

*Getting Ready.....Thursday September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM*

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With the forecasts for the strength and direction of Hurricane Florence changing daily, its impact on Westminster is uncertain. The graph below, issued at 8 AM this morning, indicates the storm's center could pass over the Golden Corner as it makes it way toward the Ohio Valley.

There are some things the City of Westminster can do having learned lessons a year ago from IRMA. We can pre-load trucks with restoration supplies for the electrical grid and be ready to begin work on Monday after the storms clears through the area. We also have an independent electrical contractor on site that we can contractually keep here to augment our city electrical crew until we determine the storm's effect.

Police and Fire Departments are fully staffed and volunteers on notice to augment emergency work of in the aftermath of the storm. There are other measures being undertaken to improve emergency response time as the storm closes in on our area.

Hopefully residents are taking all the well-publicized precautions. The predictions for less rainfall and windfall for our area within the last twenty-four hours due to the downgrade of the Hurricane Florence is well received. But the combination of high winds and rain-softened ground is a threat to the electrical grid and water pumping stations.

