

Jane Higginbotham

From: Rockbridge Info <info_1NMY@alertrockbridge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 1:12 PM
To: Residents of City of Buena Vista, Residents of City of Lexington, Rockbridge County Residents, Town of Glasgow Residents, Town of Goshen Residents, Weather (24/7), Weather (7am-7pm)
Subject: Important message from Alert Rockbridge

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release –April 29, 2014

Contact: Robert Foresman, Emergency Management Coordinator (Rock. Co.) – 540-463-2532

Trent Roberts, Emergency Management Coordinator (Lex) – 540-463-3210

Jay Scudder, City Manager (Buena Vista) – 540-261-8601

Flooding Safety Reminders

Over the next several days the area is expected to receive several inches of rain and we want to remind citizens of safety precautions.

Flood Watch

- When a flood watch is issued be prepared to act quickly and move to higher ground if needed.
- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home. Higher floors are less likely to receive damage from a flood.
- Put important family documents in a waterproof container. This will keep them from being damaged in a flood.
- Get your pre-assembled emergency supply kit ready.
- Fill your car's fuel tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued. If the electric power is cut off, gas stations may not be able to operate pumps for several days.
- Be alert to signs of flooding. If the floodwaters are threatening your home, evacuate immediately. Move quickly to higher ground.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Shortcuts or alternate routes may be blocked or damaged by floodwaters.

Driving During Floods

Many deaths occur in automobiles as people and their vehicles are swept downstream. Many of these drowning accidents are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around barriers warning that roads are flooded. Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, stop and do not cross. With water across the roadway, you cannot always determine the depth of the water or the condition of the road under the water. Six inches of moving water can knock a person down and a mere two feet of water can move a large vehicle such as a bus.

- If you are driving and come upon rapidly rising waters, turn around and find another route. The depth of the water may not be obvious and roadbeds may be washed out under floodwaters.
- If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

Flash Floods

These floods can develop within minutes depending on the intensity and duration of the rain, the topography, soil conditions, and ground cover. Flash floods can move boulders, uproot trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels.

- Never approach flooded areas, move to higher ground.
- Stay alert to rapidly changing conditions.
- Stay informed by local media.

Disaster Supply Kit

Prior to a disaster it is recommended that individuals and family's put together a disaster supply kit, these kits should contain at a minimum the following items.

- Water
- Food
- First Aid Supplies
- Clothing and Bedding
- Tools
- Special Items

Keep your supplies in an easy-to-carry container. Possible containers include a large, covered trash container, a camping backpack, or duffle bag.

Stay Informed

Below is a list of sources that you can use to stay informed throughout the event.

- Alert Rockbridge
- Buena Vista, Lexington, and Rockbridge County Websites • Twitter Accounts for Rockbridge Emergency Management and Lexington FD • Facebook pages for Lexington FD and Rockbridge Co. Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management • 3WZ 96.7 • The News-Gazette • WDBJ7 • WSLS • WSET • NWS, Blacksburg

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