

Climate change will affect different areas of Maryland differently. Most areas will likely experience heavier rains, stronger storms, more frequent droughts, and more extreme heat waves. Coastal areas will also experience the effects of rising sea levels.

Choose one or more activities from each applicable category below to reduce your business's risk.

### INTENSE STORMS

*cause loss of power and water, injure and kill people, and damage infrastructure*

- Develop a hazard preparedness plan, then test it regularly and improve it<sup>1</sup>

### EXTREME HIGH HEAT

*and related air pollution are dangerous—especially to young children, the elderly, and people in poor health—increasing the odds of asthma and heart attacks, and heat stroke<sup>2</sup>*

- Inspect cooling systems and perform regular maintenance
- Plant trees and/or install a white roof or “green” roofing<sup>3</sup>
- Use light-colored, cooler paving materials
- See whether your utility has a plan that will pay *your business* for allowing it to cycle your air conditioning unit on and off during peak usage periods, keeping older, more polluting power plants offline
- Provide training to employees on identifying, preventing and coping with heat stress

#### During high heat events:

- Reschedule outdoor jobs for cooler periods
- Reduce the physical demands of workers
- Provide water or other liquids
- Monitor employees at risk of heat stress

### HEAVY RAINS

*result in more flooding, and increases in water- and insect-borne illnesses*

#### Flood-proof your property:

- Find out whether your business's flood risk is changing<sup>4</sup>
- Check your business insurance for flood damage coverage levels
- Protect business records and inventory from areas vulnerable to flooding
- Build with flood-damage resistant materials if in a high flood-risk area
- Ensure that outside drainage is adequate
- Elevate electrical system components above potential flood levels
- Anchor fuel tanks
- Install valves to prevent sewer back-flows
- Do not build in high-flood risk areas

### DROUGHTS

*reduce available water supplies and increase the risk of wildfires, especially during summer months*

#### Use water efficiently:

- Designate a water efficiency coordinator to target conservation for all interior plumbing, appliances and equipment, and outside landscaping
- Develop a mission statement and a plan
- Educate and involve employees in water efficiency efforts

#### Protect against wildfires:

- Keep wide clear zones around buildings near grasslands, woodlands and forests
- Have a fire emergency plan to address wildfires and identify at least two alternatives for evacuation



*Effective Actions for Businesses*

# CLIMATE PROTECTION

## DROUGHTS, CONTINUED

*(Farmers and forest owners)*

- Be alert for increased wildfire risk warnings
- Maintain vegetated stream buffers to keep better stream flows throughout the year
- Consider growing more drought-resistant crop varieties, or changing crops if persistent drought expected
- Plant cover crops to increase off-season soil moisture

## SEA-LEVEL RISE

***will expand tidal ranges and flooding, increase the floodplain “footprint”, and create more erosion, high tides, and storm surge damage, including permanent flooding of some coastal areas***

- Conduct potential vulnerability and impact assessment based on current and future projected flooding and storm surge estimates<sup>5</sup>
- Incorporate sea-level rise and storm surge estimates into business planning and development processes, including consideration of infrastructure needs and reliability
- Engage your community in discussing short- and long-term planning options

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ready.gov/business>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/about/heatguidebook-brief.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/mitigation/greenroofs.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fema.gov/protecting-homes/view-your-communitys-preliminary-flood-hazard-data>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ready.gov/business>