

NEWS



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Office of the Managing Director
Camille Cates Barnett, PhD., Managing Director

MaryAnn E. Marrocolo
Deputy Managing Director



Contact: Joan Przybylowicz, 215-260-4262 (cell)

www.phila.gov/ready
1-877-READY-11

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Philadelphia Activates its Emergency Operations Center

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Deputy Managing Director for Emergency Management MaryAnn E. Marrocolo has announced that the City’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 6th in response to Tropical Storm Hanna. The Office of Emergency Management is overseeing the activation, and representatives from Fire, Police, Streets, Water, Licenses and Inspections, and Public Property departments; Fairmount Park, the State Police, and PECO are staffing the EOC. The purpose of the activation is to monitor conditions during the heaviest part of the storm and provide for enhanced coordination of services should responses be necessary.

The current National Weather Service forecast for Hanna indicates heavy rain, approximately 4-6 inches, and winds with gusts up to 50-60 mph, lasting through Saturday evening. A Flood Watch, in effect through Saturday evening, could be upgraded to a Flood Warning depending upon rainfall amounts. A Tropical Storm Wind Warning through Saturday evening has also been issued.

During the height of the storm and the next 24 hour-period as local streams and rivers crest, residents should avoid low-lying areas prone to flooding. Mayor Nutter urges Philadelphians to seek shelter and stay inside during the height of the storm. “If you must go outside, don’t drive your vehicle through roadways with standing water. The water level may be deeper than it appears,” cautions the Mayor. “With the expected gusty winds, be cautious of falling and downed tree limbs and electrical wires.”

Mayor Nutter reminds Philadelphians that September is National Preparedness Month and urges them to prepare for any kind of emergency, including severe storms such as Tropical Storm Hanna. Here are some things Philadelphians should do to prepare:

- Develop a family emergency plan now. Think about how an emergency may affect you and your family. Remember to include pets in your plan. Talk to your family about your plan, and make sure everyone knows how to evacuate and what it means to shelter in place. Choose an out-of-state contact to help you and your loved ones stay in touch in case you are separated from each other.
- Put together a kit of emergency supplies--items that will help you, your family and pets stay safe, healthy and comfortable in your homes for at least three days. Get a Go Bag—an easy to carry kit of emergency supply items and copies of important documents, that you can “grab and go” if you need to evacuate. These kits should include a battery-operated or wind up radio, flashlight, extra batteries, first-aid kit, food that won’t perish easily, water, and a cell phone or a phone that doesn’t need electricity to work.
- Stay informed by tuning to KYW 1060 AM and other local media outlets for the latest information, and by signing up for ReadyNotifyPA, an emergency text alert system, that sends critical information to you by cell phone, pager, or E-mail.

For more information on how to prepare for an emergency, a list of supplies for your emergency kits, and to sign up for ReadyNotifyPA, go to www.phila.gov/ready.

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