

# AUGUST 2021 CCDC SAFETY MESSAGE

## BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES – Preparing for high winds

The National Weather Service says while high winds are commonly associated with severe thunderstorms, hurricanes, and nor'easters, they may also occur because of differences in air pressures, such as when a cold front passes across the area. Large winter storms occasionally produce high winds. A high wind warning is issued by the NWS when sustained winds of 40 mph or greater or gusts to 58 mph or greater are expected.

### Preparing for High Winds

If a wind warning is issued, do the following:

- Tune in to local weather forecasts and bulletins issued by the National Weather Service on the web, NOAA Weather Radio or local TV and radio stations.
- Postpone outdoor activities if a wind advisory or high wind warning has been issued.
- Find an internal area of your house to shelter from flying debris.
- If caught outdoors, use handrails where available on outdoor walkways and avoid elevated areas without adequate railing.
- Be aware that narrow areas speed up the wind going through the area.

Secure your property:

- Remove any dead trees or overhanging branches near structures.
- Shutter windows securely and brace outside doors.
- Bring in unsecured objects from lawns, patios, and balconies and secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, sports equipment, or garbage cans that could blow away and cause damage or injury.
- Park vehicles away from trees.
- Bring equipment in the house that may help you cut your way out.

If you are caught outside:

- Take cover next to a building or under a sturdy shelter.
- Stand clear of roadways or train tracks, as a gust may blow you into the path of an oncoming vehicle.
- Watch for flying debris such as tree limbs and street signs.
- Keep an eye toward nearby balconies for loose objects that may fall.

If you are driving:

- Keep both hands on the wheel and slow down.
- Watch for objects blowing across the roadway and into your path.
- Keep a safe distance from cars in adjacent lanes as strong gusts could push a car outside its lane of travel.
- Take extra care in a high-profile vehicle such as a truck, van, SUV, or when towing a trailer, as these are more prone to be pushed or even flipped by high wind gusts.
- If winds are severe enough to prevent safe driving, get onto the shoulder of the road and stop, making sure you are away from trees or other tall objects that could fall onto your vehicle. Stay in the car and turn on the hazard lights until the wind subsides.

Downed electrical lines

- Report downed lines to your local utility emergency center and to the police.
- Do not try to free lines or to remove debris yourself.
- Avoid anything that may be touching downed lines including people, vehicles, or tree branches.
- Warn others to stay away.
- If a line falls on your car, stay inside the vehicle until help professional help arrives and do not touch any of the metal frame of your vehicle. Warn anyone who may approach of the danger. Ask someone to call the police.

**THINK SMART, BE AWARE, BE FLEXIBLE, BE EDUICATED (SAFE)**