

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**#20-16**

**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ISSUES WEATHER ADVISORY**

*High winds and heavy rain may impact travel and cause localized flooding*

**June 4, 2016** — The New York City Emergency Management Department today issued a Weather Advisory for Sunday, June 5, 2016. According to the National Weather Service, heavy rain and thunderstorms are expected for the New York City area on Sunday. The heaviest period of rain and thunderstorms is expected Sunday afternoon and evening, with isolated downpours, small hail, damaging wind gusts, and flash flooding possible.

“The heavy winds and potentially severe thunderstorms expected tomorrow may create difficult travel conditions and localized flooding,” said NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito. “New Yorkers should expect some local roadway flooding and should stay indoors during periods of severe weather.”

A total of 1 to 2 inches of rain is expected with this event, locally higher amounts of up to 3 inches are possible depending on where storms set up . Urban flooding may occur in low-lying and poor drainage areas. Flash flooding cannot be ruled out during the periods of heaviest rain. The City’s Flash Flood Emergency Plan has been activated to ensure a quick, effective, and coordinated response to any flash flood events. The plan is activated when it is forecasted to rain one inch per hour for the duration of an hour or longer. Additionally, the City’s Downed Tree Task Force has been placed on stand-by. This multi-agency task force is responsible for coordinating the response to a large downed tree event.

Flash flooding can occur with little or no warning due to the large number of paved surfaces across the city. These surfaces do not allow rainwater to be absorbed into the ground and can result in storm drains often being overwhelmed, causing localized flooding. NYC Emergency Management works closely with NYPD, FDNY, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Sanitation, Department of Transportation, Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to mitigate the impact of flash floods. New Yorkers are encouraged to report clogged catch basins and areas of standing water to 3-1-1.

The National Weather Service has issued a Coastal Flood Advisory for Brooklyn and Southern Queens from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM on Saturday, June 4. During a Coastal Flood Advisory, minor flooding of the most vulnerable shore roads and/or properties is possible. Coastal residents should be alert for updates and take action to protect property. A Coastal Flood Statement is in effect from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM Saturday evening for Staten Island.

New Yorkers are encouraged to sign up for Notify NYC, the City’s free emergency notification system. Through Notify NYC, New Yorkers can receive phone calls, text messages, and/or emails alerts about traffic and transit disruptions and other emergencies. To sign up for Notify NYC, call 311, visit [www.nyc.gov/notifynyc](http://www.nyc.gov/notifynyc), or follow @NotifyNYC on Twitter.

During a powerful storm, NYC Emergency Management urges New Yorkers to remain indoors.

If you must go out:

- Do not walk or drive through flooded streets, the actual depth of the water may not be apparent. Turn around, don’t drown!
- Flood water can be contaminated. Avoid contact with sewer water, as it poses a serious health risk.
- Have heightened awareness of cars, particularly when approaching or crossing intersections.
- Never touch or go near down power lines, even if you think they are safe.
- Report any downed power lines and avoid standing in flood water, as it can carry electrical current.

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