



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Wednesday, September 29, 2010

**NYC OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT URGES NEW YORKERS TO
EXERCISE CAUTION DURING HEAVY RAIN AND WIND**

Since a storm system to the south of the New York City area meets the remnants of Tropical Storm Nicole, New Yorkers can expect heavy rain and wind Thursday, September 30. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) urges residents to exercise caution as this storm system passes over the city, especially as many tree limbs are still unstable from the September 16 tornadoes.

Rain is expected to begin late tonight and continue through early Friday morning. A Flood Watch is in effect citywide. Flooding is likely, particularly in poor drainage and low lying areas, as rain may fall at a rate of one to two inches per hour during the heaviest periods. Additionally, strong winds will pick up tomorrow afternoon, with sustained winds of 25 to 35 miles per hour and gusts of up to 55 miles per hour are possible. A High Wind Watch is in effect citywide from early Thursday morning through late Thursday night.

Thousands of trees are still being inspected and assessed throughout the city, both on streets and in parks, and while many have been removed or pruned, many still require care for hanging limbs and wires. Anticipated storm conditions tomorrow may cause weakened limbs to become dangerous or break. To report new hanging tree limbs, call 311.

Street flooding and winds can pose serious risks to pedestrians and drivers. Heed the following tips:

- Before or during heavy rain, remove debris from catch basins in your area to allow the water to enter.
- Pick up the leaves from your yard to keep them from clogging streets and catch basins.
- Avoid walking or driving through flooded streets. As few as six inches of moving water can knock a person over. One to two feet of water can carry away a vehicle.
- Flood water can be contaminated. Avoid contact with sewer water, as it poses a serious health risk.
- Report any downed power lines and avoid standing in flood water, as it can carry electrical current.
- Bring inside loose, lightweight objects, such as patio furniture, garbage cans, garden tools and toys. Anchor objects that will be unsafe to bring inside, like gas grills or propane tanks.