

# CARTERET COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



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For immediate release:

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Public Safety Message

Carteret County, NC – Though it appears the worst of the inclement weather has passed, Carteret County continues to encourage citizens to remain safe.

Many areas of the County are experiencing downed power lines and flooding, to include homes and roadways. The majority of the County is without power at this time.

Please take the following safety precautions:

### *Flood Waters*

- Regardless of swimming ability, flood water poses a drowning risk for everyone. Swiftly moving water can be deadly and shallow standing water can be dangerous for small children.
- Vehicles may be swept away or stall in as little as six (6) inches of water.
- Hazardous chemicals, sharp objects, such as glass or metal fragments may be swept up in flood waters and cause injury.

### *Downed Power Lines*

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything that may be touching it. Even materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with a downed power line, DO NOT TOUCH the person; call 911 instead.
- Watch where you are walking so that you do not place your feet near water where a downed power line is located.

### *Food Safety*

- As a general rule, discard any perishable food, such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers, which have been above 40 °F for over 2 hours.
- Do NOT eat any food that may have touched flood water.
- After a flood, discard food not in waterproof containers (screw-caps, snap lids, pull tops, and crimped tops), damaged cans that have swelling, leakage, punctures, holes, fractures, extensive deep rusting, or crushing/severe enough to prevent normal stacking or opening.

### *Septic System Recovery*

- Septic tanks contain waste, and can cause illness if individuals are exposed to sewage found in septic tanks in flood waters.
- Without electricity, septic systems with a pump may have sewage back up into the home.
- Conserve water to prevent backups of sewage in your home.
- Do not continue to use water if sewage backs up into the house, or if water or sewage is observed surfacing near the septic system.
- Remove and discard any items contaminated with sewage that cannot be disinfected. Wear rubber boots and waterproof gloves when cleaning up sewage.

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