



COUNTY OF LEHIGH

Office of Public Information
Government Center
17 South Seventh Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101-2401
Phone: 610-782-3002
Fax: 610-871-2755

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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CONTACT: Office of Emergency Management
Office: 610-782-4600

LEHIGH COUNTY OFFICIALS URGE RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR TROPICAL STORM IDA

Allentown, PA- Lehigh County Emergency Management Officials continue to prepare for and monitor the track of Hurricane Ida as it moves towards Lehigh County. Please pay close attention to the weather forecasts as the remnants of Hurricane Ida are expected to bring 3 to 6 inches or more rain to parts of the county.

Preparing for emergencies is important! If you have not done so already, it is important to ensure you:

- Review and update your emergency supply kit. You should have at least a 72-hour supply of non-perishable food, water, medications and other necessities to sustain you, your family and family pets. (Remember a kit for your car and work. In addition to traditional emergency kit items, include an extra clean mask for each person in your household. Find a complete list of items to include in your kit at <https://www.ready.pa.gov/BePrepared/BuildKit/Pages/default.aspx>
- Review and update your emergency plan. Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance: how you will get to a safe place; how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations. Find a list of simple and practical steps at <https://www.ready.pa.gov/BePrepared/MakeaPlan/Pages/default.aspx>
- Have an adequate communications plan – be sure friends and family know how to contact you. Teach family members how to use text messaging as text messages can often get around network disruptions when a phone call can't get through.
- Follow the directions of local officials – evacuation orders may be issued by officials, so follow their guidance for the health and safety of you and your loved ones.
- Stay informed; Monitor local weather forecasts and news reports for our area. Remember to have spare batteries for your radio in case of a power outage.

We urge residents to:

- Avoid downed power lines; always assume that a downed line is a LIVE wire. If you see downed power lines – DO NOT Approach. Contact PPL at 1-800-DIAL-PPL (1-800-342-5775).
- DO NOT drive through flooded roadways. As little as 6 inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle. “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” Don’t drive through flood waters. Almost half of all flash flood deaths happen in vehicles. When in your car, look out for flooding in low lying areas at bridges and at highway dips.
- Check on friends and family. If you are able, please check on your neighbors, friends, and family some may need more help than others. You can help by sharing emergency alerts and real-time safety notifications
- If you are in need of immediate emergency assistance, dial 9-1-1.

More information about what to do before, during and after a disaster can be found by visiting ready.gov or listo.gov or by calling the Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency at (610) 782-4600.

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