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A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Severe storms usually do not strike our region, but some have come close. Since record keeping began in 1886, the only hurricane to make direct landfall in New Jersey occurred on September 16, 1903 and it sustained winds were only 3 miles per hour more than the 74 mph minimum to be classified as a hurricane.

Historically most hurricanes have veered away from New Jersey. The state is surrounded by deep water that is below 80 degrees Fahrenheit which limits the intensity of a hurricane, it has a westerly air stream which tends to push approaching hurricanes out to sea and its 123-mile coastline is aligned on a north-south axis which makes it less vulnerable to northeasterly hurricanes.

If your home is in the path of a hurricane or even a tropical storm or nor'easter which can be just as damaging would you be prepared? Here are some storm preparation tips to keep you and your family safe:

Preparation Tips:

- Check batteries for radios and flashlights
- Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts
- Secure outdoor law furniture, toys, garbage, cans, umbrellas and anything else that could become a projectile.
- Check supplies of special medicines and drugs
- Learn the location of official shelters (Henry Hudson Regional School)
- Learn safe routes inland
- Learn storm surge history and elevation of your area
- Trim back dead wood from trees
- Stock up on canned goods
- Know where you will go if you have to evacuate and plan your evacuation route
- Find out your community's hurricane preparedness plan
- Have disaster supplies on hand in the event of a storm or if you have to evacuate, make sure that all family members know how to respond after a storm
- Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity and water
- Teach children how and when to call 911 and which radio station to tune to for emergency information
- Protect glass windows and doors
- Develop an emergency communication plan
- Take pictures of your home and property to create an inventory of what you have

Emergency Kit:

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable battery operated radio
- Water (one gallon per person per day)
- Generator (outdoor use only)
- Small cooler
- Candles
- Matches
- Names, addresses and phone numbers of relatives, friends and other important contacts

Important Papers and Valuables:

- Birth certificates
- Diplomas
- Marriage certificate
- Social Security cards
- Passports
- Immunization records
- Bank account and credit card numbers
- Photos and video of your home and valuables
- Vehicle titles
- Military service papers
- Wills
- Insurance policies including vehicle and homeowners
- Deeds, stocks, bonds and titles
- Irreplaceable photographs
- Computer back up of important electronic data

Contact Information:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) www.fema.gov or call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
- New Jersey Office of Emergency Management www.state.nj.us/njoem
- New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance www.state.nj.us/dobi or call 1-800-446-7467
- Borough of Atlantic Highlands www.ahnj.com Police Department 732-291-1212