



Joint Information Center

NEWS

Ruth Ann Minner
Governor

Gregory Patterson
Communications Director

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Contact: (302) 659-3362

Sporadic Power Outages Being Reported Across State

---Winds, rain continue to increase across Delaware---

(Smyrna, DE.) The Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and representatives from state response agencies from across the State continue to monitor the approach of Hurricane Isabel as winds and rain continue to increase in intensity.

Sporadic power outages, downed power lines and trees are being reported across all three counties. Conectiv is reporting 8300 customers without power, including 5300 in Sussex County and 3000 customers in New Castle County. The Delaware Electric Co-Op is reporting approximately 5000 customers without power.

Officials in Sussex County are also reporting dunes being breached along the coast and some flooding is occurring at this time.

According to the latest information from the National Weather Service in Mount Holly, New Jersey, Delaware is currently experiencing winds of 35-55 mph along the coast and 35-45 mph inland. Higher wind gusts can also be expected from now until 3:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Tides are currently 2-3 feet above normal, while waves are being reported at 17 feet off the coast.

Sussex County residents could experience short breaks in downpours as rain bands continue to move across the county. Emergency management officials caution residents that this does not mean the storm event is over; rain will continue to fall through the early morning hours.

As winds increase, Delaware's Department of Transportation (DELDOT) could place restrictions on the four bridges spanning the C&D Canal. These bridges are the C&D Canal Bridge, the Reedy Point Bridge on Route 9, the old St. George's Bridge, and the Summit Bridge on Route 896.

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When sustained winds in excess of 40 mph are documented, DELDOT, working with the Delaware State Police, will begin prohibiting taller vehicles and motorcycles from the Route 1 Bridge and the Route 896 Bridge. Taller vehicles include tractor-trailers, large trucks and camper/motor homes. In addition, the Route 9 Bridge at Reedy Point and the old St. George's Bridge on Route 13 will be closed to all vehicles if sustained winds reach 40 mph.

The Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) has reduced the speed limit on the Delaware Memorial Bridge to 40 mph.

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The Joint Information Center is established to ensure timely, accurate, and consistent information is presented to the media for immediate dissemination to the citizens of Delaware.