Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT   *John (Jack) E. Markey, Director*
Department of Emergency Communications   *Philip B. Lambert, Director*

New Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   CONTACT: Chloe Scott
AUGUST 7, 2023   Public Affairs Specialist
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Take Action to Prepare for Severe Thunderstorms with High Winds
Additional Risk of Tornados, Hail and Flooding

FREDERICK, Md. – The Department of Emergency Preparedness encourages the public to take action to prepare for severe weather this afternoon and into the evening. The National Weather Service has forecast an increased risk of severe thunderstorms with high wind gusting to 60+ mph. Severe thunderstorms have the potential to cause tornados, hail, and flooding. The following is recommended to prepare for severe weather:

- Sign up for severe weather and emergency alerts at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Alert
- Secure or put away outdoor items like toys, tools and tents. High winds can turn these items into projectiles that can cause injuries and property damage.
- When you hear thunder, go inside a sturdy building and stay there until 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightening flash.
- Stay away from windows.
- Be aware of downed power lines and fallen branches/trees.
- Never drive through flooded roads. Remember "Turn Around, Don't Drown!"

A Tornado Warning means take shelter now. A basement or storm cellar provides the best protection from a tornado. If underground shelter is unavailable, consider the following:

- Seek a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible
- Stay in the center of the room, and avoid corners because they attract debris
- Avoid buildings that have flat, wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias and gymnasiums.

Residents can ensure that they are "weather prepared" through signing up for alerts to receive a warning, having a plan, and practicing safety tips. To sign up for emergency alerts, please visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Alert.

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