

Preparing for Hurricane Sandy and other Extreme Weather Situations

The leaves are falling, winter is around the corner, and there's a growing chance that we'll see the effects of Hurricane Sandy late Sunday night or early next week!

Be Prepared for All Types of Emergencies

No matter what the forecast, now is a good time to take stock and make sure you're prepared for any type of extreme weather.

- Is your emergency kit complete?
- Do you have working flashlights and radios and batteries?
- Are your emergency contacts up to date?
- Do you know how to contact the utilities if you have a problem? (See attached list)
- Do you have a communication plan for your family?

We encourage you to make your preparations now before severe weather arrives. We also urge you to monitor weather forecasts this weekend about Hurricane Sandy.

Getting Ready for a Hurricane

The exact path of the hurricane is not known, but it is likely to affect our weather with heavy rains and high winds. You can start to prepare now by taking the following precautionary steps:

- Secure outdoor items that may blow around in high winds (lawn furniture, flags, trash cans)
- Charge cell phones and fill up your gas tank
- Have some food staples on hand that can be eaten cold if your power is interrupted
- Make sure you have first aid supplies and medications
- Have flashlights and fresh batteries and a battery operated radio on hand.
- Sign up for Alert Bowie and encourage your neighbors and family members to do so as well.

The danger of flooding is greater than normal with this storm as high winds will cause leaves to fall and clog storm drains. You can help protect your home from flooding by clearing the storm drains of leaves and other debris near your home before the rains arrive and by keeping an eye on the storm drains during the storm.

How We'll Communicate During an Emergency

If conditions in the City warrant it, City Hall will be open around the clock to provide residents with information and to assist in removing downed trees on city streets.

We will also share information via Alert Bowie, the City website (www.cityofbowie.org), the City's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/bowiemd), the government channel (Verizon 10/Comcast 71), recorded messages on the City Hall phone system, and Washington area television/radio stations.

Important Phone Numbers

Keep this list handy and if you have a cell phone, add these numbers to your phone contacts.

Police, Fire/EMS

Emergencies: 911

Non emergency calls for Police service: 301-352-1200

Bowie Police Department Administrative Offices: 301-575-2480 (M-F 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.)

City Government:

City Hall

301-262-6200

After-hours emergency service (water main breaks, sewer backups, etc.): 1-888-296-3821

TTY: 301-262-5013

City of Bowie Emergency Operations Center (for use during emergencies when other City lines are out of service): 301-575-1830 or 301-575-1831

Utilities:

BGE

Power outages: 1-877-778-2222

Downed wires: 1-800-685-0123

City of Bowie Water Service

301-262-6200

Comcast

1-800-COMCAST or 301-499-1980

Verizon

1-800-483-7988

Washington Gas

Gas emergencies: 1-800-752-7520 or 703-750-1400

Customer service: 703-750-1000

WSSC

Emergencies: 301-206-4002

Main #: 301-206-9772