



**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

Jenna Guzman, Communications Director  
SMCG TV 95 Station Manager

Media Inquiries: 301-475-4200, ext. 1342, or [PIO@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:PIO@stmaryscountymd.gov)

**COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY**

James R. Guy, President  
Mike Alderson, Jr., Commissioner  
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

**NEWS RELEASE** *for Immediate Release*

**No. 2026 – 063**

**March 16, 2026, 12 p.m.**

**Severe Storms Expected Monday, March 16, 2026 – Be Prepared**

**LEONARDTOWN, MD** – St. Mary's County Government's Department of Emergency Services (DES) urges community members to **be prepared for severe storms that will impact our area beginning this afternoon, Monday, March 16, 2026**. While rain and thunderstorms may occur throughout the morning and early afternoon hours, the most **severe weather is anticipated between 3 – 7 p.m.** for our area.

A powerful cold front will bring a squall line into the area, bringing damaging wind gusts and large hail with the possibility of tornados. **Wind gusts may be as high as 70 – 80 mph**. This brings the potential to cause significant tree and power line damage, which could lead to extended power outages.

It is important to know the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning:

- *Tornado Watch*: Conditions are favorable for the development of a tornado in the area. Essentially this means a tornado could happen soon.
- *Tornado Warning*: A tornado has actually been sighted by spotters or indicated on radar and is occurring in the warning area. This means a tornado is happening.

**Severe Storm & Tornado Preparedness**

- **If a Tornado Warning is issued for your area:**
  - Move to the lowest level of your home.
  - Move to an interior room without windows, like a closet or a bathroom.
  - If you have a basement, this is the best option.
  - Cover your head and neck to protect yourself from falling debris.
- **When thunder roars, go indoors!** Always remember that if you can hear thunder, it is possible to be struck by lightning.
- **Be prepared for severe weather and always plan for the worst scenario.**
  - Secure or bring indoors all outdoor toys, furniture, and items that could be moved by heavy winds; de-clutter drains and gutters; and consider hurricane shutters.
  - Have emergency supplies nearby such as flashlights, water, and portable chargers.
  - Check on your neighbors, friends, and family members, especially if they are elderly and/or have functional needs.
  - Bring your pets indoors during severe weather.

– **MORE** –



**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

Jenna Guzman, Communications Director

SMCG TV 95 Station Manager

Media Inquiries: 301-475-4200, ext. 1342, or [PIO@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:PIO@stmaryscountymd.gov)

**COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY**

James R. Guy, President

Mike Alderson, Jr., Commissioner

Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner

Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

**NEWS RELEASE** *for Immediate Release*

- Know where the main valves and switches are for gas, water, and electricity – and ensure someone you trust can operate them in case you need to shut them off.
- Follow the instructions of local emergency management officials.

Knowing what to do before, during, and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

Learn more about and prepare for potential emergencies at: [www.stmaryscountymd.gov/em](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/em).

For more information on SMCG programs and operations, visit: [www.stmaryscountymd.gov](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov) or follow St. Mary's County Government on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#) for regular updates.

###