Hurricane Season

Hurricanes continue to affect Middletown and the Bayshore area. Recent hurricanes, including Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012, caused historic damage and flooding. People who live in coastal communities should plan what they will do if they have to evacuate. Every family needs an emergency communications plan, an emergency supply kit, and know how to stay informed in the event of an emergency.

Preparing Makes Sense

The likelihood that you and your family will recover from an emergency tomorrow often depends on the planning and preparing you do TODAY! While each person’s abilities and needs are unique, every individual can take steps to prepare for all kinds of emergencies. By evaluating your own personal needs, you and your loved ones can be better prepared.

There are common sense measures everyone can take to prepare for emergencies before they happen. Create a network of neighbors, relatives, friends and co-workers to aid you in an emergency. Discuss your needs and make sure everyone knows how to operate necessary equipment. If appropriate, discuss your needs with your employer.

All special needs and specialized items should be ready, including extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, medication, food for service animals and any other items you might need for survival. Keep a list of the type and model numbers of the medical devices you require. Be sure to make provisions for any medications that will require refrigeration. Make necessary arrangements for any assistance to get to a shelter.

Register for Emergency Alerts From Middletown

Register for emergency alerts to receive voice and text messages on your cell phone. You will need an e-mail address to complete your registration. To register, go to: www.middletownnj.org/emergencyalerts

Middletown Township will send alerts by voice message, texts and/or e-mail. Registration is not required to receive calls on landline phones. Registered users have the option to receive community announcements, important notices and other local news via e-mail as well.

Special Needs Registry

Residents with special needs can voluntarily join a free statewide registry designed to help first responders identify residents that may need assistance in evacuating during an emergency when a family member or caregiver is unable to help. Visit: www.registerready.nj.gov, or call 2-1-1 to register by phone.
Make Arrangements for Pets
If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals are not allowed inside.

Have a plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets. Make a back up emergency plan in case you can’t care for your pets yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, family and friends to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

Remember to carry pets in sturdy containers. Bring your pet’s identification, collar, leash and proof of vaccinations. Bring food and water for your pets. Carry a current photo of your pet in case they get lost.

Recommended Supplies to Include in a Basic Kit:
- Water: one gallon per person for drinking & sanitation per day, for up to seven days.
- Food: at least a 7-day supply of non-perishables
- Battery-powered radio
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Filter mask or cotton t-shirt to help filter air
- Moist towelettes or baby wipes for sanitation
- Wrench to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener
- Plastic sheeting & duct tape to shelter in place
- Garbage bags & tape to shelter in place
- Unique family needs such as daily prescribed medications, infant formula, diapers, and important family documents.

GET READY MIDDLETOWN
— Prepare for Emergencies Now —

Get a Kit of Emergency Supplies
Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least seven days. What you have on hand when disaster strikes makes a big difference. Consider two kits. In one put everything you will need to share where you are and make it your own. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you have to evacuate.

Create Family Emergency Plan
Family Communication Plan – Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan on how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations. Consider a plan where each family member calls or e-mails the same relative in the event of an emergency. Choose an out of town contact and be sure everyone knows the phone number and e-mail address.

Establishing a Meeting Place – Plan in advance how you will assemble your family and where you will go. Establish a meeting place away from your home in case your home is affected by the disaster or in an area that is being evacuated. The other meeting point might be the home of a family member in another community, or a hotel or landmark that is familiar to the whole family.

Create a Plan to Get Away – Plan in advance where you will go and how you will get there. Choose several destinations, travel routes and modes of transportation so you have options in an emergency. Take your emergency supply kit with you.

Know Emergency Plans at Work and School – Talk to your children’s schools and your employer about emergency plans. Find out how they will communicate with families in times of emergency. Make sure your school and employer have updated emergency contact information.

Buy A Generator
Residents who use a life support system should consider purchasing a small generator for their home. There are not enough generators available through local businesses and rental facilities to handle everyone’s needs during a major power outage and/or emergency. Generators are a good idea for all residents as they can be used to power refrigerators, charge cell phones, etc. during prolonged power outages.

Emergency Evacuation
You may be advised to seek shelter or evacuate well in advance of a hurricane depending on your proximity to the bay or river. Collect all your emergency supplies and make plans before the appearance of dangerous storms and hurricanes. The Middletown Senior Center at Croydon Hall located at 900 Leonardville Road in the Leonardo section of Middletown is the township’s main shelter.

BRIGHT IDEA! Solar exterior lights can be used as night lights! Bring them inside and place where minimal light is needed and simply recharge outside the next day.

Much of this information was gathered by the late OEM Deputy Coordinator, Cindy Herrschaft