



Columbia Association's  
Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Policy

The Howard County Office of Emergency Management may establish community based shelters for local residents when conditions warrant. Normally, public shelters are set up in public schools, senior and community centers, or locations where residents can seek refuge, sleep and eat. Public shelters in Howard County will be operated by the American Red Cross and Howard County Department of Citizen Services.

It is the policy of the Columbia Association to assist the Howard County Office of Emergency Management during natural and weather related disasters by:

1. Disseminating information and instructions to Columbia residents through CA's and the Community Associations communication channels (website, e-mail, press release, newsletters, fliers)
2. Making CA's assets available to Howard County Government, if CA is contacted by the Office of Emergency Management (ie: trucks, boats, facilities)
3. Being an active participant in Howard County's Community Emergency Response Network (CERN)
4. Through CA's Volunteer Center Serving Howard County, providing education, training, and volunteer opportunities for individuals and businesses in emergency preparedness and disaster response.

**Approved by the CA Board of Directors January 25, 2007**