

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

JOSEPH L. THOMAS
DIRECTOR

(302) 855-7801 T
(302) 855-7805 F



Sussex County

DELAWARE

sussexcountyde.gov

(302) 855-7803 T AFTER HOURS
(302) 855-7800 F AFTER HOURS

Late-season hurricane threatens to strike Delaware, Mid-Atlantic coast with winds, flooding

Forecasts still developing, but models leaning toward a several days-long event with moderate to significant flooding possible

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

**1630 Hours, Thursday
Oct. 25, 2012**

A rare, late-season hurricane is scaring up concerns along the eastern United States, and some forecasts have Hurricane Sandy – or its remnants – slamming into the Delmarva Peninsula early next week, bringing with it torrential rain, steady winds, beach erosion and moderate to severe coastal flooding just days before Halloween.

Forecasters with the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center expect the now-Category 2 storm, with sustained winds of 105 mph near the Bahamas, to approach Delaware sometime Monday. However, the storm's first effects could begin to be felt as early as midday Sunday. And its slow movement, as well as how the storm interacts with an approaching cold front, could cause the storm to creep through the region, leading to days of heavy rain and wind-driven flooding in coastal areas.

No evacuations have been ordered, and no shelters have been designated at this time. The Sussex County Emergency Operations Center is monitoring the situation and reminds the public to prepare now in advance of the storm. Have a supply kit ready, know the evacuation routes, and plan ahead on where to relocate, if needed.

“There is a lot to be concerned about with this forecast,” Sussex County Emergency Operations Center Director Joseph Thomas said. “Nothing is set in stone, of course, and forecasts can always change. But the public should closely watch the forecasts as they evolve. With this not beginning until sometime

Continued

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT • EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT • FIRE AND AMBULANCE CALLBOARD-LEPC

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
21911 RUDDER LANE | PO BOX 589
GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE 19947

Sunday, there is ample time now to begin preparations for what could be a significant, long-duration event.”

Forecasters believe Hurricane Sandy’s current predicted track will come close enough to give Sussex County some of the strongest effects of the storm, with moderate to severe tidal flooding likely in low-lying areas, particularly along the oceanfront and the Delaware Bay shoreline. Forecasters say a full moon Monday will cause higher-than-normal astronomical high tides, and as much as 5 to 7 inches of rain could lead to flooding elsewhere in the county.

Sustained winds of 30 mph to 45 mph are also possible from this storm, which could lead to downed trees and power lines.

Residents and property owners should take this time now to secure loose objects, such as lawn chairs, trash cans and holiday decorations, to prevent storm winds from turning those items into potential projectiles. Also, residents in low-lying tidal areas should make sure submersible pumps are working and check storm drains to ensure they are clear of debris, such as leaves that are beginning to fall.

The Sussex County EOC encourages residents and visitors to continue monitoring the tropics and conditions as they deteriorate. For updates, stay tuned to local television and radio stations, the Sussex County EOC Web site at www.sussexcountycle.gov/services/storm, and the County’s Twitter feeds at www.twitter.com/sussex_pio and www.twitter.com/sussexctycle_eoc. The public should also monitor the National Weather Service, at www.nws.noaa.gov/er/phi, for the latest forecast.

Sussex County urges those planning to visit the area for the upcoming weekend to carefully monitor conditions and plan accordingly. Campers in area parks, as well as those planning to attend the annual Sea Witch Festival in Rehoboth Beach, should also monitor the forecasts, and be prepared to leave if ordered to do so.

For helpful tips on what to do in preparation for a hurricane, including evacuation maps and preparedness brochures, visit www.sussexcountycle.gov/services/storm.

For more information, please contact the Sussex County EOC at (302) 855-7801.

###