

Hurricanes: Are you ReadyPA???

The Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1 and runs through November 30. And we do have hurricanes in Pennsylvania. In fact, since 2000, Pennsylvania has had around a dozen tropical storms and hurricanes.

The National Weather Service has designated May 5-11 as Hurricane Awareness Week. This is an opportunity to learn about the hazard here in Pennsylvania and how it can affect you.

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Hurricanes in PA



Flooding from Hurricane Irene, August 2011, Manayunk, PA

A hurricane is a tropical storm with winds reaching 74 mph. In other parts of the world, they are called typhoons. Hurricanes bring threats of heavy rain, strong winds, tornados and storm surges.

In Pennsylvania, we focus on heavy rain, strong winds and tornados since our coastal areas are limited. Inland river and flash flooding from heavy rain is the most common threat statewide. However, strong winds and tornados are known to cause damage to homes and wide spread power outages.

7 Days and 7 Ways to Be Ready

The National Weather Service provides the following ways to help you be ready for when hurricanes or severe weather strikes.

- ☐ **Sunday:** Know your risk and learn about what to be ready for. Visit www.ready.pa.gov/BeInformed to learn more about hazards in your community.
- ☐ **Monday:** Develop an evacuation plan, for short and long term stays. Figure out where you will go, what you will need and how you will get there.
- ☐ **Tuesday:** Assemble Disaster Supplies. Build a kit by picking up a few items each time you shop. Find a list of items you may need in the ReadyPA Preparedness Guide at www.ready.pa.gov/BeInformed
- ☐ **Wednesday:** Get an Insurance Checkup—Make sure your belongings are properly covered. Visit the PA Insurance Department website to learn about why you need insurance. www.insurance.pa.gov/Consumers/
- ☐ **Thursday:** Strengthen Your Home—Ensure your home can withstand all threats. Check for areas that made flood and move items to an area that remains dry.
- ☐ **Friday:** Help Your Neighbor—Make sure your neighborhood is equally prepared.
- ☐ **Saturday:** Complete a Written Plan—Write it all down and keep it in a safe place.

ReadyPA Business and the National Small Business Week

PA

Pennsylvania is a state of small businesses, with our one million small businesses forming the bulk (more than 99%!) of our business economy. Small businesses employ almost half of Pennsylvania's workforce.

National Small Business Week recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. It is also an important time to learn and plan for how to get your business back to business after disaster strikes.

An estimated **25%** of businesses do not open again after a major disaster, according to the Institute for Business and Home Safety. Protect your small business by identifying the risks relevant to your location, both natural and human-made. Then, keep your plan of action updated.

How to Be Prepared



Make an evacuation plan and exercise it regularly



Know how you'll notify your employees, customers, and stakeholders of an emergency



Have redundancy for key resources like power, equipment, and supplies



Create a Business Continuity Plan to become operational again quickly

Have a Continuity Plan



1 in 5 companies spend no time maintaining their plan.



Following a disaster, 90% of smaller companies fail within a year unless they can resume operations within 5 days. Meanwhile, 20% of larger companies spend over 10 days per month on their continuity plans.

Disaster Recovery Plan:

IMPORTANT RECORDS



Insurance policies, contracts, employee records

IT REDUNDANCY



Installation disks, software licensing keys, hardware inventory with serial numbers, and equipment

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES



Cash, water, first aid kit, paper towels, garbage bags, battery-powered radio, 3-day supply of non-perishable food, etc.

Emergency Kits for Employees

Encourage your employees to have grab-and-go emergency kits at the office, in the event of a disaster during the work day:



Include a small first aid kit, cash, energy bars, bottle of water, phone charger, etc.

Want Help?



Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) can provide assistance and confidential consulting on topics such as:

- Creating, updating and refining business continuity plans
- Acquiring capital, before and after the event
- Developing mobile-ready strategies to prepare for employees working off-site when needed
- Finding ways to maintain connectivity during a business disruption

Find a center near you at www.pasbdc.org.

Graphic source: FEMA

More Sources For Assistance

- Learn more about starting, registering, operating and growing a business in Pennsylvania visit the PAs business, "One-Stop Shop" at www.business.pa.gov
- Emergency and Continuity Planning: www.ready.gov/business
- Business and emergency planning: www.sba.gov

Stay Safe Near Dams

May 31, 2019

National Dam Safety Awareness Day was created to encourage and promote individual and community responsibility for dam safety. While there are benefits to dams, they can also be dangerous. Dam safety was not widely recognized until 1889, when the failure of South Fork Dam near Johnstown, Pennsylvania, claimed more than 2,200 lives.



Dam at Ravensburger State Park

Photo credit: PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Strong currents above a dam can draw boats and swimmers towards and over the dam. Areas below dams are also hazardous because of strong recirculating currents and turbulent water. A dam that may look safe can suddenly become very dangerous if flows change suddenly, such as during periods of high water or after storms.

Learn more about dams and dam safety in Pennsylvania. Visit the PA Fish and Boat Commission at www.fishandboat.com/Boat/WaterandIceSafety.

Stay Safe Near a Dam

Know the area. Check maps or speak with locals to get information about hazards on the waterway. If swimming or fishing, always remain a safe distance from the dam to avoid sudden currents. If kayaking, canoeing or boating, turn around well before reaching the dam to avoid being pulled over.

Dress for danger. Wear a personal floatation device (such as a life jacket) if you are boating, fishing, swimming or recreating in or around a waterway.

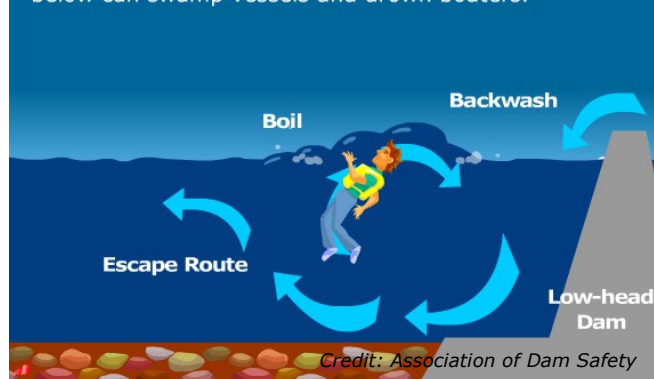
If you see someone in trouble, do not enter. Never enter the water yourself to try and help someone. Instead, call 911 and use a remote assistive device, such as a rope or throw bag, to try and pull them back to safety.

Did you know?

- Pennsylvania has more than **49,000 miles** of waterways including rivers, streams, creeks, brooks and runs.
- There are **3,380 dams** in PA.
- Since the 1950s, an estimated **78** people have lost their lives in dam related accidents.

Dangers Posed by Low-Head Dams

The recirculating currents and turbulent waters below can swamp vessels and drown boaters.



Benefits of Dams

Electrical Generation: Dams produce 8-12 percent of the nation's power needs.

Flood Control: Reduced flooding and erosion damage.

Water Storage: Dams create reservoirs that supply water for fire control, irrigation, domestic and industrial water supply and recreation.

Public Tours of Hurricane Hunter Aircrafts! May 7, 2019

The 2019 Hurricane Awareness Tour will make a stop at Harrisburg International Airport on May 7, 2019. Public tours run from 2-5pm. Come tour inside the aircraft, meet the crew members and pilots. Learn the impacts of inland flooding and other hazards associated with hurricanes from National Weather Service meteorologists, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and many others! Want to know more?



Visit: <https://www.weather.gov/ctp/2019HAT>.

National Police Week May 12–18, 2019

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 designating May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week. The law was amended by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322, signed by President Bill Clinton, directing that the flag of the United States be displayed at half-staff on all government buildings on May 15 each year. While the actual dates change from year to year, National Police Week is always the calendar week, beginning on Sunday, which includes May 15. Each year our nation loses between 140-160 law enforcement officers in the line of duty. National Police Week is held May 11 – 17 each year in Washington, D.C. to honor the service and sacrifice of U.S. law enforcement officers.



National Emergency Medical Services Week May 19–25, 2019

In 1974, President Gerald Ford established National Emergency Medical Services Week to celebrate Emergency Medical Service (EMS) practitioners and the important work they do in our nation's communities. National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's frontline. EMS goes beyond the 911 call. It is also community care that takes time, energy and heart far beyond the scope of their everyday calling. They have a responsibility to care for the community.



National Building Safety Month



Building codes help protect citizens from disasters like fires, weather-related events and structural collapse. Building codes help by reducing property and financial losses, make recovery after a disaster quicker and protects the community. Federal Emergency Management Agency, International Code Council and other partner organizations work together to ensure building codes are developed, adopted, enforced and promoted nationwide. For more information on National Building Safety Month and how to keep yourself safe,

visit: www.buildingsafetymonth.org

PEMA is Social!

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Twitter

<https://twitter.com/ReadyPA>

<https://twitter.com/PEMAdirector>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BeReadyPA>

PEMA Can Also be Found on the Web!

Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Involved!



www.Ready.PA.gov



pennsylvania
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

www.pema.pa.gov

This Month's Preparedness Events

National Building Safety Month

(www.iccsafe.org/about-icc/building-safety-month/2019-building-safety-month/)

Wildlife Community Preparedness Day - May 4th

(www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day)

National Dam Safety Awareness Day - May 31st

(<https://damsafety.org/NDSAD>)

National Hurricane Preparedness Week

(May 5th through May 11th)

(www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness)

National Small Business Week

(May 5th through May 11th)

www.sba.gov/national-small-business-week

National Police Week

(May 12th through May 18th)

(www.policeweek.org) or (<https://nleomf.org/>)

National Emergency Medical Services Week

(May 19th through May 25th)

(www.acep.org/emsweek)

Additional Resources

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency: www.pema.pa.gov

ReadyPA: www.Ready.PA.gov

SERVPA: www.Serv.PA.gov

Office of the State Fire Commissioner: www.osfc.pa.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov

Hurricanes and Tropical Storms Get Ready Guide

Annual Hurricane Season

June	July	August	September	October	November
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Tropical systems have a long history of bringing significant river and flash flooding to Pennsylvania. These storms can also bring a variety of additional hazards such as damaging winds and tornadoes. Here are some tips to better prepare for Hurricane Season.

Hurricane Season To Do's

To
do...



Know Your Risk

Hurricane hazards can impact everyone—understand your threat for river and flash flooding, strong wind, and tornadoes



Develop an Evacuation Plan

Make a plan for two ways out of town—plan for short and long-term stays



Assemble Disaster Supplies

Pick up a few extra items each time you go shopping—before you know it, you will have a disaster kit ready for the next storm



Get an Insurance Check-Up

Make sure your insurance policy covers all hazards, especially flooding which is most often not covered by homeowners or renters insurance



Strengthen Your Home

Ensure your home can withstand all threats—make necessary repairs or adjustments in the off-season



Help Your Neighbor

Make sure your neighborhood is prepared—check on older adults



Complete a Written Plan

Write it all down and keep it in a safe place—practice annually