

**Borough of Pompton Lakes  
Emergency Preparedness Seminar  
2020**

Office of Emergency Management  
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# Why prepare for Disasters

- They strike without warning.
- You may have to live for days without power, water, food, medications or other basic necessities.
- Being prepared reduces danger and the stress of the incident for you AND your family.
- **Mitigation-Preparedness-Response-Recovery**

# Create a Basic Emergency Plan

- Decide what you and your family would do in each potential situation.
- Draw a floor plan of your home showing potential escape routes.
- Choose a remote place to meet in case you are separated.
- Have an out-of-the-area contact for everyone, a point person if you will!

# Emergency Plan (2)

- Know how to shut off utilities- electricity, water and gas at the main switches or valves in your home.
- Plan for ELDERLY or HANDICAPPED relatives, friends or neighbors. Make sure they have their basic needs addressed for short and long term interruptions. Help them when needed!
- Check your insurance policies for proper coverage!

# Preparing a Disaster Supplies Kit

- Your kit or “go-bag” should be ready to be taken with you at a moment’s notice in the event you need to evacuate. It should contain basic needs and essentials.
- Duffel bags or back-packs make an excellent device to pack your essentials.
- You should practice packing your “go-bag” and have a list of items needed inside of the bag.

# Items Needed!

- Water- one gallon per person per day for three days.
- Food- Pack enough non-perishable food for each family member for at least three days.
- Include canned and boxed food, or MRE's (meals ready-to-eat). There may be no way to cook. Bring a manual can opener!
- Include infant food and special dietary needs.

# Tools and Equipment

- Battery-powered, crank or solar radio.
- Flashlights with spare batteries.
- Re-sealable plastic bags and garbage bags.
- Hand Sanitizer, washcloths, soap and towels.
- Paper plates, cups and plastic utensils.
- Sanitary wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant and other toiletries.

## Tools and Equipment (2)

- Change of clothing, extra pair of shoes and socks for each person.
- First Aid Kit- make sure it's stocked with fresh bandages, creams, salves, etc.
- PERSONAL ITEMS- such as driver's license and ID, Prescription Medications, and other necessary paperwork.

# In case of Evacuation

- You will be notified when to evacuate unless you choose to do so on your own.
- Know our local evacuation routes leading out-of-town.
- Have a place to go IF you are ordered to evacuate. Our local shelters may be within the hazard zone and be compromised.
- Know your child's school evacuation policy.

## Evacuation (2)

- Make sure your car's fuel tank is full. **Always fuel up before an anticipated storm or other weather event as fuel may be in short supply during a disaster.**
- Many fuel stations depend on electricity to pump gas. Very few stations have generators.
- Discuss evacuation plans in advance with your family to eliminate stress.

# When authorities tell you to evacuate

- Bring your “Go-bag” or Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing.
- Unplug home electronics.
- Lock doors and windows.
- Turn off all MAIN switches and VALVES.
- Inform a relative of your destination.
- Watch out for washed-out bridges, roadways, and downed power lines!

# PETS

- **Never leave your pets behind.** Have a plan for them in advance of a impending disaster such as flooding, tropical storms or ice storms.
- Attach ID's to their collars for quick identification if lost.
- REMEMBER that most shelters DO NOT allow pets nor are they allowed in rescue boats.
- Make a list of pet shelters or hotels in the area that would allow pets.

# If you're going to a public shelter

- Alcoholic beverages, pets and weapons of any kind are not allowed.
- Practice patience and cooperation. Everyone is on edge and stressed out including the shelter workers!
- All medications brought into the shelter must be secured by shelter staff.
- Stay in the shelter until authorities tell you it's safe to leave.

# Severe Storms (1)

- Prepare for Storms-
  - Clear/clean gutters, downspouts and culverts
  - Clean out basement window wells
  - Cover items that will hold or catch water
  - Batten down the hatches!
    - Tie down plastic or aluminum lawn furniture
    - Close patio umbrellas and secure pop-up tents
    - Secure loose garbage cans, toys and pool items

## Severe Storms (2)

- If you hear thunder prepare to take cover immediately!
- Beware of items that can attract lightning, such as umbrellas, fences, poles and trees!
- If caught in a storm take cover immediately in a shelter, home or car. As a last resort, if in an large open area or field, lie down flat in a depression on the surface.

## Severe Storms (3)

- If you have a generator, always make sure that it is properly serviced and tested on some type of schedule to assure that it is always ready to go.
- Use the proper fuel in your generator to avoid gumming and deterioration of the small internal parts. Run it out of fuel if you can after each use.
- NEVER run a generator indoors or within 10 feet from a structure. CO gases are deadly!

# How close is the storm?

- To determine how close a thunderstorm is, count the seconds between the lightning flash and the next rumble of thunder. Divide that by five. The answer is the number of miles away the lightning strike was.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch**- likely to occur!
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning**- storms have been spotted and people in the path are in danger.

# Types of Flooding

- Flood Watch- flooding possible within 12 to 36 hours.
- Flash Flood Watch- is possible and could occur without warning. Prepare for possible flooding.
- Flood Warning- flooding will soon be occurring. Evacuate immediately if advised.
- Flash Flood Warning- Flash flooding is occurring. Move to high ground at once.

# Did you know?

- That cars can be swept away in just 1 foot of water?
- That there are over 100,000 thunderstorms in the United States each year?
- That thunderstorms spurn tornadoes, and there are over 1,200 touch-downs in the U.S. each year?
- That you should not walk in water over 6 inches deep?
- That hurricane winds can range from 74 mph to more than 150 mph. (Saffer-Simpson Scale)

# Tropical Storms-Hurricanes

- **Tropical Storms** develop in the tropics and travel in a northerly (east or west) direction and strengthen over warm waters. They become a Category 1 hurricane at 74 mph.
- **Prepare in advance for these storms.** Watch your favorite weather channel for up-to-date locations and recommended actions. Don't wait to prepare!

# After a Hurricane

- Do not drive unless absolutely necessary.
- Report downed power line and/or broken gas or water mains to the proper authorities.
- **CALL 9-1-1 for any and all EMERGENCIES!**
- Check you own home for damage. Take pictures of any and all damage for insurance reporting purposes.
- You will be advised if there is a “boil-water” emergency. If in doubt, do it!

# During a TORNADO warning

- Designate a shelter in your home. Basements or storm cellars are the safest. Otherwise, use an interior room or hallway on the ground floor.
- Leave vehicles at once. Seek shelter in a sturdy building. If caught outside, lie flat in a ditch and cover your head. Do not get under a bridge or overpass.

# During an Earthquake

- If inside a building, stay there!
- Hide under a table or desk, or crouch in a corner or against a wall. Use a doorway for shelter only if you know it is strongly supported.
- Stay away from windows and bookcases.
- If in a vehicle stay inside of it but park in a safe place away from hazards.

# Borough Emergency Warnings

- *Civic Ready* Emergency Notification System-
  - Voice
  - Text
  - Email
- Sirens
- WGHT 1500AM or 98.3 FM
- Portable PA Systems
- Door-to-door notifications

# Emergency Preparedness Guide

- Information used in this presentation is taken from a booklet of the same name available to our residents.
- These booklets are available to Pompton Lakes residents at the Borough Hall, Police Records Bureau or the Emanuel Einstein Public Library.
- Please pick up a copy and read it, sharing the good information contained therein with your family!

# CERT

- Our community started a Community Emergency Response Team in 2006. The purpose of the team is all about “neighbors helping neighbors”. We presently have trained over 125 residents and our team consists of 60 active members.
- If you are interested in joining our team, or just want to learn basic survival techniques to help your family and neighbors, please contact Deborah Ross at [plcert@gmail.com](mailto:plcert@gmail.com)

# Thank You!

- Thank you in advance for preparing yourself and your family for disasters so that we may have a well-informed citizenry.
- We must as a society teach our residents, young and old, to help themselves as much as possible due to the fact that in a storm or disaster many times our local Emergency Responders are overwhelmed or have become victims themselves.