



410-313-3600 / [ECFloodRecovery@HowardCountymd.gov](mailto:ECFloodRecovery@HowardCountymd.gov)

August 22, 8 a.m.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How can I get access to my home or business?**

Through Monday, Aug. 22, the County has established a window from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day for those needing to clean out, pack up and move out of their residences and businesses. Building owners can also use this time to bring in contractors to begin working on a recovery plan or for emergency remediation.

**Cars, vans, pickups and small box trucks will be allowed to enter the Main Street area for the retrieval of larger items and belongings. Those planning to bring a vehicle must call 410-313-2900 to have access approved and scheduled.** Vehicles will be scheduled in six-hour blocks of time. Those accessing properties will be allowed to make multiple visits during the five-day period.

Credentialing and staging will begin at 7 a.m. at the following locations:

#### Monday, August 22:

- St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 3695 Rogers Avenue, Ellicott City

All must be credentialed and be at least 18 years of age (or 16 years old and accompanied by a parent or guardian) to gain access to the site. Vehicles from the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks will provide transportation for those people assisting in the cleanup.

***IF ASKED, A CHANGE WAS MADE TO THE SCHEDULE TO ENABLE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS CREWS MORE TIME EACH MORNING TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INSPECTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE.***

County law enforcement will be on-site providing traffic control and directing vehicles to the most safe, convenient and accessible parking spots. Drivers should use caution, limiting their speed to 5 miles per hour or less. Traffic will be one-way, eastbound only, and vehicles will be allowed to exit onto Old Columbia Pike or at the foot of Main Street.

The County will provide a limited number of electrical generators stationed in various parts of the Main Street area for recharging of tools, powering fans and dehumidifiers or other cleanup-related needs. Bottled water and ice will be available and county fire and emergency personnel will be on the scene to assist with any first aid needs.

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### **When can I get back into my home permanently?**

As apartment buildings are deemed safe for re-entry by county building and fire inspectors and structural engineers, landlords have been asked to reach out to their tenants when buildings can be reoccupied.

Access to the building may not be from restricted areas and that there must be a plan in place to prevent residents from accessing restricted areas, including parking outside the restricted areas. All utilities (water, sewer, electric and gas) must be restored before those are allowed to return.

Returning residents would also be required to wear Howard County government-issued credentials. Residents are encouraged to contact their landlords if they have not been in touch with them. For more information or assistance, call 410-313-2900.

### **I understand there will be some street and lot repaving. Where?**

Lot F near the top of Main Street was repaved but is still closed. Crews will be milling, patching and repairing Merryman and Hill, but repaving of those streets won't occur until sometime next week.

### **I am interested in beginning to rebuild my property. Will I have to pay the fees to apply for permits?**

The Howard County Council approved Kittleman's proposed legislation that waives a wide range of permit fees for those businesses who need to rebuild following the July 30 flooding. Fees are being waived through Dec. 31. Many of the fees will be waived for flood victims across the county; however, the waiver for water, sewer and sewage fees will apply to those shaded properties in the attached map.

### **How can I help?**

#### **How to donate**

We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of donations. While we are so grateful, our support agencies no longer have the capacity to accept, store or distribute physical donations. From this point forward, if you wish to donate, please do so monetarily through one of the following organizations:

Ellicott City Partnership  
[www.HelpEllicottCity.com](http://www.HelpEllicottCity.com)

Community Action Council of Howard County  
[www.cac-hc.org](http://www.cac-hc.org)

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United Way  
[www.uwcm.org/ecstrong](http://www.uwcm.org/ecstrong)

While there are certainly other legitimate organizations accepting monetary donations, using one of the above three avenues guarantees your donations will get where you intend.

### **How much money has been raised so far?**

More than \$500K in monetary donations have come in since the flood. A new Recovery Fund Committee will be responsible for distributing those funds. Councilman Jon Weinstein has agreed to chair.

### **How to volunteer**

The Volunteer Center Serving Howard County, a program of the Columbia Association and a local clearinghouse for volunteerism, will be the new entry point for volunteers interested in helping with flood recovery efforts in Historic Ellicott City.

VolunteerHoward.org, an online service, will make it easier for individuals and groups of volunteers to be organized for recovery missions as they arise.

### **How can I ask for other assistance?**

The Disaster Assistance Center will be open Monday, Aug. 22 and Friday, Aug. 26 during established hours, Monday to Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you know anyone who needs support, please encourage them to stop by the Ellicott City 50+ Center located at 9401 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042. For more information, call 410-313-2900.

### **How can I get the latest news about the recovery efforts?**

Follow Howard County Government on our flood recovery website or social media at:

[www.ECfloodrecovery.org](http://www.ECfloodrecovery.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/hocogov/>  
<https://www.twitter.com/@HoCoGov>

If you have specific questions, you can call 410-313-2900.

### **When will electricity and water be restored to Main Street?**

Electricity has been restored on a limited basis. Water has been restored as well. The Department of Public Works advises that potable (drinking) water in Ellicott City continues to meet all Federal and State drinking water standards. As a precaution, the County recommends

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that you flush (open and let the water run) all services at every level in the building, (faucet, toilets, and hose bibs) for a minimum of 15 minutes before you use the water.

If you find you do not have water service, or are having sanitary sewer issues at your property, please call the Bureau of Utilities during business hours, Mon- Fri. from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 410-313-4900.

### **Will I continue to be charged for my cable TV, internet and other services?**

We have been working with service providers and most are happy to work with customers affected by the flood. Contact customer service for your provider to ask for assistance.

### **I've lost my job because of the flooding. How can I get help?**

Workforce Development is partnering with the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) and Howard County Economic Development Authority to identify immediate employment opportunities for displaced workers. Staff is available to help with unemployment insurance as well. Email [owd@howardcountymd.org](mailto:owd@howardcountymd.org) or call 410-290-2620 and look for job postings on Facebook.

### **I am a business owner from outside the Main Street Ellicott City area and I would like to hire one of the displaced workers. How can I help?**

Businesses seeking to hire individuals on a temporary or permanent basis may contact the Office of Workforce Development at 410-290-2620 or email at [owd@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:owd@howardcountymd.gov) . There will also be jobs from employers posted to Office of Workforce Development's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/howardworkforce](http://www.facebook.com/howardworkforce)

### **How will the disaster impact my scheduled trash and recycling pickup?**

*TRASH, RECYCLING AND TRIM COLLECTIONS SERVICE:* Collections will be made on their normal day and all normal rules apply. The Alpha Ridge Landfill also will waive tipping fees for Howard County private residents transporting debris from flooding through Aug. 24.

Visit [www.HowardCountyRecycles.org](http://www.HowardCountyRecycles.org) or call 410-313-6444. Recycling, trash and yard trim DROP-OFF is available at the Alpha Ridge Landfill, Mon. –Sat. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. More details can be found at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/ARL> .

### **What about my mail delivery in the impacted areas?**

The United States Postal Service has modified its delivery plan to assist those with mail service interruption because of the flooding. Residents should visit the Ellicott City Post Office, 3375 Ellicott Center Drive, Ellicott City, 21043-9996 between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. to Fri. from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday. The phone number is 410-640-1340.

Mail can be placed on hold for up to 30 days. Proper ID is required for establishment of Hold

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and Pick-Up. A designated pick-up location within the lobby will be available for quick and easy access. Change of address forms can be found on line at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

**What does it mean when I see a marking on my building? Does it mean that my property is not accessible?**

For those residents or business owners accessing their properties on Main Street, you may see an orange "X" spray painted on a window. An "X" does not necessarily mean that the building is unsafe to enter or that the structural integrity has been compromised. This "X" simply indicates that a complete secondary search of the property took place by our emergency personnel.

**How can I get an insurance adjustor or licensed contractor to evaluate my property?**

Contractors and insurance adjustors may accompany credentialed property owners to their sites.

**I am a resident or business owner whose building was flooded. My flood insurance requires me to take certain actions (opening windows, pumping out the basement, etc.), but in order to get paid by my policy, I have to do this within a certain number of days. Due to my property falling in the no access zone designated by Howard County, I was not allowed to access my property to take these required actions. What can I do to avoid problems with my insurance companies?**

While Howard County understands that you may need to get to your property to fulfill your obligations to your insurance policy, please understand that the safety of citizens and responders must remain our first priority. To help reduce any conflict with your insurance companies, please document all actions that you take, including efforts to get to your property. Also, please contact the Maryland Insurance Administration at 410-468-2340 or 800-492-6116. These issues are often resolved on a case by case basis and the MIA will help you navigate these issues.

**How can I get mental health support or speak with a counselor?**

The Howard County Mental Health Authority is responsible for planning, managing and monitoring publicly funded mental health services in Howard County. For information call (410) 313-7350.

**How can I file an insurance claim?**

The Maryland Insurance Administration has representatives available to assist Marylanders filing insurance claims as a result of the flooding in Howard County. Consumers can contact the Maryland Insurance Administration at 410-468-2340 or 1-800-492-6116 if they need assistance with property and casualty claims related to the storm.

**Will financial assistance be available from FEMA or other sources?**

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Small Business Administration signed Howard County's request to make low-interest disaster loans available to homeowners, property owners, businesses and nonprofit agencies.

Property and homeowners can talk to Customer Service Representatives from the Small Business Administration at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center at the 50+ Center at 9401 Frederick Rd. It is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sat and Sun. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Refer to the [SBA Fact Sheet](#) online for more information.

### **How can I find a licensed contractor?**

Please be sure to independently verify any licensed contractors. License status of contractors and salespeople can be reviewed at <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/mhic/>