



ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Tony Jones, Public Information Officer
SMCG TV 95 Station Manager

Media Inquiries: 301-475-4200 ext. *1342 or pio@stmarysmd.com

James R. Guy, President
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Tom Jarboe, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE *for Immediate Release*

No. 2017 – 104

May 30, 2017 9:15 a.m.

2017 Hurricane Season Begins This Week

Citizens urged to prepare for potential tropical events

Leonardtown, MD – The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and continues until November 30. The St. Mary's County Department of Emergency Services & Technology, Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) have once again teamed up to promote citizen awareness and preparedness. Most hurricane-like weather is seen between mid-August and late October. St. Mary's County is most at risk for strong winds, heavy rain, inland flooding, and other severe weather.

Residents can take the following actions now in order to prepare for hurricane-like weather events:

- Clear out rain gutters so water doesn't back up and end up in your house.
- Around the dinner table, talk to your family about where you would meet in the event of an emergency.
- If you have pets, identify some pet-friendly hotels in case you have to evacuate.
- Program "In Case of Emergency" contacts into your phone.
- Teach friends and family members to text on their cell-phones, text messages can often get through when phone calls can't.
- Make copies of important documents for your emergency kit. (medications, medical information, proof of address, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies, etc.) Consider putting them on a secure flash drive, as well.
- Get an extra set of house and car keys made for your emergency kit.
- Download the free MARYLAND Prepares mobile app, which includes weather and emergency alerts at mema.maryland.gov/Pages/mdprepares.aspx.
- Teach everyone how to turn off the utilities in your house (electricity, gas, water, etc.) so they can do it in case of an evacuation.
- Pick up canned goods when your store has a sale, they will last a long time and ensure you will have something to eat if you can't go out to the store.

More information can be found on the web at prepare.stmarysmd.com and mema.maryland.gov.

###