

Northampton County residents urged to report damage from Tropical Storm Ida

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure and Emergency Management Services (EMS) report that all locations along the Lehigh and Delaware rivers have fallen below flood stage with the exception of Riegelsville which is at Action Stage (19.6 ft) and falling.

First Energy Corp reports that 717 Northampton County residences are still without power. All electrical services are expected to be restored by 11:00PM on September 4th. Residents are reminded to recognize the danger of downed power lines and to treat all downed power lines as energized. Stay stay at least 100 feet away and call 911 immediately to report a downed power line. Customers who experience an interruption in their electrical service can report the outage at 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877) or at www.firstenergycorp.com

EMS is working with local municipalities and residents to document the areas in the county most affected by storm damage. EMS will contact all municipalities today and request they complete their "windshield survey" and report back to EMS by the end of business on Wednesday, September 8th.

Any county resident who experienced damages to their home due to flooding, trees down, etc. SHALL always attempt to make contact with their local municipal officials to report damages. In the event they are unable to make contact with their local municipal officials, residents may utilize the EMS agency website and complete the online recovery questionnaire at: <http://ncem-pa.org/recovery-questionnaire/> The completion of this questionnaire, or any other disaster assessment form, does not guarantee any local, state or federal assistance. This assessment process (including the questionnaire) helps Northampton County to provide FEMA with the information needed to determine if FEMA will provide our county residents with any aid or assistance. Residents are encouraged to document their damages and clean up with photographs.

On Thursday September 2nd the Pennsylvania Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster "PA VOAD" announced that Crisis Cleanup has activated their call center to be able to take calls from residents affected by Tropical Storm Ida. Crisis Cleanup is a coordination platform used by hundreds of relief organizations and government agencies across the country. Crisis Cleanup cannot guarantee that all calls for service by residents will be performed, as all services are performed by volunteers. Crisis Cleanup documents requests for services such as debris cleanup inside and outside homes, tarping, tree work, and mucking and gutting of damaged homes. Crisis Cleanup cannot assist with social services such as food, clothing, shelter, insurance, or questions about FEMA registration if FEMA aid is approved. Residents in need of cleanup assistance should call toll free 844-965-1386.

EMS reminds everyone to stay clear of swollen rivers and streams over the Labor Day weekend

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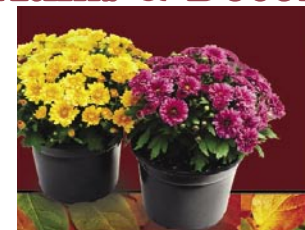
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