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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TROPICAL STORM WARNING IN PLACE AS HANNA APPROACHES

Residents advised to monitor storm conditions and exercise safety measures

The entire state of Delaware remains under a Tropical Storm Warning and Flood Watch as Hanna moves up the eastern seaboard. The state is expected to see the effects of the storm by 5 or 6 a.m. Saturday as rain bands lead increasing winds. The storm is predicted to be approximately a 12-hour event over the length of the state.

With coastal sustained winds predicted to be 40 to 50 mph and gusts up to 60 to 65 mph, emergency management officials caution the public to take safety measures to prevent personal injury or damage to property. Inland winds are predicted to be slightly lower, but significantly strong, with sustained winds of 30 to 40 mph and gusts of 50 mph.

Unsecured outdoor items can be blown about causing injury or property damage. Lawn furniture, unsecured ornaments, grills and potted plants should be moved to shelter. Vehicles parked outdoors should be moved away from trees that could be uprooted or lose branches in the wind.

With five to seven inches of rain soaking the soil through the duration of the storm, there is a potential for trees to be uprooted in high winds.

Those in high profile vehicles should be aware of changing driving conditions as sustained winds and possible gusts increase in strength. Although widespread flooding is not anticipated with Tropical Storm Hanna, a Flood Watch is in effect for Delaware. Motorists are reminded that they should never attempt to drive through a flooded area or where there is enough water on the road to restrict visibility of the road surface.

Neither tidal or stream flooding is expected, however, those in low lying areas or other areas prone to flooding should continue to monitor weather reports and listen for state officials' information on conditions of waterways and streams.

During the storm, pets should be brought indoors or have adequate dry shelter provided, and any pets should be attended during necessary trips outdoors.

According to the National Weather Service, Hanna is not expected to reach hurricane strength again. However, the combination of rain and winds could result in downed lines and power outages. Area utilities have staff on standby for repairs and restoration of service, but the public is advised to make sure that they have ample light sources and a battery or crank operated radio should outages occur.

A quick trip to the gas station for a full tank and to the ATM for extra cash is a good measure should there be a loss of electricity.

For tips on a family emergency plan, information is available on dema.delaware.gov, delawarecitizencorps.org, redcrossdelmarva.org and ready.gov. Brochures on line include lists of items for a supply kit and plans for pets,

Although Hanna might not necessitate going into family emergency plan mode or breaking open the supplies in the emergency kit, this would be a good time to review or create a family emergency plan and check the kit for up-to-date records and the shelf life of foods. Families should at all times have enough water and non-perishable food to last for at least three days for each member, including pets.

Delaware Emergency Management Agency, along with other state and Delmarva agencies and organizations will continue to monitor the storm throughout the weekend and provide information for the safety of the public.

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