

Flooding!

The remnants of Hurricane Ida swept through Collegeville on Wednesday afternoon and evening, leaving yards submerged, basements flooded and the bridges over the Perkiomen closed.

Flood stage for the Perkiomen Creek is at 11 feet as measured at Graterford Bridge; flood waters from Ida were unofficially estimated to crest at 26.3 feet. This is unofficial because the gauge maxes out at 20 feet. For historical comparison, flood waters after Hurricane Irene in 2011 crested at 18.2 feet and flood waters after Tropical Storm Isaias in 2020 crested at 19.14 feet. This means that many homes and businesses that have never had flooding before were impacted by this storm.

Currently the Borough is collecting data on damages and sharing it with the County. Montgomery County is compiling damages and submitting them to PEMA who will ask FEMA for financial assistance. When the Borough receives information on resources available we will post on Facebook and our Website.

Residents can get updates from Montgomery County by texting MontcoIDA to 888-777.

Property Damage

What to do if your property (residence or business) was damaged:

1. Fill out this form: <https://veoci.com/veoci/p/links/MontcoDamageAssessmentForm> (only one submission per household) This is for MONTGOMERY COUNTY residents ONLY.
2. Report the damage to info@borough.collegeville-pa.gov.
3. If you need assistance, call the Hurricane Ida Crisis Cleanup Hotline at **(844) 965-1386**.

Types of assistance that may be provided:

- Cutting fallen trees
- Removing affected drywall, flooring, and appliances
- Tarping roofs
- Mitigating mold
- These services are performed by volunteers and will be provided at no cost to the resident

Service is not guaranteed, however, as resources are limited.

INSURANCE:

If you have homeowners, renters, or commercial insurance, be sure to contact your insurance agent to receive instructions on how to file a claim.

For information about FEMA Flood Insurance, click [here](#).

THE BOROUGH'S ROLE:

We understand that some larger communities in our area that have much larger budgets than we have here in Collegeville have been able to provide assistance with cleanup.

Unfortunately, the Borough itself does not have financial resources available to assist individuals with temporary housing or cleanup. However, we have had some local residents and churches

who have offered to help with physical cleanup if requested. Should you need assistance along those lines, please contact the Borough office and we will try to assist in getting information to the volunteers.

Environmental Impacts

Precautions: Environmental impacts from flood damage include toxins in the waters that can have health impacts on people and mold growing in saturated floors, walls, furniture, books, etc. Please make sure that you are taking precautions when cleaning up: wear a mask that protects you from mold, wear gloves, boots and long sleeves/long trousers when you are cleaning up.

CLEANING UP:

For advice on how to clean your house after it has flooded, read more in Consumer Reports [here](#).

Gas Stations: There were many folks who were very concerned about underground fuel storage tanks being submerged during the flood. In order for gas stations to reopen, the U.S. EPA must find that no water got into the fuel tanks and no fuel escaped from those tanks. Once verified, the gas stations are given permission to reopen.

To add in:

The Montgomery County One-Stop Resource Center for victims of Hurricane Ida:
<https://www.montcopa.org/3878/Hurricane-Ida>

Residents who would like to get text messages with updates on storm recovery, please Text Montcolda to 888-777.

Those who suffered property damage should photograph and document the damage. Please keep and maintain receipts and records of the cost associated with clean-out and recovery from this storm.