

Want a Call or Text when County operations are impacted? Update your DENS Automated Call form with HR!

Hurricane season is in full swing and a major storm could have an impact on County operations. And winter weather will be upon us soon thereafter. Did you get a robocall or text last winter when a snowstorm effected Kent County operations?



If not, you need to update your Delaware Emergency Notification System (DENS) form and submit it to the Personnel Office before the next serious weather event.

A number of Kent County employees have reported they did not receive a text notification or call. It appears the reason has to do with the individual cell telephone carrier. The DENS system needs the cell phone carrier name in addition to the cell phone number.

The DNES message to be broadcast will likely be one of the following (listen for “Delaware”, since Kent County, Maryland is just across the State line):

- *Kent County Delaware employees—Liberal leave is in effect. Essential employees report as scheduled*
- *Kent County Delaware employees—Delayed arrival (one or two) hours. Liberal leave in effect. Essential employees report as scheduled.*
- *Kent County Delaware employees—Offices closed for the day. Essential employees report as scheduled.*

“Liberal leave” means an employee should report to work as normal, but is NOT required to report to work. The employee must promptly call his/her supervisor to advise if he/she will not be in. The time off will be deducted from accrued vacation.

“Essential employees” are those persons required to deal with the emergency. These include paramedics, dispatchers, and some wastewater and facilities management workers. Employees should ask their supervisor now if they are “essential”, so you know if you have to come to work when it snows.

As government employees we are all subject to call-in to help in an emergency, even performing duties outside of the “routine”. Most importantly, always be safe.

Most Kent County employees completed the Emergency/Inclement Weather Call Form during new hire orientation or when the system was launched. When emergencies arise or a building is closed or has a delayed opening, the County Administrator will send out alerts through DENS to enrolled employees. News outlets are notified by Dept. of Public Safety.

(Posted 09/09/19)

EMERGENCY/INCLEMENT WEATHER
INFORMATION CALL LIST
BY THE AUTOMATED CALL SYSTEM

ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL ALWAYS REPORT AS SCHEDULED

Employee Name

() _____
Home Phone

() _____
Cell Phone

Would you allow a text message to be sent to your cell phone? _____

If so, please indicate your cell phone provider _____

Signature of Employee

Date

BE PREPARED FOR A HURRICANE



FEMA

FEMA V-1006/ May 2018

Threats from hurricanes include powerful winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, tornadoes, and landslides.

Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over warm ocean waters and move toward land. The Atlantic hurricane season runs June 1 to November 30. The Pacific hurricane season runs May 15 to November 30.



Can happen along any U.S. coast or territory in the Atlantic or Pacific



Can affect areas more than 100 miles inland



Most active in September

IF YOU ARE UNDER A HURRICANE WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY



Determine your best protection for high winds and flooding.



Evacuate if told to do so.



Take shelter in a designated storm shelter or an interior room for high winds.



Listen for emergency information and alerts.



Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.



Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.

HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A HURRICANE THREATENS

Prepare NOW

Know your area's risk of hurricanes.

Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

If you are at risk for flash flooding, watch for signs such as heavy rain.

Practice going to a safe shelter for high winds, such as a FEMA safe room or ICC 500 storm shelter. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room in a sturdy building on the lowest level that is not subject to flooding.

Based on your location and community plans, make your own plans for evacuation or sheltering in place.

Become familiar with your evacuation zone, the evacuation route, and shelter locations.

Gather needed supplies for at least three days. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.

Keep important documents in a safe place or create password-protected digital copies.

Protect your property. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves in plumbing to prevent backups. Consider hurricane shutters. Review insurance policies.

Survive DURING

If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Do not drive around barricades.

If sheltering during high winds, go to a FEMA safe room, ICC 500 storm shelter, or a small, interior, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor.

If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising flood water.

Listen for current emergency information and instructions.

Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery ONLY outdoors and away from windows.

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around. Don't Drown.[®] Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.

Be Safe AFTER

Listen to authorities for information and special instructions.

Be careful during clean-up. Wear protective clothing and work with someone else.

Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off electricity at the main breaker or fuse box to prevent electric shock.

Avoid wading in flood water, which can contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

Save phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.

Document any property damage with photographs. Contact your insurance company for assistance.



FEMA

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Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **ready.gov** and search for **hurricane**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **hurricane**.