



For immediate release:

May 18, 2018

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## **Tax Relief May Be Available For Property Owners Impacted By Heavy Rain and Flood Damage**

*SDAT Will Identify Damaged Real Property for Reassessment, Encourages Residents To Apply*

The [Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation](#) (SDAT) is encouraging residents whose real property has been damaged by the recent severe weather to contact the Department, as they may qualify to have their property assessments reduced. Maryland residents can fill out the attached pdf and email it to their local SDAT assessment office. A list of all SDAT offices with contact information can be found on SDAT's website [here](#). If you have any questions, please call your local assessment office.

SDAT offices have recently been in contact with county governments and other local organizations to offer any assistance and coordination necessary. In the coming weeks, SDAT's assessors will begin visiting areas impacted by the severe weather, particularly in Washington and Frederick Counties, to locate and identify damaged property. When a decrease in value is confirmed by an assessor—either from an exterior inspection or from a resident submitting the attached application—the new real property assessment will be sent to the County Finance Office and a new tax bill may be issued. If a property owner has already paid their tax bill, a prorated abatement will be issued. If the extent of damage is not clear from an exterior inspection, the attached application will be delivered to the property owner for them to complete and send back.

Areas in the national capital region and western Maryland were hit with heavy rainfall earlier this week, and additional storms are in the forecast for the duration of the week. The Department joins Governor Larry Hogan and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in reminding residents to take all necessary precautions to stay safe. [Click here](#) for more information from MEMA on how residents can be weather prepared by ensuring that they know how to receive warnings, follow safety tips, and take certain actions.

SDAT will continue to be in contact with state and local governments to ensure that residents who may qualify for a reduced assessment are aware of this application.

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This form seeks information for the purpose of an assessment reduction due to property damage on the indicated property. Failure to provide this information will result in denial of your application. However, some of this information would be considered a "personal record" as defined in State Government Article, §10-624. Consequently, you have the statutory right to inspect your file and to file a written request to correct or amend any information you believe to be inaccurate or incomplete. Additionally, personal information provided to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation is not generally available for public review. However, this information is available to officers of the State, county or municipality in their official capacity and to taxing officials of any State or the federal government, as provided by statute. Additionally, if your property would be used by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation as a comparable for purposes of establishing the value of another property in a hearing before the Maryland Tax Court, the requested information, or a portion thereof, may have to be provided to the owner of that other property.

**DAMAGED PROPERTY ASSESSMENT  
REDUCTION APPLICATION**

(Owner)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Current Mailing Address)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Phone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_

Damaged Property

Reference: Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Premise Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Property Owner:

The above referenced real property recorded in your name may be eligible for a damaged property abatement (tax refund) under Maryland Tax-Property Article, Title 10-304.

In order to further determine your eligibility and process a refund, the following information is required.

Date Damage Occurred: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Date Damage will be Repaired: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate of Damage to Real Property : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Can the Property be Occupied in its current State?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return this form to the following address. If you have any questions,

please call \_\_\_\_\_.

(Local Office)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_