



Severe Flooding Maryland-Allegany & Garrett May 16th, 2025

Office of the Governor

Governor Wes Moore

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Governor's Press Release Posted on Website on 5/16/25:

"Governor Moore Declares State of Emergency in Response to Historic Flooding in Western Maryland"

Published: 5/15/2025

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Governor Wes Moore this afternoon declared a State of Emergency to strengthen the state's coordinated response to historic flood damage in Western Maryland. The governor announced the State of Emergency declaration during his visit to Allegany County to survey the major damage incurred as the result of Tuesday's statewide storm activity.

"After surveying the damage and receiving updates on the work still ahead in Western Maryland, I've declared a State of Emergency to accelerate our response," said Gov. Moore. "Today, our thoughts are with the Marylanders who have been directly impacted by this storm, and our gratitude is with all of the first responders, crisis managers, and public servants who raised their hands to support our people in a moment of need."

The governor was joined by Maryland Department of Emergency Management Secretary Russell Strickland, Maryland Department of Environment Secretary Serena McIlwain, Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld, Department of Natural Resources Police Deputy Superintendent Michael Sewell, Congresswoman April McClain Delaney, Westernport Mayor Judy Hamilton, Allegany County Commission President Dave Caporale, and Maryland State Police for a situational briefing before surveying flood damage in Westernport.

"Being here in Western Maryland today with Governor Moore and seeing the aftermath of the flooding firsthand is overwhelming," said Congresswoman April

McClain Delaney. "You don't fully grasp the scale of it until you're standing here, witnessing it for yourself. We've met families who had to evacuate their homes and small business owners now facing tough choices. The damage is real, but so is the strength of the people here. We're listening, and we're committed to doing everything in our power to make sure help gets where it's needed."

On Tuesday, several communities in Western Maryland experienced more than 5 inches of rain, causing major floods in Allegany and Garrett Counties; and the second highest Georges Creek crest on record. Reports from the impacted area have confirmed a number of damaged structures and utility impacts, including gas line washouts. Transportation routes have experienced washouts and slides, and the Town of Lonaconing's water services have been suspended as a result of a roadway washout and pipe damage. Water rescues and evacuations were conducted Tuesday afternoon and evening by swiftwater rescue teams from surrounding jurisdictions, including the successful evacuation of more than 200 students and faculty from the Westernport and George's Creek elementary schools.

Response operations continued on Wednesday with first responders and support assets conducting welfare checks in impacted areas. All county shelters have been closed, and local jurisdictions have transitioned from response to recovery efforts today. While additional rain is expected in the area through the end of the week, no additional flooding is expected.

"No one ever expects disaster to strike close to home, but when it does, the strength and resilience of our communities become clear," said Maryland Department of Emergency Management Secretary Russ Strickland. "The people of Western Maryland faced unimaginable flooding with courage and saved lives through the quick action of local responders. Under Governor Moore's emergency declaration, MDEM will continue to lead a coordinated, statewide response and recovery—working side-by-side with local officials, first responders, and our state and federal partners to support immediate needs, assess damage, and build a path toward long-term recovery. We will not leave until the work is done."

"Our Western Maryland community has faced unprecedented conditions this week, but we are working together to respond to incidents and help wherever we can," said Department of Natural Resources Police Deputy Superintendent Michael Sewell. "First responders have stepped up by coordinating evacuations, clearing travel routes, and delivering essential items throughout the affected communities."

Following the governor's situational briefing on the flood event and response, the governor joined cabinet members and local elected officials in thanking first responders at Lonaconing Goodwill Fire Hall.

The governor then joined Maryland Department of Emergency Management officials and Westernport Mayor Judy Hamilton at the Westernport Main Street corridor to survey the flood damage at Westernport fire hall, library, local businesses, and Westernport Elementary School. Throughout the governor's walkthrough in Westernport, he assured first responders, library employees, and local resident cleanup volunteers that the State of Maryland will continue coordinating in partnership with local, state and federal partners to ensure the community's full recovery.

"This was a serious test for public safety and health, and we responded with urgency," said Maryland Department of Environment Secretary Serena McIlwain. "Drinking water systems were damaged, homes were flooded, and families were impacted. We acted quickly to confirm that our dams were operating correctly, offer emergency help for contaminated home heating oil tanks, and support safe debris removal. Our focus now is on long-term recovery, guiding infrastructure repairs, fast-tracking permits, and staying close to communities as they rebuild."

"I join in thanking the tireless work of our first responders, many of whom experienced flooding in their own homes, who stepped up to keep communities in Western Maryland safe during this major flooding event," said Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld. "The Maryland Department of Transportation will continue to coordinate closely with our county and local partners in Western Maryland and provide the Department's full force of resources to aid in the recovery process. State Highway Administration crews from across the region have worked day and night to evaluate impacted roadways and clear debris. We'll continue to work with our colleagues in Allegany and Garrett counties to safely reopen roadways and support cleanup efforts."

Live updates on traffic conditions are available through the [CHART - Traffic Incidents & Events](#)."

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

The Department of Emergency Services-Allegany County, MD
11400 PPG Road SE
Cumberland, MD 21502
(301) 876-9155

[Emergency Services | Allegany County, MD](#)
[Allegany County Government - Maryland | Facebook](#)
[Allegany County Twitter Account](#)

Garrett County Emergency Management Department
311 E Alder St
Oakland, MD 21550
(301) 334-7619

[Department of Emergency Management | Garrett County Government](#)
[Garrett County OEM / 911 Communications | McHenry MD | Facebook](#)[Garrett County Twitter](#)

American Red Cross

American Red Cross of Greater Shenandoah Valley
Covers Allegany and Garrett Counties
1131 Conrad Court
Hagerstown, MD 21740
(301) 739-0717

[Central Appalachia Region | American Red Cross](#)
[American Red Cross | Facebook](#)

Open Shelters: Please note that currently there are no open shelters. Please see the following link for updated information [Disaster Shelters | Find Shelters | American Red Cross](#)

Department of Transportation

Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076
(410) 865-1000

[Maryland Department of Transportation Website](#)
[Maryland Department of Transportation | Hanover MD | Facebook](#)
[Maryland Department of Transportation \(@MarylandDOT\) / X](#)

Please see the following link for updates on traffic and road conditions: [CHART - Traffic Incidents & Events](#)

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

211 Western Maryland
Call 211 or (866) 411-6803
Text your zip code to 898-211
[211 Maryland | MD Health And Human Services | Get Help](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362

[FEMA.gov](#)

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

DisasterAssistance.gov

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](#)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

American Red Cross National

(800) 733-2767

[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

National Weather Service

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

The Weather Channel

Local forecasts and severe weather.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com.](#)

Safe Travel USA

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

National Traffic And Road Closure Information

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

Free Help Line

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.