

Emergency Preparedness

Before an event even occurs, you should take steps to keep you and your family safe in the event of an emergency.

Every home should also have a Disaster Supplies Kit at all times, which should be portable, updated every six months, and contain the following:

- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per day per person).
- A list of family physicians
- A list of medications and prescriptions, including dosage
- The style and serial number of medical devices
- A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food that does not require cooking.
- A non-electric can opener
- A first aid kit
- A battery powered radio and flashlight with extra batteries

Since many times in a widespread disaster or emergency it's difficult to call within the affected area, establish one out-of-state friend or relative for family members to call if you become separated. The designated person can pass along messages and vital information, and relieve stress and anxiety. Make sure your children know how to make long distance telephone calls too.

Also be sure that your home has at least one telephone that is hard-wired. Portable telephones do not work during power outages and cellular phones have proven undependable in times of disaster.

If you are in need of transportation or special needs in an emergency, especially in an evacuation, register with your Municipal Police Department through the "We Care" Program now so they can be better prepared to help you in a timely manner.

Hurricanes & Floods



Hurricanes

Enter into the Season Prepared:

- The portion of the year having a relatively high incidence of hurricanes. The hurricane season in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico runs from June 1 to November 30.
- If you live in a coastal area, call your Municipality's emergency management office to identify your evacuation route that includes designated safe areas, areas to be evacuated during a hurricane emergency, and safe evacuation routes to shelter.
- Hurricanes can cause extensive flooding, not just along the coastline, but far inland as well. Flood insurance is valuable financial protection.
- Your annual preparations for the hurricane season should include checking to see that you have a supply of non-perishable food, drinking water containers, waterproof matches, a lantern with fuel, a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, a battery-powered radio, flashlights, and extra batteries.

Advisories and Warnings

The National Weather Service can usually provide up to five days of advance warning. The Weather Service of NOAA issues advisories when hurricanes approach land.

Hurricane Watch

An announcement that sustained winds of 64 knots (74 mph or 119 km/hr) or higher are possible within the specified area in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Hurricane Warning

An announcement that sustained winds of 64 knots (74 mph or 119 km/hr) or higher are expected somewhere within the specified area in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. The warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force.

BEFORE

- Keep tuned to a local radio or television station for the latest National Weather Service advisories as well as instructions from local officials.
- Check battery-powered equipment. Your battery-operated radio could be your only source of information, and flashlights will be needed if utility services are interrupted. Buy extra batteries.
- Keep your car fueled should evacuation be necessary. Some service stations may be closed or inoperable after the storm strikes.
- Leave early from low-lying beach areas that may be swept by high tides or storm waves, or mobile homes that are vulnerable to overturning in strong winds.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles and cooking utensils as your town's water system could be contaminated or damaged by the storm. You should have a gallon of water per family member for a minimum of three days.

- Obtain a minimum of three days supply of prescription medications and medical supplies.
- Board up windows or protect them with storm shutters.
- Secure outdoor objects that might become caught in the wind.
- Moor your boat securely well before the storm arrives, or move it to a designated safe area early. Do not stay on your boat or you may drown.
- Be alert for tornado watches and warnings as tornados are frequently spawned by hurricanes. Should your area receive a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately in an interior bathroom or small hallway, preferably below ground level.

DURING

- Remain indoors. Blowing debris can injure and kill. Travel is dangerous.
- Be especially wary of the "eye" of the hurricane. If the storm center passes directly overhead, there will be a lull in the wind lasting from a few minutes to half-an-hour or more. At the other side of the "eye" the winds will increase rapidly to hurricane force, and will come from the opposite direction.

AFTER

- If you are in a public shelter, remain there until those in charge inform you that it's safe to leave.
- Keep tuned to your local radio or television station for advice and instructions from local government about emergency medical, food, housing, and other forms of assistance.
- Stay out of disaster areas and do not use the telephone except for rescue, serious injuries or emergencies.
- Do not drive unless you must. Roads should be left clear for emergency vehicles and debris filled streets are dangerous. Along the coast, soil may be washed from beneath the pavement or bridge supports, which could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Avoid and report loose or dangling wires and broken sewer, gas or water mains to the appropriate utility company.
- Prevent fires by not using candles if at all possible.
- Check buildings for possible collapse or weakened structure before re-entry.
- Hurricanes moving inland can cause severe flooding. Stay away from riverbanks and streams until all potential flooding is past.
- If power is off, check refrigerated food for spoilage. Do not use tap or well water until you are sure that it is not contaminated.

Floods

Flooding causes more than ninety percent of the disaster related property damage in the United States each year. Preparation is the key to surviving a flood and reducing property damage.

Insurance

- Take inventory of all personal items including model types, serial numbers, photographs, and descriptions. Place all important documents in a water resistant and fire proof box.
- Most homeowner policies don't cover flood damage. To determine your risk, contact your local Emergency Management Coordinator. Remember that there is a thirty-day waiting period before flood insurance policy coverage goes into effect.

- You may need National Flood Insurance Policy coverage even if you do not reside in a high-risk flood zone. Check with your insurance agent or broker.

Home

- Elevate your utilities a minimum of two to three feet above the base flood elevation.
- If you have a fuel tank, anchor it to a large concrete slab whose weight can resist the force of floodwaters and flotation.
- Install sewer backflow valves to prevent sewage entry into your home.

Safety

- Obtain a battery powered weather radio.
- Pay attention to the latest information when heavy rains occur and to flash flood and river flood watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service.
- Never drive your vehicle through floodwater. It may be deeper than you realize and could trap you in your vehicle.

Power Outages



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Whether a power outage in your home is caused by grid failure or severe weather, you can take the following steps to prepare and respond.

BEFORE

- Keep extra cash on hand since an extended power outage may prevent you from withdrawing money from automated teller machines or banks.
- Keep a supply of non-perishable foods, water, medicine, baby supplies and pet food on hand. Your water supply should consist of one gallon of water per person per day for a minimum of three days.

- Have one or more coolers for cold food storage, in case the power outage is prolonged. Perishable foods should not be stored for more than two hours above forty degrees Fahrenheit.
- Have an emergency power supply for anyone dependent upon medical equipment requiring electricity.
- Keep a supply of flashlights, batteries, and a battery-powered radio on hand.
- Keep your car fuel tank at least half full (gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.)

DURING

- Avoid opening the refrigerator or freezer. Food should be safe as long as the outage does not last for more than four to six hours.
- Do not use candles, as they can pose a fire hazard.
- Connect only individual appliances to portable generators and never plug a generator into wall outlets, as they can feed electricity back into the power lines, putting you and line workers in danger.
- Use gas-powered generators in only well ventilated areas.
- When driving, be careful at intersections as traffic lights may not be working properly.
- Turn off any electrical equipment that was in use prior to the power outage.
- Turn off all but one light to alert you when power resumes.
- Check on elderly neighbors, friends or relatives who may need assistance.
- Resist the temptation to call 9-1-1 for information - that is what your battery powered radio is for.

AFTER

- When power is restored, wait a few minutes before turning on major appliances to help eliminate further problems caused by a sharp increase in demand.

Evacuations



If you are evacuating to a public shelter, bring the following with you:

- Blanket/Sleeping Bag/Pillow
- Lawn Chair/Lightweight Chaise Lounge
- Cash/Credit Card/Checkbook
- Expensive Jewelry
- Change of Clothing

- Family Documents/Photos
- Birth Certificates
- Insurance Policies
- Stock Certificates
- Flashlight
- Medicine/Prescription Drugs
- Infant Formula/Foods
- Special Dietary Foods
- Diapers

Do NOT bring to a public shelter:

- Alcoholic Beverages
- Extra Food
- Guns or Other Weapons

You will not be asked to evacuate unless the State, County, and/or Municipal Officials feel it is absolutely necessary for your safety. But sometimes, there is no time to evacuate and in such a case, you may then be asked to shelter "in place".

- Stay inside your home or whatever building you are in.
- Stay away from windows, doors and exterior walls if possible. If there is a threat of a storm this is especially important. Branches, trees and other flying debris are extremely dangerous and could crash through doors, windows or even walls.
- You may be asked to turn off all ventilation systems (heat and air conditioner) if there is a chemical spill.
- Listen to your local radio stations, television stations and emergency responders for vital information.

If you think transportation could be a problem, check with neighbors to see if you can ride with one of them. In an emergency, you can obtain evacuation assistance by calling your [Municipal Office of Emergency Management](#).

You should also register with your local police department ahead of time through Ocean County's "We Care" program if you or a loved one needs special assistance in any evacuation (bed bound, wheel chair capable, sight or hearing impaired, oxygen/respirator use, dialysis, Alzheimer/dementia, or another challenge requiring a transportation need.)

Public Shelters

The following are Public Shelter locations ONLY when a declared emergency has been announced

Manahawkin

[Southern Regional High School](#)

Little Egg Harbor

[Pinelands Regional Middle School](#)

Radio Stations

[WOBM 1160 AM](#)

[WJRZ 100.1 FM](#)

[WOBM 92.7 FM](#)

[WRAT 95.9 FM](#)

TV Stations

[Comcast Cable](#)

[Monmouth CableVision](#)

Utilities

[JCP&L / First Energy](#)

[Atlantic City Electric](#)

[Storm Preparation Handbook](#)

[New Jersey Natural Gas](#)

Important Links

[FEMA \(Federal Emergency Management Agency\)](#)

[**https://www.fema.gov/**](https://www.fema.gov/)

[National Hurricane Center](#)

[**https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/**](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/)

[NJ State Police](#)

[**https://nj.gov/njsp/**](https://nj.gov/njsp/)

Weather Emergencies

Ocean County Emergency Management

[**https://sheriff.co.ocean.nj.us/frmOEM**](https://sheriff.co.ocean.nj.us/frmOEM)