor Michael O'Connor encourages the public to join City employees in preparing now for potential impacts from Hurricane Florence, which is approaching the East coast.

"Being prepared is absolutely the best way to come through this, or any, potential emergency with less difficulty," O'Connor said. "We may not be able to predict or prevent what happens, but we can be in a better position to handle it, or not."

Gov. Larry Hogan has issued a declaration of emergency, to facilitate mobilization of National Guard assets, facilitate fuel and other resource movement, and allow prescriptions to be filled early via the Maryland Insurance Administration action, if necessary.

Jack Markey, director of the Frederick County Division of Emergency Management, advises residents to prepare now for potential flooding, which may occur within a few days. The storm has the potential to produce torrential rainfall that could overwhelm storm drains and can cause basement or other structure flooding.

The City of Frederick Deputy Director of Public Works Marc Stachowski said employees are maintaining and monitoring public infrastructure to protect public and private property to the best of their ability.

What the public can do to help avoid flood damages and personal injury:

- Clear leaves and debris from storm drain intakes, and drains near basement entry points, near homes and/or businesses
- Check periodically to be sure the drain intake area remain free of debris and leaves
- Remove or secure objects in yards that could be picked up in high winds, such as trampolines, trash cans, lawn furniture, play toys, plants
- If you have a sump pump, check to make sure that it is in proper working order
- Clean gutters safely; get chainsaws ready for downed trees
- Never drive through standing water
- Never wade in standing water
- Be informed; receive local emergency notifications
- Be prepared for a hurricane and other emergency with a family emergency plan, including
    - Prepare a go-kit ready in the event of an evacuation
    - Have extra batteries and propane
    - Prepare a communication plan if phone coverage fails
    - Keep a vehicle filled with fuel

Potential impacts from Hurricane Florence on the current storm track:

☐ Heavy rain bands causing localized flooding

☐ Potential road closures due to flood waters/debris: For a list of roads that commonly flood, visit the City of Frederick website for "known high water areas": www.cityoffrederick.com

☐ Potential for overwhelmed streams and storm drains

☐ Increased potential for tornadoes

☐ Increased potential for strong straight-line winds

☐ Power outages

The hurricane track will determine what level of impact Frederick will experience. Get localized emergency information alerts by signing up for them: https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/4727/Emergency-Alerts. As a reminder, road closures are available on a map at https://tinyurl.com/y7k3g2nc.

The City of Frederick and Frederick Police Department will also be posting information on social media. Follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor.

"While we can't always prevent floodwaters from entering structures, we can evaluate our risks and take preparedness actions to reduce and limit those risks when they do enter," Markey said on Monday. "Now is the time to evaluate and act."

September: Emergency Preparedness Month
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has posted information and tips to help prepare for a variety of emergency situations:

- Hurricane preparation: https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes
- General topics https://www.ready.gov/be-informed
- Flood insurance https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program.

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