

HURRICANE SEASON PREPARATION FOR RESIDENTS

Connecticut will be hit by a hurricane; we just don't know which month or year. Even the least severe of them can disrupt life, cause property damage or loss of life. The potential for damage of any storm is linked to its size and intensity (categories 1-5) and when it arrives during the tidal cycle.

Weather forecasting can give us fairly reliable warning up to three days before the storm strikes and the predictions get more accurate as the storm approaches. Individual and family preparation should start long before the first warning and should consist of a plan that can be implemented between the first warning and when the storm strikes. Plans that are prepared in advance improve in effectiveness as the storm approaches. Plans that are thrown together at the last minute are unlikely to be as effective.

The information below is intended to help residents create a workable plan so that when the event occurs they will be part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. Although the actions recommended are mostly at the individual and family level, if most people are prepared, the entire community will benefit.

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1. Town response and its limitations

The most important thing for residents to know about surviving a hurricane is that they are responsible for themselves. All families should have an emergency plan (See Item 9 below for more guidance). Emergency services will respond as well as they are able, but everyone should be prepared to survive three days without Town or other outside assistance unless they report to a shelter (see shelter information below).

a. Prior to an expected hurricane landfall the Town will put its own house in order (following existing plans) and provide public information specific to Madison so that residents can best implement their plans. It will start a decision and activation timeline including the items listed below. The decisions will depend on how the storm develops, forecasts of its time and location of landfall and its intensity. (See below for more information on each subject)

b. During the storm, the Town will work to put into effect the appropriate actions listed above. Activity in the field will be limited so as not to risk the safety of emergency response personnel.

c. After the event, Town activity will:

- Concentrate on road clearing in order to address true emergencies
- Respond to emergencies
- Set up commodity distribution as appropriate
- Operate shelters as long as required
- Provide Town-specific information by available means
- Provide non-emergency assistance where possible
- Assess damage to and protect Town property
- Insure continuity of Town services

2. Getting information before the event

- Information about the storm will be well covered in the media
- State and local media information will be more relevant than national reports
- Decisions about and timing of evacuation, shelter opening and other response specific to Madison will be made locally with input by State officials.
- Information about local response will be disseminated via:
 - Madison Community Television
 - [Town of Madison](#)
 - [Madison town listserv](#)
 - Everbridge emergency alert system (available in the near future; similar to Reverse 911)
 - [Madison school alert system](#) (where appropriate)

3. Getting information during and after the event

- This may be difficult, or for a time impossible, which is why everyone needs to be self-sufficient for a period of time. Most types of communication will probably be disrupted.
- Remember:
 - Land lines may work when cell phones do not
 - A battery powered radio could prove invaluable

4. How to request assistance before the event

- The Town is not able to maintain an up-to-date list of people who need assistance in advance of an emergency.
- Just prior to an event the Town will activate a special needs hotline **(203) 245-5627**. Getting on this list will make it easier for emergency personnel to identify who needs help, what they might need and where to find them. The Town will aid as many of those who need assistance as possible but does not have the resources to come to the aid of a great number of people. **Residents with special needs are advised to rely first on family and friends for help.** Being on the list is no guarantee of assistance.

5. How to request assistance after the event

- This will also be difficult for a time and should provide additional motivation to develop a plan in advance.
- Once phone communications are reestablished, call **(203) 245-5681** to request assistance. **Call 911 ONLY in an emergency.**

6. Evacuation

- The decision to evacuate parts of Town will be made as far in advance of predicted landfall as possible (probably 8-12 hours) and will primarily affect the areas south of the Boston Post Road (Route 1).
- Residents living in these areas should be prepared to evacuate when (or before) ordered and should know where they are going and what they are taking.
THINGS TO TAKE WITH YOU WHEN EVACUATING:
 - Medical Supplies; prescriptions, eyeglasses, dentures
 - Baby Supplies; diapers, formula, etc.
 - Toiletries; toothpaste & brush, shampoo, comb
 - Clothing; a change of clothes & extra shoes
 - Bedding; a pillow, blanket or sleeping bag
 - Keys; to home or car
 - Important Documents; driver's license, insurance policies
 - Phone Numbers; family members, friends, doctors, insurance company
 - Some cash; ATMs and credit card machines may not work
- Deciding not to evacuate when ordered is an individual (and possibly a foolish) decision. **Emergency responders WILL NOT put their personnel at risk to assist people in areas under evacuation orders during the height of the event.**

7. Shelters

- The Town has identified two locations for emergency shelters: the [Gym at the Town Campus](#) off Duck Hole Road and the [North Madison Congregational Church](#) at the intersection of CT Route 80 and 79.
- The decision to open one or both of these shelters will be made approximately 24 hours before landfall and will depend on the severity and timing of the storm. Services will be limited and residents who attend should not come unprepared.

THINGS TO TAKE WITH YOU TO A SHELTER:

- Medical Supplies; prescriptions, eyeglasses, dentures
- Baby Supplies; diapers, formula, etc.
- Toiletries; toothpaste & brush, shampoo, comb
- Clothing; a change of clothes & extra shoes
- Bedding; a pillow, blanket or sleeping bag
- Keys; to home or car
- Important Documents; driver's license, insurance policies
- Phone Numbers; family members, friends, doctors, insurance company
- Some cash; ATMs and credit card machines may not work
- DO NOT BRING; weapons, non-prescription medications, valuables

8. Post event commodity distribution

- If damage caused by the storm is sufficiently severe and is expected to disrupt life for an extended period of time, essential commodities (water, food, ice and tarps) will be distributed from the parking lot at the [Daniel Hand High/Polson School campus](#) on Green Hill Road.
- Residents will be able to drive through the distribution site and receive these items without exiting their car.
- Distribution amounts will be based on the number of household residents.

9. Individual and family emergency planning

- Planning for emergencies can save lives and limit property damage.
- If many members of a community are prepared the community benefits as well
- Please make your emergency plans well in advance
- Templates for plans are available at http://www.madisonct.org/Emergency_Mgmt/emergtemplate.pdf or <http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/communications/pdf/preparedness12pg.pdf>

10. Call for Volunteers

- Madison benefits from volunteers at many levels. The same will be true for major emergencies. If you are one of the prepared members of the community, we encourage you to log on to our volunteer database so we can ask for your help if we need it http://www.madisonct.org/Emergency_Mgmt/volunteerapp.pdf