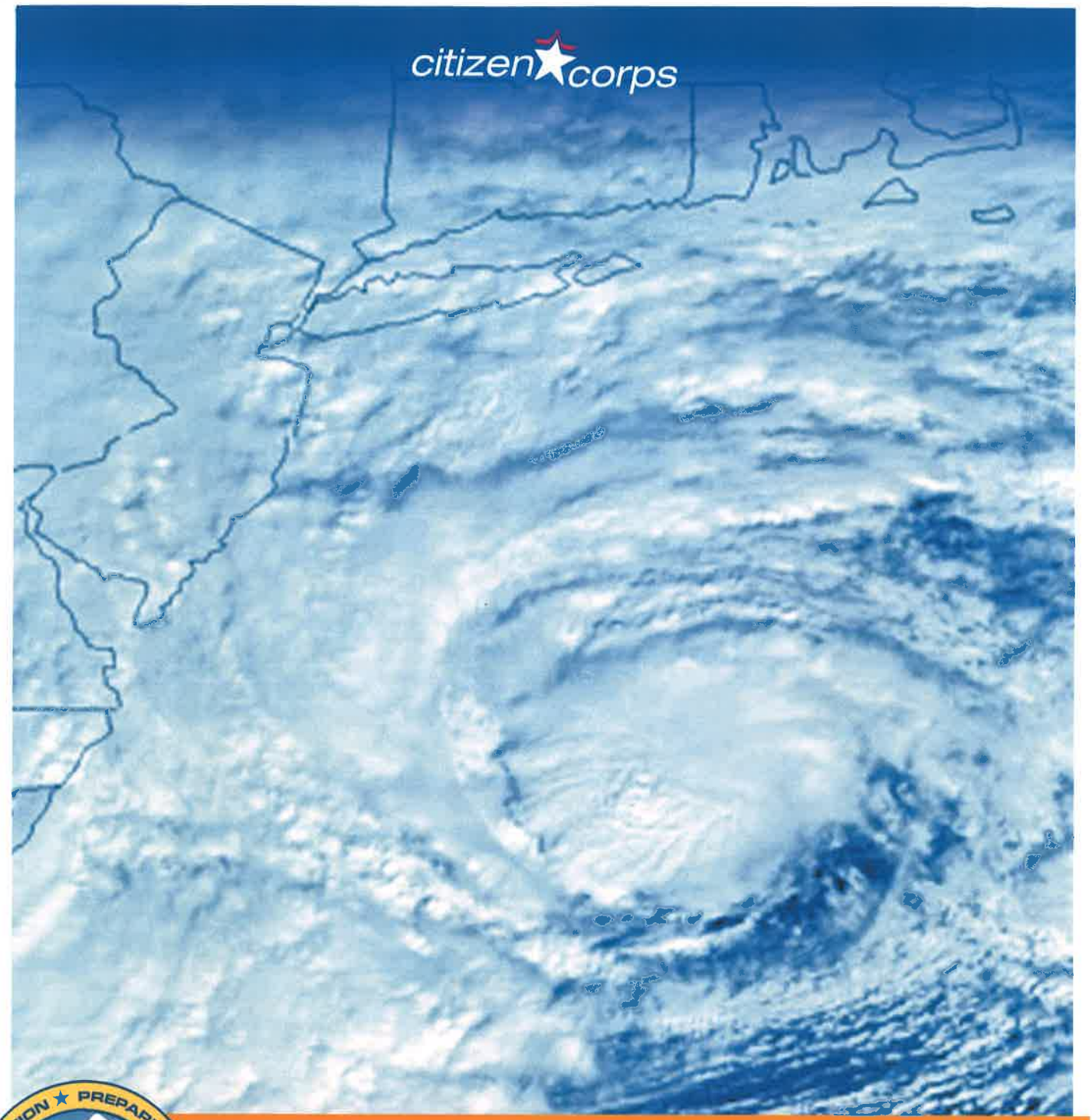


Hurricane Survival Guide for New Jersey

ready.nj.gov facebook.com/READYNEWJERSEY twitter.com/@READYNJ

Time to Get Ready...

Hazardous weather impacts New Jersey residents on a regular basis. Many of us have experienced the long-term power outages, flooding, evacuations, property destruction, debris and other impacts to our daily lives that can result from the onset of nature's fury. We can't stop the onset of a natural hazard; but there are steps you can take to increase your safety and comfort when adverse conditions occur.

We encourage you to read through this "Hurricane Survival Guide for New Jersey," and take the actions necessary to secure your family and home. The preparations you make for hurricanes will also help you survive all types of natural disasters.

The first step is to stay informed, via traditional or social media. The second step is to discuss hurricanes and other natural hazards with family members and determine ways to stay close and connected regarding your evacuation plans and locations. Consider those in your family or community who might need extra assistance, due to age or disability, regarding emergency plans. Don't forget your pets! The third step involves gathering emergency supplies; many of these items can be found around your home.

Get ready now, be an example for others, share this information with those who need it. And thank you for being part of a more prepared New Jersey.

THE NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Tropical Storm Watch	**Hurricane Watch**
A tropical storm watch is issued when tropical storm conditions, including winds from 39 to 73 mph, pose a possible threat to a specified area within 48 hours.	A hurricane watch is issued for a specified area when hurricane conditions, including sustained winds of 74 mph or greater, are possible within 48 hours.
Tropical Storm Warning	**Hurricane Warning**
A tropical storm warning is issued when tropical storm conditions are expected to affect a specified area within 36 hours.	A hurricane warning is issued for a specified area when hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. In coastal or near-coastal areas, a hurricane warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves continue even though the winds may have subsided below hurricane intensity.

The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. New Jersey's tropical storm activity is typically between August and late October.

STEP 1:

Stay Informed

On The Web:

Use credible websites to get information about natural hazards and emergency preparedness. The NJOEM works closely with the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center regarding storm predictions and forecasts.

National Weather Service Philadelphia/Mt. Holly - www.weather.gov/phi

National Weather Service NYC (for NE NJ Counties) - www.weather.gov/nyc

National Hurricane Center - http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/

N.J. Office of Emergency Management - www.ready.nj.gov

NJ 2-1-1 - NJ Residents can dial 2-1-1, toll-free, for preparedness and disaster-related info 24/7 or www.nj211.org.

Scan for NJOEM on Facebook

ReadyNJ Alerts & Updates Blog - readynj.wordpress.com

American Red Cross - http://www.redcross.org/

Download the free Red Cross Hurricane App to your smartphone.

Know what to do before, during and after disasters. Features include First Aid, Shelter Locator, and "I'm Safe" one-touch notification. Visit http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps.

Federal Emergency Management Agency – www.ready.gov

Social Media:

Scan for NJOEM on Twitter

Social media and other advanced communications technologies are used by the EMS and by emergency managers statewide. Find out if your community has a "reverse 9-1-1" system or if you can opt-in for email updates from municipal officials.

NJOEM on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/READYNEWJERSEY.

NJOEM on Twitter: www.twitter.com/READYNJ.

NJ State Police on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NewJerseyStatePolice.

NJ State Police on Twitter: www.twitter.com/NJSP.

Alerts - Mobile/Text (SMS) & Email:

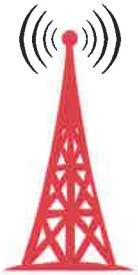
Nixle: Subscribe to the NJ State Police on Nixle Connect:
http://local.nixle.com/new-jersey-state-police
Nixle is an application that allows verified government agencies to communicate with the public via text/SMS, email, and internet posts. This service is provided at no cost to the department, taxpayers, or residents. Unlike other social media applications, Nixle does not contain any third-party advertisements. New Jersey residents can register to receive messages by sending a text message with their zip code to 888777 *(data rates may apply depending on your plan)*. Online registration is also available at: www.nixle.com.

NJ Alert is a free, voluntary, and confidential emergency alerting system that allows the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management officials to send email or text messages to cell phones and other email enabled devices during an emergency event. Sign up for NJ Alert by logging on to: www.njalert.gov.

CMAS (Community Mobile Alert System) is a nationwide system now being employed by the National Weather Service to transmit weather Warnings (but not Watches) to your cell phone. A warning means the hazard is imminent; a watch means conditions are favorable for the hazard to occur. Your cell phone must be WEA (Wireless Emergency Alert) enabled to receive these messages, so it depends on the make/model of the phone. There is an opt-out option, **but we recommend that you do not opt-out of receiving these NWS messages.** Read about WEA alerts here: www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation

NOAA Weather Radio:

NOAA Weather Radio is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service Office. NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. NOAA Weather Radios are typically inexpensive, easily available in stores and can often be programmed for your specific area.



National Weather Service Phila./Mt. Holly
www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/wxradio.htm

National Weather Service NYC (for NE NJ Counties)
www.erh.noaa.gov/okx//wxradio.html

Traditional Media:

- Continue to monitor traditional media sources — TV, newspapers and radio — to stay informed of breaking news and continued coverage of emergency events.
- Find out if your community has a **"reverse 9-1-1"** system or if you can opt-in for email updates from municipal officials.
- This NJOEM website contains a link to New Jersey's 21 County Offices of Emergency Management with county websites, social media tools and county alert and warning systems listed as well. Sign up, opt-in or connect to receive important local alerts. http://www.ready.nj.gov/about/association.html

STEP 2:

Make a Plan

- **Get together** with your family and create a communications plan ahead of time. This will help you and your family to connect as quickly and easily as possible after the storm.
- Keep a **written record** of all important phone numbers.
- **Designate** an individual outside of the state to serve as a family point of contact. *(After a disaster it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area.)*
- **Make sure** that all family members know who this person is and how to contact them.
- After a disaster or evacuation, all family members should make contact with the designated individual. **Try choosing a certain time** for everyone to check in.

Our Family Communications Plan

Setting up a Family Communications Plan ahead of time will make sure you and your family can connect as easily and quickly as possible.

STEP 3:

Build a Hurricane Kit

Use these suggestions as a guide for gathering your hurricane supplies. Remember these critical points:

- Stock a **2 week supply** of these emergency necessities.
- Store clean-up and repair supplies in a **safe place**.
- Make your hurricane kit **portable** in case you need to evacuate.
- Don't forget **special supplies** for babies, the elderly, and those with access or functional needs.
- Review homeowner's or renter's **insurance plan** as it relates to natural disasters.

the basics.

- ❑ Alarm clock *(battery operated)*
- ❑ Battery or crank-operated radio/TV
- ❑ NOAA All-Hazards radio
- ❑ Flashlights (one per person)
- ❑ Batteries for radio/flashlights to last several days
- ❑ Fire extinguisher
- ❑ First aid kit & manual
- ❑ Cash, credit cards
- ❑ Driver's license
- ❑ Cellular phones & chargers
- ❑ Important phone numbers
- ❑ Prescriptions, including eyeglasses
- ❑ Water, 1 gallon per person per day
- ❑ Water purification tablets
- ❑ Coolers for food & water
- ❑ Canned & dried food
- ❑ Non-electric can opener
- ❑ Pots & pans
- ❑ Eating & cooking utensils
- ❑ Emergency cooking facilities *(grill/camp stove)*
- ❑ Gas for the grill
- ❑ Cans, gas & oil

  CAUTION: Store properly in approved containers.
- ❑ Butane lighter
- ❑ Work boots/shoes
- ❑ Change of clothes
- ❑ Sleeping bags, sheets & towels
- ❑ Blankets & pillows
- ❑ Bleach without scents/additives *(in a secure, well-marked container)*
- ❑ Soap, shampoo & toiletries
- ❑ Sponges/paper towels
- ❑ Toilet paper & towelettes
- ❑ Feminine hygiene products
- ❑ Baby food, diapers & formula
- ❑ Toys *(to occupy children)*
- ❑ Pet food

important papers.

- ❑ Social security cards
- ❑ Birth certificates
- ❑ Marriage & death records
- ❑ Wills
- ❑ Insurance policies
- ❑ Deeds & mortgages
- ❑ Stocks & bonds
- ❑ Inventory of household goods
- ❑ Computer file backups
- ❑ Pictures (both personal & of belongings)
- ❑ Savings & checking books

cleanup & repair supplies.

- ❑ Axes, hammers & hatchets
- ❑ Bars, wrecking & crow
- ❑ Brooms
- ❑ Camera to record damage
- ❑ Chain, steel
- ❑ Chain saw & fuels
- ❑ Caulk & caulking gun
- ❑ Cleaning supplies
- ❑ Duct & masking tape
- ❑ Drills & bits
- ❑ Extension cords
- ❑ Generators
- ❑ Heavy plastic tarps
- ❑ Inflatable raft
- ❑ Ladders
- ❑ Lanterns & fuel
- ❑ Lumber
- ❑ Mosquito repellent
- ❑ Plastic trash bags
- ❑ Nails, screw, bolts

*** Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the supply kit in the trunk of your car. Change your stored water supply every six months so it stays fresh. Replace batteries, update clothes.**

Important Tips To Remember

- **If you are told to evacuate, GO!**
- Make sure you have your shoes on or with you at ALL times. You may need to evacuate quickly.
- Have cash on hand. If the power is out, so are the ATMs and credit card machines.
- Gas up your cars ahead of the storm. The gas pumps will not work without power or may be too damaged to open afterwards.
- Be sure to check on friends and neighbors who have access or functional needs.
- Be sure to have extra medications on hand and keep them in a water resistant container.
- Get all of your vital records and insurance papers together NOW. Keep them in a water resistant container. If you can, scan and email them to yourself so you have a copy of important numbers and policies, etc.
- Charge up your cell phones and try not to use them if the power goes out. Texting uses less power than a cell call, so use text messaging when possible to save power.
- Discuss business continuity plans now. Whether you are the boss or report to a boss, discuss your game plan for continued business operations.
- NEVER use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.
- Know where your utility shut off valves *(gas, electric, water)* are and how to use them.

People with Access & Functional Needs

Each person's needs and abilities are unique, but every individual can take important steps to prepare for all kinds of emergencies and put plans in place. By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan, you can be better prepared for any situation.

- Consider how a disaster might affect your individual needs.
- Plan to make it on your own, at least for a period of time. It's possible that you will not have access to caregivers, medication or electricity.
- Identify what kind of resources you use on a daily basis, like medications or durable medical equipment, and what you might do if they are limited or not available.
- Build a kit with your unique consideration in mind. What do you need to maintain your health, safety, and independence?

If you or someone close to you has a disability or other access or functional need, you may have to take additional steps to protect yourself and your family.

Find out about individual assistance that may be available in your community. Register in advance with the office of emergency services, the local fire department, and other government agencies or non-profit groups. Tell them of your individual needs or those of a family member and find out what assistance or services can be provided.

Who are Individuals with Access & Functional Needs?

People with access and functional needs may have disaster-related needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care.

Some examples of these needs might be:

- People who are deaf or hard of hearing may need to make special arrangements to receive emergency warnings.
- Single working parents and people with limited English proficiency may need help planning for disasters and emergencies. Community, faith-based, and cultural groups may be able to help keep people informed.
- People without vehicles may need to arrange for transportation.

People with special dietary needs should take precautions to have an adequate emergency food supply. For comprehensive information regarding AFN planning visit ready.nj.gov. Information is available for consumers, service-providing agencies, and government officials.

Additional Support

The Dept. of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Addictions Services Office of Disaster and Terrorism:

1-877-294-HELP (1-877-294-4357)
1-877-294-4356 TTY *(voice callers use 7-1-1 NJ Relay)*

Addictions Hotline of NJ:1-800-238-2333

NJ SNAP/Food Stamps: 1-800-687-9512 or visit http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/programs/njsnap/

Medicaid Call Center: 1-800-356-1561

Work First NJ/General Assistance: 1-800-792-9773 or visit http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/workfirstnj/

Travel Trailer/Mobile Home Safety

NO TRAVEL TRAILER OR MOBILE HOME – NO MATTER HOW NEW IT IS – CAN BE A SAFE SHELTER FROM STORM FORCE WINDS.

IF COUNTY OR STATE OFFICIALS TELL YOU TO EVACUATE:

- **LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- Make a Family Communication Plan. Tell someone outside of the storm area where you are going.
- Take emergency supplies, warm protective clothing, and blankets/sleeping bags to shelter.
- Protect your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and water.
- Turn off the main electrical power switch.
- Turn off the main water valve and disconnect the hose.
- Turn propane tanks off.
- Lock up your travel or mobile home and leave.

DURING A HURRICANE OR TROPICAL STORM WATCH OR WARNING:

- Listen to radio/television for storm progress reports.
- Check emergency supplies.
- Fuel your car.
- Board up windows and check tie-downs on your travel trailer or mobile home.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings.
- Store drinking water.
- Review evacuation plan.

AFTER THE STORM

- Stay tuned to local radio or television for information from your local or state officials.
- Return home only after state or local officials advise that it is safe to do so.

Any individual who lives in a travel trailer should pay close attention to radio and television reports to receive important information from local and state officials concerning hurricane precautions.

Plain Talk On Protecting Pets

Natural disasters, such as flash floods, hurricanes, or forest fires, and man-made problems such as gas explosions, leaking tank cars, and terrorist incidents, can arrive with little, if any, warning. The type of disaster will determine whether to shelter in place or evacuate the area. Your county/local emergency management coordinator will have the most current updates and recommendations at the time of the disaster. This number can be found in the blue pages of your telephone book. By developing a disaster action plan for yourselves and your pets, you can improve the chances that all of you can make it through a disaster safely.

If you are ever instructed to evacuate, please remember your pets!

Take Steps to Protect Your Pets

Have a safe place to take your pets. Do this research ahead of time, before a disaster strikes. Prepare a list of emergency phone numbers, and keep it handy. If your pet has any special needs, such as a special diet or medication, or is an exotic pet (including reptiles, birds, and fish), consider their requirements in your disaster planning before you need to evacuate these animals.

Ask a dependable friend or relative who lives some distance away if you and/or your pets can stay with them during an emergency.

Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets during times of emergencies and any restrictions they may have.

Make arrangements with trustworthy neighbors for pet care if a disaster strikes and you cannot get home in time to evacuate.

Find boarding kennels within and outside your area. Know where they are, who stays on the premises with the animals in the event of a disaster, and what provisions would be made if the kennel should have to evacuate during a disaster.

Listen for public service announcements during a disaster that may instruct you to take your pets to a temporary emergency animal shelter. For these places, you must do the following:

Get a portable pet carrier for each pet. These carriers should be large enough for the pet to stand up and turn around in. Get your pet used to the carrier ahead of time. Snakes may be kept in plastic containers, and birds need their cages.

Have identification for each pet. Be sure your pet ALWAYS wears a well-fitted collar with proper identification, and has been micro-chipped or tattooed. ID tags and pet carriers should include your phone number(s) as well as the number of a contact outside the affected region.

Continued on next page

Prepare a Disaster Travel Kit For Your Pet

In case you must leave the area with your pet, this kit should include:

- ❑ Copies of pet license, microchip, tattoo and/or ID, photos of pet *(from all angles and with owner(s))*, and plastic bag with proof of vaccination.
- ❑ Proper size metal or plastic pet carrier
- ❑ Leashes and obedience aids
- ❑ Non-spill water and food bowls
- ❑ Pet foods, including special diets
- ❑ Water in sanitized non-breakable containers
- ❑ Motion sickness pills prescribed by your veterinarian, if needed
- ❑ Special medications, with instructions
- ❑ Special needs items for exotic pets, such as a heat source
- ❑ Newspapers, paper towels, handy-wipes, can openers, a flashlight, and blankets

What to do when the "All Clear" Sounds:

Once the all clear has sounded and you and your pets return to your home, be careful about allowing your pets outdoors unattended and off leash. The disaster may have altered familiar scents and landmarks and your pet could easily get confused and become lost.

In addition, sharp objects, downed electric lines, fallen trees and other debris, or contaminated water could present real danger to your pet. Raccoons, skunks or other wild animals may have entered the area and could potentially be a danger to your pets.

If any animals are lost during the disaster, contact veterinarians, humane societies, pet shelters, and other facilities that might house animals. Be prepared to identify and document ownership when claiming lost livestock. The United States Department of Agriculture Missing Pet Network at www.missingpet.net may be of assistance.

If you own horses, livestock, or poultry, you need to develop emergency evacuation plans for them also. See the "Plain Talk on Protecting Livestock" guide, available at http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah/prog/emergency_preparedness.html, your county emergency management coordinator's office, or from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture at 609-292-3965.

For More Information

http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah/prog/emergency_preparedness.html

New Jersey Department of Agriculture: www.NJ.gov/agriculture

New Jersey Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force: http://www.njhomelandsecurity.gov/dsptf.html

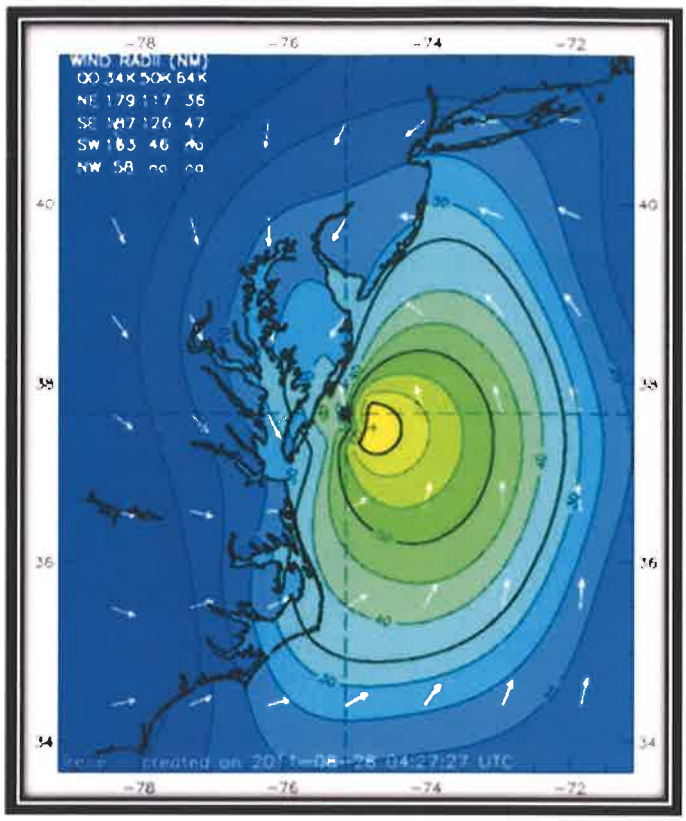
Humane Society of the United States: www.hsus.org/disaster

New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association: www.njvma.org

Hurricane Hazards...

High Winds

Hurricane-force winds can easily destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Debris such as signs, roofing material, and small items left outside become flying missiles in hurricanes. Extensive damage to trees, towers, water and underground utility lines (from uprooted trees), and fallen poles cause considerable disruption.



Graphic courtesy of NOAA

The eye wall and innermost rain bands of hurricanes are extremely dangerous in that they can produce very localized devastation. The strongest winds are typically associated with the eye wall of a hurricane. When winds of 111 mph (category three) or more are expected in an area, an extreme wind warning will be issued by the National Weather Service.

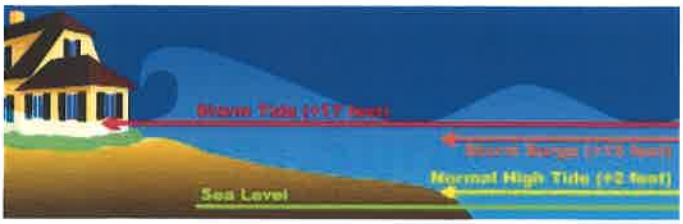
The strongest winds usually occur on the right side of the eye wall of the hurricane. This can be seen in the wind analysis above from Hurricane Irene in 2011.

Wind damage increases dramatically as a storm grows stronger. A category four hurricane with winds 131 to 155 mph, would be expected to cause 100 times the damage of a category one storm.

Locations well inland can still experience destructive wind damage. Wind gusts can actually increase inland due to turbulence mixing faster moving air to the surface.

Hurricane Hazards...

Storm Surge



Storm surge is a dome of water often 50 to 100 miles wide that sweeps across the coastline along and to the right of where the eye makes landfall. In general, the stronger the winds, the higher the storm surge. If the hurricane makes landfall during high tide, the impact is even greater.

Storm surge does not take into account wave height, which is added on the top of the storm surge, to produce even more destruction. The size, speed, and strength of a storm and the angle it approaches the coast contribute to the damage storm surge can cause.

Starting in 2014, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and National Weather Service (NWS) will be communicating information regarding the potential impacts of storm surge. The "Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map" is an experimental National Weather Service (NWS) product. According to the NHC, "storm surge is often the greatest threat to life and property from a tropical storm or hurricane." The map will contain information regarding areas that might be potentially impacted by storm surge, and how high above ground the water could reach in those areas.

Keep in the mind the following information regarding storm surge:

- Storm surge maps may reflect a range of possible impacts for regions of New Jersey. For someone living in these areas, conditions could become life-threatening.
- Follow directions of emergency officials. Evacuation zones consider many critical factors that affect public safety; so evacuation zones can be different from the areas shown on the storm surge map. Storm surge can sometimes cut off evacuation routes, so do not delay leaving if an evacuation instruction is given for your area
- Potential water depths are shown as above ground, not above mean sea level or normal tide levels. Local land elevations are taken into account, along with tides, when creating the map. However, the depicted water levels do not account for rainfall or waves.
- Storm surge is not just a coastal threat. Storm surge can cause dangerous flooding well inland from the coast, and the map will show this potential flooding.
- Storm surge can cause water levels to rise quickly and flood large areas—sometimes in just minutes. You could be left with no time to take action if you haven't already evacuated as instructed. During the peak of a storm surge, it is unlikely that emergency responders will be able to reach you if you are in danger.

Hurricane Hazards...

Flooding

A **FLASH FLOOD** occurs within a few hours (usually less than 6 hours) of heavy or excessive rainfall, a dam or levee failure, or the sudden release of water.

A **FLOOD** develops more slowly, normally taking more than 6 hours.

Many flash flood fatalities occur at night.

SIX INCHES of fast-moving water can knock you off your feet.

TWO FEET of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pickups.

Floods are long-term events and may last days, weeks, or even longer! The National Weather issues flood watches well ahead of expected arrival. This is the time to make preparations, including planning an escape route if you live in a flood-prone area.

Flash flood warnings and area-based flood warnings are issued as tropical systems make landfall. Area-based flood warnings may continue for days or weeks until flood waters have receded.

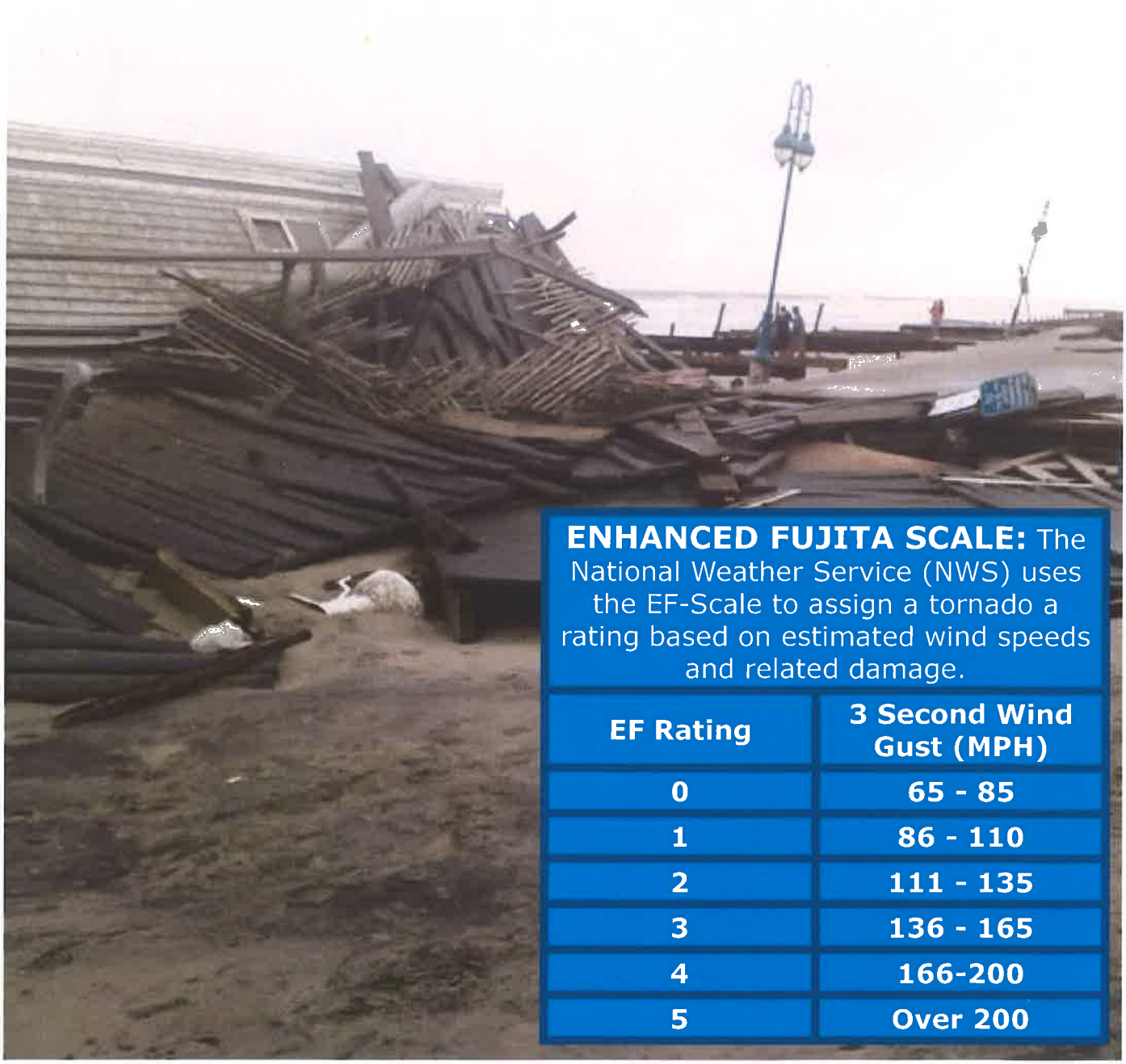
Most flooding deaths occur in automobiles. Always avoid driving into flooded areas! Remember to "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

Hurricane Hazards...

Tornadoes

Hurricanes can produce tornadoes as they move onto land. These tornadoes add to a hurricane's destructive power. The National Weather Service will issue tornado warnings when they are spotted on Doppler radar or reported.

Most tornadoes associated with hurricanes are less intense than those that occur in the plains, typically EF0 to EF1 on the new Enhanced Fujita Scale. However, the effects of tornadoes added to the larger area of hurricane-force winds can produce substantial damage.



ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE: The National Weather Service (NWS) uses the EF-Scale to assign a tornado a rating based on estimated wind speeds and related damage.

EF Rating	3 Second Wind Gust (MPH)
0	65 - 85
1	86 - 110
2	111 - 135
3	136 - 165
4	166-200
5	Over 200

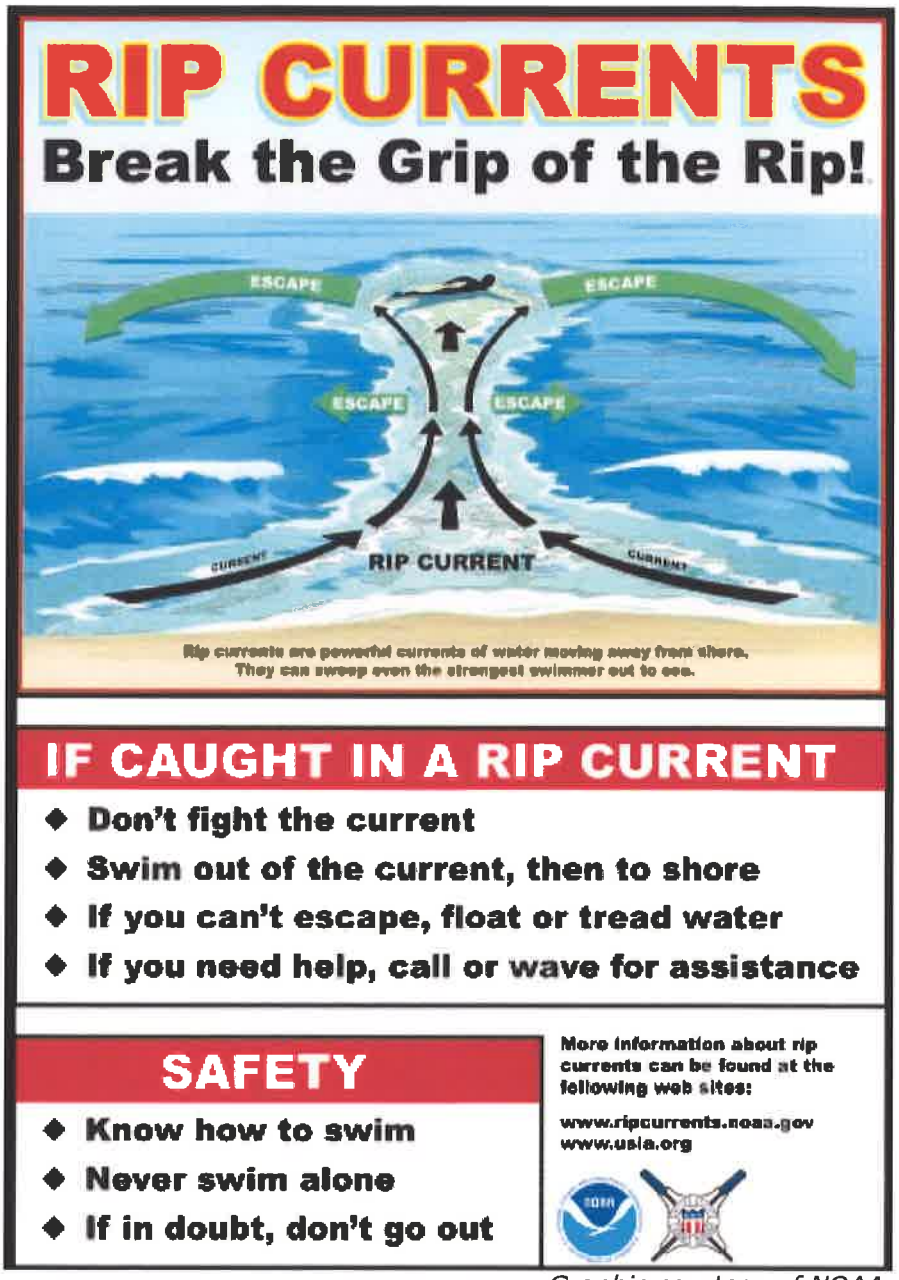
Hurricane Hazards...

Rip Currents

Unlike most hazards associated with hurricanes, rip currents differ in that they can be a threat days in advance of a hurricane, and cause deaths even when there is no threat of a hurricane strike in our area.

Rip currents are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from the shore. A Rip current is often not seen by a swimmer before being caught in its grip. They can be present on what appears to be a perfect day at the beach with bright sunny skies and no hint of danger.

Although a variety of factors can cause rip currents, hurricanes produce them due to a powerful ocean swell wave that their strong winds generate. The swell wave radiates outward from the center of the storm and can affect beaches thousands of miles away.



Graphic courtesy of NOAA

Rip current safety signs are placed along area beaches. For more information on rip currents, visit www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov

After a Hurricane...

- Continue listening to a NOAA weather radio or the local news for the latest updates.
- Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- If you have become separated from your family, use your family communications plan or contact FEMA or the American Red Cross.
- FEMA has established the National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System (NEFRLS) which has been developed to help reunite families who are separated during a disaster. The NEFRLS system will enable displaced individuals the ability to enter personal information into a website database so that they can be located by others during a disaster.
- The American Red Cross also maintains a system called "Safe and Well" (www.redcross.org/safeandwell) which can help you register yourself safe or find family members. Go online to inquire, call 2-1-1 or 800-RED-CROSS for more information.
- If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.
- If you cannot return home and have immediate housing needs, text **SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362** (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345). You can also call 2-1-1 or go online to www.redcross.org to find shelters. Smartphone users can find Red Cross shelters with the Hurricane App.
- For those who have longer-term housing needs, FEMA offers several types of assistance, including services and grants to help people repair their homes and find replacement housing. Apply for assistance or search for information about housing rental resources at www.fema.gov.
- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Stay off the streets. If you must go out, watch for fallen objects, downed electrical wires, and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks.
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.
- Walk carefully around the outside of your home and check for loose power lines, gas leaks, and structural damage before entering.
- Stay out of any building if you smell gas, if floodwaters remain around the building, or if your home was damaged by fire and the authorities have not declared it safe.
- Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents for insurance purposes. If you have any doubts about safety, have your residence inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.
- Use battery-powered flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles. *Note:* The flashlight should be turned on outside before entering - the battery may produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.
- Watch your pets closely and keep them under your direct control. Watch out for wild animals, especially poisonous snakes. Use a stick to poke through debris.
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.
- Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale estimates potential property damage. Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous, however, and require preventative measures.

Category	Sustained Winds	Type of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
Tropical Storm	39-73 mph 63-117 km/h	Scattered trees down, scattered power outages, some roads blocked by downed trees and power lines.
Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale		
1	74-95 mph 64-82 kt 119-153 km/h	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage: Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, siding, and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.
2	96-110 mph 83-95 kt 154-177 km/h	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage: Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.
3	111-129 mph 96-112 kt 178-208 km/h	Devastating damage will occur: Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
4	130-156 mph 113-136 kt 209-251 km/h	Catastrophic damage will occur: Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
5	157 mph or higher 137 kt or higher 252 km/h or higher	Catastrophic damage will occur: A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

NOTE: These damage descriptions pertain to the effects of wind only. Heavy rains, which can occur at any level, can cause river flooding and/or flash flooding anywhere in New Jersey, regardless of storm intensity.

Agency Contact Information

Scan this with your smartphone to go to the www.ready.nj.gov website.

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org
1-800-RED-CROSS

New Jersey Office of Emergency Management
www.ready.nj.gov

New Jersey Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness
www.njhomelandsecurity.gov
Tips & Leads: 866-4-SAFE-NJ

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General
www.state.nj.us/lps
Consumer Affairs: 800-242-5846

NJ Dept. of Transportation
www.state.nj.us/transportation
For Motor Vehicle Services, the general customer service number is 1-888-486-3339 (in-state) or 609-984-7294 (out-of-state) or, for the hearing impaired, 609-292-5120.

For maintenance issues such as malfunctioning traffic signals and potholes, direct calls to 1-800-POTHOLE. Please note: if you have a pothole damage claim you must call 609-984-7294.

Find all the necessary information regarding area road conditions by dialing 511 or toll free 1.866.511.NJDT (6538). The site offers a map indicating flooded or obstructed roads and detours. You can also log on to: www.511nj.org.

NJ 2-1-1
Residents can dial 2-1-1, toll-free, for preparedness & disaster-related info 24/7 or www.nj211.org

NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
If residents need to report an environmental incident impacting the state, please call the DEP 24-Hour Hotline at: 1-877-WARN-DEP.

NJ Dept. of Health & Senior Services
http://www.nj.gov/health/er/natural.shtml

Senior Gold 1-800-792-9745

Senior Programs Information 1-800-792-8820

Senior Services and Benefits – NJ EASE 1-877-222-3737

Directory of Local Health Departments in New Jersey:
http://nj.gov/health/lh/documents/lhdirectory.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Safe Clean-Up:
http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/cleanup/facts.asp
Mold Issues:
http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/
Protecting from Mold:
http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/protect.asp

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