



MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY URGES RESIDENTS TO BE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT STORM

ERIE, PA – Spring has certainly come into Northwestern Pennsylvania like a lion. Storms in the past two weeks came through the area with up to 70 mph winds, knocking out power to thousands of Penelec and Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative customers. Many of those outages lasted 72 hours or more. However, nature may not be done yet. The National Weather Service in Cleveland and the Storm Prediction Center are both forecasting another round of severe weather in the afternoon and early evening of Wednesday April 5th.

“We should always have a plan and the equipment and supplies on-hand for a disaster,” said Dale Robinson, Emergency Management Coordinator for Erie County. “Many people may have used their emergency supplies in the past two storms so we are encouraging people to re-stock their supplies before Wednesday forecasted storm,” Robinson continued.

Residents are encouraged to have a Disaster Supplies kit assembled to help get them through power outages or other disasters. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency has a list of equipment and supplies at <https://www.ready.pa.gov/BePrepared/BuildKit/Pages/For-Your-Home.aspx>. Additions to this list are a way to keep your cell phone charged and a battery operated smoke and carbon monoxide detector, especially if you are using a portable generator.

“The last two storms have caused significant damage to trees, homes, vehicles, and utilities throughout the County, said County Executive Brenton Davis. “Just like our Public Safety team, it’s imperative that you are ready for the next storm BEFORE it hits, Davis added.”

We also remind people to check on neighbors and relatives, especially those who may have special needs. “Don’t wait until after the storm, check with neighbors and relatives now to see if they have the basics like a flashlight and bottled water” said Robinson. Remember to treat all down wires as electrified and to treat traffic lights that are out as a four way stop.

Residents should monitor local media for additional information pertaining to severe weather on Wednesday and heed any actions that accompany weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service.

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