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Chief

BALTIMORE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE



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Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BALTIMORE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT PREPARES FOR COASTAL FLOOD WATCH AND WIND ADVISORY

Baltimore, Maryland – Monday, January 8, 2023 - The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a series of advisories for Baltimore City, including a Coastal Flood Watch, Flood Watch, and Wind Advisory, effective January 9, 1:00 PM. Residents are urged to take necessary precautions and stay informed about the potential risks associated with these weather conditions. The Coastal Flood Watch will be in effect from January 9, 1:00 PM, until January 10, 6:00 AM (EST). During this period, residents should be prepared for the possibility of 2 to 3 feet of inundation above ground level in low-lying areas due to tidal flooding.

Additionally, excessive rainfall may lead to flooding in rivers, creeks, streams, and other flood-prone locations. The Flood Watch will be in effect from January 9, 1:00 PM, until January 10, 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. Excessive runoff from the anticipated rainfall may result in further flooding, making it crucial for residents to exercise caution and avoid driving through standing water. A Wind Advisory will be in effect from January 9, 3:00 PM, until January 10, 2024 at 1:00 AM (EST). Southeast winds are expected to reach speeds of 20-30 mph, with gusts up to 50-55 mph. These gusty winds have the potential to cause unsecured objects to become airborne and may result in tree limbs falling, leading to power outages.

To ensure the safety of our residents, the Baltimore City Fire Department strongly advises citizens to secure outdoor furniture and refuse containers to prevent them from becoming flying projectiles. It is also crucial to avoid driving through standing water, as it can render vehicles immobile and quickly escalate to occupants being trapped in their vehicles.

Residents residing in low-lying areas prone to flooding are encouraged to park their vehicles in City-owned garages in Fells Point, Harbor East, and Little Italy. The Fleet & Eden Street Garage, located at 501 S. Eden Street, will offer free parking starting at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. Little Italy and Caroline Street Garages will provide free parking starting at 4:00 PM. Parking spaces will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents utilizing this opportunity must remove their vehicles from City-owned garages after the storm and no later than Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:00 AM.

Please note that the timeframe may be extended based on prevailing conditions, and residents will be asked to provide proof of residency at the garages.

Baltimore City Fire Department urges all residents to stay informed through local news sources and official announcements regarding any updates or changes to the advisories. The safety and well-being of our community are of utmost importance, and we remain committed to ensuring the welfare of all residents during severe weather.

Additionally, residents should create a plan and secure an emergency preparedness kit to include non-perishable food items, spare batteries, important contact numbers, medications, mobile phone with charger, flashlight, and a first aid kit. During emergencies, listen to radio, local news, and monitor social media sites for news updates. Citizens are also reminded to keep mobile phones charged, flashlight on hand, secure medications and keep emergency contact numbers on hand should you be without power for an extended period of time.

The Baltimore City Fire Department will continuously monitor weather conditions along with other city agencies and remain prepared to mitigate incidents as they develop.

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