



News for Immediate Release

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PEMA Urges Citizens to Prepare Now For Threat of Hurricane Sandy

Harrisburg – Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Director Glenn M. Cannon today urged Pennsylvanians to prepare now for the possibility of strong winds, heavy rain and even snow as Hurricane Sandy moves north.

“This storm could combine with another system to bring some combination of snow, wind, rain and flooding to much of Pennsylvania,” Cannon said. “This is the time to make sure everyone has an emergency kit in their home and car, and an emergency plan for taking care of each other in the event this storm brings its full destructive potential to our state.”

Families should prepare for two scenarios in the event of severe weather: to remain in their homes during the duration of a storm, or to evacuate if it is recommended or ordered by local authorities.

Residents should always have enough provisions in their homes to last at least 72 hours because help from emergency responders may not be immediately available when severe weather strikes.

Other disaster preparedness supplies to have at the ready include:

- Flashlights and extra batteries;
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries;
- First aid kit and manual;
- Emergency food and water;
- Non-electric can opener;
- Essential medicines/prescriptions;
- Cash, credit cards and important legal documents; and
- Sturdy shoes.

If residents are ordered by local officials to evacuate, they should do so without hesitating and should take important documents with them, including:

- Checkbooks;
- Driver's license;
- Credit card information;
- Birth certificates;
- Social Security cards; and
- Other forms and documents proving ownership/identity.

For more information on how to make a disaster supply kit and how to prepare for all kinds of emergencies, visit www.readypa.org or call 1-888-9-READYPA (1-888-973-2397).

Cannon reminded drivers they should never drive into low-lying areas or over roads and bridges that are already under water. Just a few inches of moving water can sweep away the average car. Remember – Turn around, don't drown.

"Personal preparedness is an essential part of emergency response and recovery," Cannon said. "The fact that we know about the potential threat we're facing several days in advance is a gift that we can all take advantage of, so we can make sure we are ready for whatever comes our way."

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