



Hurricane

Fact Sheet

Are we at risk?

In September of 2003, Hurricane Isabel struck the eastern coastline, causing damage all the way from North Carolina to Pennsylvania. St. Mary's County was also greatly affected, with many communities experiencing flooding and loss of electricity. As residents of a coastal region, we should all be thinking about storm preparations, especially during hurricane season: **June 1 – November 30.**



Hurricane Isabel in the fall of 2003

How Can We Prepare?

- Know flood zones in your home and work community.
- Become familiar with evacuation routes. Keep your vehicle filled with gasoline.
- Assemble your emergency supplies kit.
- Keep several flashlights with backup batteries in your home, and make sure every family member knows where they are located. (**Do NOT use candles** during a power outage. This is a fire hazard.)
- Once a hurricane warning is announced, fill bathtubs and other cisterns with water. You can use this water for hygiene purposes (bathing, brushing teeth, flushing commodes, etc.) in the case of water being cut off.
- Stock up on enough bottled water and non-perishable food to last your family 7-10 days. Remember to consider any special diets.
- Have a plan for any household pets. Animals are not allowed at Red Cross shelters.
- In the case of an evacuation, be sure to bring sleeping bags and blankets along with your emergency supplies kit.
- Listen to the radio for storm announcements and updates.
- Keep debris cleared around your yard. Secure outdoor furniture and trash cans.

A Note on Evacuation:

Local authorities are trained to recognize potential threats to the health and safety of St. Mary's County citizens. Although possibly inconvenient, it is crucial that we move quickly to evacuate if it is called for.

For more information:

- St. Mary's County Health Department- 301-475-4330
- American Red Cross, Southern Maryland Chapter- 1-888-276-2767