

HURRICANES AND YOUR SAFETY

BE S.A.F.E.

(Secure Against Flood Emergencies)

HURRICANE WATCH

A WATCH is issued when hurricane conditions are a real possibility and may threaten coastal or inland areas within 36 hours.

If a Hurricane WATCH is issued, stay tuned to one of the following radio stations:

WYRS FM	90.7	WJLK AM	1310
WJRZ	100.1	WADB FM	95.5
WOBM FM	92.7	WAYV FM	95.1
WOBM AM	1160	N.J. FM	101.5
WJLK	94.3	N.J. FM	97.3

OR

COMCAST CABLE TV – CHANNEL 19

PREPARATION

Be prepared BEFORE a disaster strikes:

- 1. Arrange NOW with a relative or friend out of this area to take messages from you in an emergency and to have worried relatives call only that telephone number to inquire of your safety. Phone lines in the area might be damaged and, if not, they will be heavily utilized.**
- 2. Keep irreplaceable papers such as birth and marriage certificates, deeds, car titles, FLOOD insurance and HOMEOWNER policies, etc., in one spot so they can be easily placed in plastic and ready for transport in the event an evacuation is ordered.**
- 3. Stock up on nonperishable essentials such as canned food and bottled water. Include manual can opener and utensils.**
- 4. Have battery operated radio and flashlights with a supply of batteries. Keep an adequate supply of prescription drugs on hand.**
- 5. Keep tree limbs trimmed, especially if they hang over wires or your house. Remove any loose lying materials from your yard; i.e., chairs, tables, wood, propane tanks, trash cans, etc.**
- 6. If you have a pet, purchase a pet carrier and arrange with a vet to have your pet housed in an emergency. Pets are not allowed in shelters.**
- 7. Make sure your vehicle is serviced with a full tank of gas.**

If you are in need of transportation or special help in order to evacuate, register with your municipal OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NOW! Names are confidential. Stafford Township residents call (609) 597-1000, Ext. 8265.

Long Beach Island residents call your local Emergency Management Office or Police Department.

SHELTERS: Signs are currently in place that can fold down to direct motorist to open shelters. The first shelters to open will be the schools at Southern Regional campus located on Cedar Bridge Road off of Route 9 north. If additional shelters are needed, persons will be directed to the Intermediate and McKinley Schools located on McKinley Avenue.

MAINLAND EVACUATION CENTERS FOR STAFFORD TWP. AND LBI RESIDENTS

Southern Regional Middle School - Located on Cedar Bridge Road off of Route 9 north.

Stafford intermediate School – Located off of Doc Cramer Boulevard on McKinley Avenue.

HURRICANE WARNING

A WARNING is issued when a hurricane is expected to hit an area within 24 hours. Be prepared to leave if an evacuation order is issued even though the weather does not seem threatening at the time.

WHAT TO DO

When a WARNING is announced:

- 1. STAY TUNED TO LOCAL RADIO/TV STATIONS.**
- 2. Clear your property of loose objects, bicycles, lawn ornaments/furniture, garbage cans, signs propane tanks or anything else that could float or become a flying missile.**
- 3. Relocate pets.**
- 4. Secure your boat.**
- 5. Take down awnings and tape windows.**
- 6. Gather items to take to shelter in case you have to evacuate such as: prescription medicines, blankets, sleeping bags, pillow, lawn chairs, cash/credit card/checkbook; expensive jewelry; change of clothing; family documents, photos, policies, stock certificates, etc., secure in a water tight container. Any necessary toiletries, flashlight, infant needs and toys, books/magazines. PLAN ON BEING SELF-SUFFICIENT FOR THE FIRST FORTY EIGHT HOURS.**
- 7. Notify your designated person outside of the affected area as to where you will be.**
- 8. Fill bathtub with water to use on your return home in case public water is contaminated.**
- 9. Call family members scattered throughout the area and arrange a mutual meeting spot following the “all-clear” from emergency management personnel.**

WHEN TOLD TO EVACUATE

DO SO WITHOUT HESITATION! This will less likely cause grid-lock as the Island and Stafford residents pile onto Route 72, the only access westbound.

You may be told to evacuate by radio, television or loud speakers from the Township vehicles.

- 1. Call your contact telling them that you are leaving and where you will be.**
- 2. Put nonperishable food/bottled water, toiletries/medicines/valuables, documents, sleeping bags, etc., first aid kit/flash light (batteries) / portable radio, change of clothing, toys, special needs and whatever else you will need for several days in the trunk of your car. Be sure the car has a full tank of gas as you may be caught in traffic for a long time.**
- 3. TURN OFF THE ELECTRICITY AND GAS!**
- 4. Call any neighbors who you know may need transportation and offer your help.**
- 5. Secure your home and LEAVE!**

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS GIVEN BY THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL. They have up-to-the-minute information to help you evacuate to a safe area. Keep in mind that during the final phase of evacuation (Rt. 72 eastbound lanes reversed to westbound) persons residing south of Route 72 will not be able to access Route 9 or Garden State Parkway northbound.

ABOUT PETS

When a HURRICANE WATCH is issued, take pets to a kennel or vet for boarding until after the crisis has passed.

Stafford's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has copies of Burlington County Yellow pages listing Kennels & Pet Boarding. You may pick up a copy in the municipal building lobby.

If you have a two-story house, pets can be left upstairs with plenty of water and food to last for several days. Pets manage better than humans do in emergency situations.

Another alternative is to take your pet with you when you are evacuated and leave it in your car while you are in the evacuation center. NO PETS OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED IN THE EVACUATION CENTER. You will be able (weather permitting) to go out to your car to give food and water and walk the animal if necessary. Any animal let out of the car MUST BE ON A LEASH. Take License and Rabies tags. Also take a lot of newspapers and paper towels and any medications. Carrying water in sanitized non-breakable containers is best.

Pick up a copy H.E.L.P. (Help in Emergencies for Livestock and Pets) in Stafford's municipal building lobby.

WHAT TO DO AFTER A HURRICANE

- 1. Remain in your shelter until told by local authorities that it is safe to leave.**
- 2. Keep tuned to your local radio or television stations for advice and instructions from your local government about medical help, emergency housing, clothing, and food assistance, ways to help yourself and your community.**
- 3. Stay away from disaster areas. Do not impede crucial rescue and recovery work.**
- 4. Drive only when necessary and be especially careful. Streets will be filled with debris and downed power lines. Roads may collapse under the weight of the cars.**
- 5. Avoid loose or dangling power wires and report them immediately to the Power Company, Police or Fire Department.**
- 6. Report broken gas, sewer or water mains.**
- 7. Prevent fires. Don't use candles. Municipal water pressure may be low which will make firefighting even more difficult.**
- 8. Check refrigerated food for spoilage. Don't risk eating spoiled food.**
- 9. Stay away from flooded areas. Snakes and other animals could pose a danger. Debris broken bottles and boards with nails will be everywhere. Watch where you step.**
- 10. Remember, the Manahawkin Bay Bridge will be closed for entry until the Island is prepared to accept vehicles. This could be several days.**

FLOOD PROOFING

There are several different ways to protect your home from flood damage. The Township Construction official will meet with Stafford Township property owners individually to provide advice. Please call Robert Gaestel, Jr. at the Stafford Municipal Building during regular business hours to make an appointment. The telephone number is (609) 597-1000, Ext. 8562.

FLOOD MAP INFORMATION

A Flood Insurance Rate Map, prepared by the National Flood Insurance Program, is available for reviewing at the Zoning Office in the Stafford Township Municipal Building. You may review this map to confirm your location in the flood hazard area and determine the base flood elevation. The Zoning Officer will also provide you with a written map determination for your records upon request. You may contact Bonnie Flynn at (609) 597-1000, Ext. 8529 for your specific request or if you have any questions.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Currently, only one half of the property owners in the flood hazard area of Stafford Township have flood insurance protection. The balance of the homeowners will not receive any compensation in the case of flood-related losses. Flood insurance is highly recommended because the typical homeowner's insurance policy does not cover losses due to flood damage. Please contact your local insurance agent concerning the coverage, the rates, the deductibles and the exclusions of a flood insurance policy. A limited amount of coverage is necessary to cover potential flood damage to your contents, carpeting, appliances and other items. Filing a claim does not change your rate since the rates are set on a national basis.

BE PREPARED FOR FLOOD EVENTS!

NOTE: Regular Homeowners Insurance policies DO NOT cover damage due to flooding.

FACT: There are currently 3,200 policies for Flood Insurance in Stafford Township.

FACT: \$1.8 million in premiums is paid yearly by Stafford Township property owners.

FACT: \$8 million has been paid back to Stafford Township property owners for settled claims.

FACT: During a 30 year mortgage, the chance of flood damage to a residential property is 26 times greater than the chance of a loss from fire.

FACT: More than 90 percent of all property damage caused by natural disasters is the result of flooding.

FACT: Stafford Township has erected flood markers on key low lying areas to educate the public.

FACT: The impact of preserving open space in flood prone areas is as important as the preservation of open space for environmental purposes and quality of life issues.

DID YOU KNOW....

A Category 3 Hurricane will result in flooding up to Route 9 or beyond. Hurricane Andrew that hit Florida in 1986 was a Category 3 hurricane. Here are the guidelines:

Category One -	Winds 74-96 mph
Category Two -	Winds 96-110 mph
Category Three -	Winds 111-130 mph
Category Four -	Winds 131-155 mph
Category Five -	Winds greater than 155 mph