



Published:

02.23.2018 @ 10:37 am

Timothy McNulty

Communications Director

412-660-1999

timothy.mculty@pittsburghpa.gov

Mayor

City of Pittsburgh Prepares for Flooding and Other Weather-Related Events

PITTSBURGH, PA (February 23, 2018) Agencies across the City of Pittsburgh are preparing for flooding, street closures and other impacts of heavy rains that are expected through Sunday.

Impacts will be greatest around Downtown, low-lying areas, hillsides and riverfronts but residents citywide are urged to be vigilant about weather-related issues, street and highway closures and possible power outages and landslides. Motorists are strongly advised to turn vehicles around if they encounter pooling water on roadways.

The Pittsburgh region is expected to receive more than 3 inches of rain this weekend, with the heaviest downpours tonight and late Saturday into Sunday morning. Forecasts are - conservatively - for the 25 foot flood stage Downtown to be reached by Sunday morning and crest at 26 feet by Sunday night.

Starting this morning sections of the Penn Avenue bike lane Downtown between 6th and Stanwix streets will be closed. This will allow Pittsburgh Allegheny County Thermal (PACT), which has tunnels vulnerable to flooding, to stage a pump in one of its vaults. If the pump is activated Fort Duquesne Boulevard between 6th and Stanwix streets may be closed along with the same section of Penn Avenue. Other adjacent streets may also be closed depending on the severity of flooding.

Motorists should also be aware that flood-prone roadways such as River Avenue in the North Shore, Washington Boulevard, and the "bathtub" section of I-376 Westbound in Downtown could be subject to closures. The 10th Street bypass Downtown is already closed.

Residents with basements that regularly flood should be prepared for belongings to become water-damaged and may want to move such materials in advance of the weekend storms.

Public Safety, the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) are all planning for weather events along with other local, state and federal partners.

Public Safety is:

- Readying EMS, Fire and Police flood response units and swift water rescue teams

- Preparing pumps and generators
- Preparing to open its Emergency Operations Center, in conjunction with Allegheny County Emergency Services

DPW is:

- Clearing debris from roadway catch basins
- Acting on standby to help DOMI and other agencies with debris, road closures and fallen trees
- Putting aside barricades in commonly flooded areas such as the North Shore and South Side

DPW addressed 1,265 pothole complaints in a 44-hour period [between Monday night and Wednesday evening](#). Residents should note that the cold-patch asphalt placed in the potholes will be dislodged during the weekend's heavy rains, forcing DPW crews to address them again during favorable weather.

DOMI is primarily responsible for responding to any events that block or damage roadways. It is:

- Designating on-call staff to respond to roadway events
- Notifying outside contractors in case assistance is needed
- Monitoring roadways it has evaluated to be most prone to landslides
- Developing alternate routes around closed streets to ensure continued access and mobility to the public

Landslides developed around the city this week that [forced roadway closures](#) and the [evacuation of homes](#) by the Department of Permits, Licenses and Inspections. With soil around the region saturated by record levels of rain this month more landslides are a possibility.

Public Safety has designated the Fire Bureau to be first responders to reports of landslides, which will then be evaluated by PLI if homes are impacted.

Officials in the Mayor's Office are working to develop plans to connect evacuated families with needed services.

Residents should call 911 to report any emergency situations such as flooding or landslides and contact 311 regarding potholes and other non-emergency issues.

