



HOWARD COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Director
Ryan A. Miller

County Executive
Allan H. Kittleman

file copy
CR 117-2018

July 9, 2018

Chairperson Sigaty,

I would like to thank the County Council for the assistance you have provided thus far towards Ellicott City's recovery from the disastrous May 27th flood, including the extension to the local declaration of emergency.

In accordance with Amendment No. 1 to Council Resolution 117-2018 (a Resolution extending the State of Emergency declared by Executive Order issued on May 27, 2018, which related to a severe flooding event), I am providing the Howard County Council the attached briefing sheet which provides additional detail since my last briefing on July 2nd.

Respectfully,

Ryan A. Miller, Director
Howard County Office of Emergency Management

Report to County Council – July 9, 2018

On Sunday, May 27, 2018, extensive rainfall caused significant flooding throughout Howard County. The most significant flooding occurred in Ellicott City, with dangerous flash flooding in the Main Street area that necessitated numerous swift water rescues. Approximately 7.5 inches of rain fell in 5 hours, the majority of which fell in a 3-hour period. In a 6-hour period beginning at 4:00pm, the 911 Center received over 1100 calls. Additionally, there were two active fires caused by lightning strikes, one of which was a two-alarm fire. Executive Kittleman signed an executive order declaring a Local State of Emergency for Howard County at 6:45pm and the Governor declared a State of Emergency shortly thereafter.

This was the second major flood of Historic Ellicott City in under two years. There are multiple roads that have been partially washed away, the Old Courthouse has been demolished, and there was massive damage to streets, sidewalks, and buildings.

Presidential Declaration

On Tuesday July 2, FEMA issued an approved Presidential Declaration to the State of Maryland triggering the release of Federal funds to help communities recover from the Sever Storm and Flooding that occurred May 27-28 (FEMA-4376_DR). This Declaration authorizes Public Assistance funding (recovery of damage and response costs) for Howard County Government at a 75%/25% cost share.

Staff are working with the State and FEMA to coordinate the initial “Public Assistance Kick-Off Meeting” during the week of July 16, 2018. Detailed cost tracking throughout this event will help us maximize Howard County’s recovery of funds.

Perimeter

The secure zone remains on lower Main Street east of Old Columbia Pike and west of Maryland Avenue. Upper Main Street was re-opened to two-way traffic on June 19, 2018. As of July 3, 2018, two-way traffic is permitted within the secure zone for authorized vehicles. There is no through-traffic (pedestrian or vehicles) permitted through lower Main Street. Vehicles traveling west on Frederick Road from Baltimore County are able to cross the Patapsco River Bridge and turn left onto Maryland Avenue to access St. Paul Street and College Avenue. New Cut Road remains closed to thru traffic due to flood damage.

Residents of Main Street properties within the secure zone may re-occupy their homes. Before re-occupancy can be allowed, the residence must be deemed safe for occupancy by the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits and by the Department of Fire and Rescue Services. All necessary utilities (water, sewer, electric) to the building must be restored. Gas does not need to be restored prior to occupancy. Residents are required to sign a re-occupancy agreement. Returning residents are required to obtain and display Howard County government-issued credentials.

Parking on Main Street between Old Columbia Pike and Maryland Avenue will be on the SOUTH side only, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Business owners are encouraged to use street parking for contractors and they are encouraged to use the parking lots for their personal vehicles. If a parking space is not available, contractors will be allowed to park on the NORTH side of the street for 15 minutes to drop-off equipment and supplies, but then must move their vehicles to parking lots.

Information Management

The Public Information Office continues to alternate between a recorded/staffed 2900 line. The line continues to be staffed Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm. The Office has issued a press release about the State of the Emergency, including changes to the number of contractor vehicles allowed and two-way traffic in the restricted zone. The Office continues to release information about the federal declaration, re-occupancy, the expedited permit process, mold mitigation, how to request volunteer support for recovery, and areas of Ellicott City that are accessible.

Community Planning

Department of Planning and Zoning

- Requesting a revised draft scope, timeline, and fee for the Master Plan restart with Mahan Rykiel.
- Working on plans for public meetings in late summer/early fall, including with the Master Plan Advisory Team and public workshops.
- Planning to send an email notice to the master plan list in mid-July to advise everyone of the restart of the master plan process and provide general updates.

Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits

- DILP developed a one-pager on Howard County Code Requirements for Flood-proofing Structures within the Floodplain and has been distributed to property owners.
- Appointments continue to be scheduled by Constituent services involving DILP, Constituent Services, EDA, HCPD, and DFRS. They were all part of a multi-agency group conducting on-site walk throughs to evaluate which buildings can be reoccupied.
- DILP, along with Public Information, DPZ-Historic Preservation, and Health Department, has developed a one page informational sheet detailing the process for scheduling plan review appointments to obtain permits to repair flood damage.

Infrastructure Recovery Process

Public Works and Engineering

- **Environmental Services**
 - Continue to empty the 14 roll-offs on site 6 days a week. 5,550 tons of debris have been received at Alpha Ridge Landfill with an additional 641 tons delivered to the Waste Management Annapolis Junction Transfer Station. Roll-offs are constantly monitored and their location is adjusted as a result of resident and business owner requests.

- **Potable Water**
 - Approximately 100 feet of water main needs to be replaced at New Cut Road. Repairs can begin once the contractor is available. Repairs will take 3-4 weeks once the contractor begins.

- **Wastewater/Sewer**
 - All water and sewer service assessments have been completed.
 - The high-water pressures on Merryman, Hill, and Church still have not been resolved. A hydrant is open on Merryman to reduce system pressures.
 - Utility crews have been making minor repairs to meter vaults and ball valves. Minor repairs will be completed this week.

- **Gas**
 - Of the 280 affected gas customers, gas is now available to all customers in Historic Ellicott City.

- **Electric**
 - As of Thursday, June 21, 2018, of the 454 outages in Historic Ellicott City, service has been restored to 405 customers (89%). Fifty-nine (49) customers are without electric service on Main Street.

- **Stormwater Management**
 - Ellicott Mills Drive – Working with consultant and contractor to develop a design for the new culvert and then reconstruction of the road.
 - New Cut Road – Working with consultant to develop a design approach for the stabilization of the two major slope failures on the lower end of New Cut Branch, adjacent to New Cut Road.

- **Roads – Closed Roadways – Status as of June 29**
 - New Cut Rd **From:** Hillsborough **To:** St. Paul’s Street
 - Main Street **From:** Old Columbia Pk **To:** Maryland Ave
 - Ellicott Mills Dr **From:** Fels Ln **To:** Main St
 - River Road (Sykesville) was reopened 6/29/18

Economic Recovery

- Continue to work closely with businesses in the no-access zone so that they have the resources they need to continue to recover.
- First HOT Team (Multi-Agency Meeting that deconflicts information on an address by address basis) meeting was held June 15, 2018 and continues to occur every Friday.
- Disaster Assistance Center was open as a physical location from May 29, 2018 to June 8, 2018 as a physical location and is now virtual.
- Howard County is currently attached to the Frederick and Washington Counties’ SBA Declaration as a contiguous County for the storm that occurred from May 10 – 20, 2018.
- State resources for job opportunities and employment assistance were available at the DAC and continue to be available virtually.

Health, Housing, and Human Services

Volunteer Management

- Virtual Volunteer Management Plan is still in place. All volunteer requests/requests for volunteers should be directed to www.howardcountymd.gov/disasterrecoveryvolunteer.
- Continuing to monitor volunteer registration through the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County web portal.
- Continuing to match volunteers with residents and business owners to help with their cleanup efforts.

MD VOAD

- MD VOAD are using CrisisCleanup.org (CC) to organize a database of survivor's properties that were damaged in the 2018 floods.
- On July 28, 2018, MD VOAD will undertake a region-wide canvassing effort stretching from W. Baltimore to Route 40 in Ellicott City to address properties not yet handled by volunteer efforts.

Disaster Assistance Center

- The DAC demobilized as a physical location on June 8, 2018 at 1700. The DAC has reverted to a virtual DAC.
- As of June 25, 2018, the DAC has had a total of 288 encounters, please note that one encounter may include an entire family or group of people living together.

Housing

- As of 7/6/18, no residents remain at the Extended Stay hotels in Columbia.
- The Department provided a list of 9 rental communities with available units to displaced residents. All rental communities will offer 3-month lease terms, waive the security deposit and accept rent payments from the State's Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) program. The list was also posted on the County's website.
- The State has approved 40 HAP applications and 15 residents have signed leases. 16 residents are currently evaluating apartments.

Public Health

- Environmental Health will continue to be a presence downtown as efforts are made to assist food service establishments to reopen.

Safety and Security

- HCPD, DFRS, and DPW continue to operate under Unified Command.
- Security officers from MWR continue to supplement HCPD.
- DFRS continues to monitor for safety related concerns.

Access Restored to Portions of Ellicott City's Main Street



