



## Fire Department

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**John R. Leopold, County Executive**

David L. Stokes, Fire Chief

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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### COUNTY EXECUTIVE LAUDS EMERGENCY RESPONDERS FOR PROFESSIONALISM DURING STORM Cautions Residents to Remain Safe

Millersville (MD) ... County Executive John R. Leopold is congratulating public safety officials for their professionalism during yesterday's storms that seriously affected Anne Arundel County.

"I am very proud of the men and women of our emergency services organizations," Mr. Leopold said during a review of emergencies handled during the storm. "When you look at the volume and types of calls that they handled, it is amazing to me that we did not lose a single life in any storm related events. This speaks to the incredible dedication and commitment of our responders in safeguarding the lives and property of Anne Arundel County residents."

During the 24 hour period beginning at midnight on 05/12/08 through 05/13/08 the Fire Department handled 419 emergency related calls – this represents a 100% increase over normal call volume for an identical time period on a typical day. Calls included:

- 7 reported water rescue assignments for vehicles in rising flood waters including two civilians who were rescued by swift water rescue teams in Maryland City and Gambrills. Fortunately no injuries were reported.
- 33 Motor Vehicle Collisions including two incidents with civilians trapped in vehicles that resulted in the transport of several patients to area trauma centers in Baltimore and Prince Georges County.
- 2 Structure Fires that resulted in the loss of an out-building (in the Pasadena section) due to electrical wires considered to be storm related; and a commercial building fire in Severn in the 8000 block of Telegraph Road not considered to be storm related. The cause of the second fire is under investigation.
- 55 calls to investigate downed electrical power lines. Numerous resources had to remain committed on these calls as BG&E worked diligently to restore power to affected residents.

- 61 calls to investigate downed trees into structures, on vehicles, and across roadways.
- 67 Miscellaneous calls including fire alarms sounding in commercial and residential occupancies.
- During the storm, the Department staffed additional crews in anticipation of the storm including two swift water teams. Assistance was also received from the volunteer members of the Fire Department who reported to their stations and augmented staffing. The fire Communications center maintained an enhanced presence until 2100 hrs to address the peak call volume created as a result of the storm.

Residents and motorists are urged to continue to exercise caution during the next 24 hour period as area roads continue to be affected by flood water and debris. Motorists are again warned not to drive around any barricades or attempt to cross flooded roadways.

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