

Town of Madison, Connecticut

Hurricane Season Preparation for Residents



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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Recorded Storm Updates from Town Hall
(203) 245-5600 (4)

CL&P –report loss of electrical power
(800) 286-2000

Special Needs Hotline (Senior Services)
(203) 245-5627 – only activated for storms

Town of Madison Website
www.madisonct.org

911
for reporting **Emergencies** only

Preparing

- Print this document *before* the power goes out.
 - Do NOT call 911 unless you need an immediate Police, Fire or Ambulance response.
 - Prepare for possible EVACUATION in advance
 - Evacuate if ordered
 - Prepare to be isolated from emergency response during and for at least 3 days following a weather event. Have enough supplies on hand.
 - Don't use your generator unless it has been properly installed with a transfer switch and it is operated outdoors 30 feet from windows and doors.
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Connecticut will continue to be hit by hurricanes and other severe weather emergencies. Even minor emergencies can disrupt life, cause property damage, or loss of life. The potential for damage from 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 many storms 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.

The information below is intended to help residents create a workable plan so that when a severe weather 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.

CRITICAL SAFETY PREPARATIONS

- Get additional medicine and medical supplies (oxygen, batteries for medical devices etc.). These will not be easily available for days after a storm.
- If using a generator practice safe operation in advance
- Secure help in advance if you are disabled – provide it to others if you are not
- Secure outdoor items that may be washed or blown around
- Do not drive until any driving ban is lifted. Drive as little as possible
- Traffic signals will be out. All intersections will be 4-way stops
- If you leave home or evacuate turn off your alarm system
- Charge electronic devices (cell phones, tablets) in advance of the storm.

TOWN RESPONSE AND ITS LIMITATIONS.

The most important thing for residents to know about surviving a severe weather event is that they should be self-sufficient for at least three days.

All families should have an emergency plan. Visit Ready.gov for a Family Emergency Plan template.

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.

www.Ready.gov

WHAT TO EXPECT

BEFORE

- The Town will implement existing emergency plans and provide public information specific to Madison so that residents can best implement their individual plans

DURING

- The Town will respond to emergencies as quickly as possible, however, responses may be limited as necessary to minimize the risk of injury to emergency response personnel.

AFTER

The Town will:

- Concentrate on road clearing in order to address true emergencies
- Respond to emergencies
- Work directly with CL&P to promote rapid and safe restoration of electrical service
- Distribute timely information by whatever means possible
- Set up commodity distribution as appropriate. Potable water will be available at the Town Campus and both Fire Stations. Bring containers.
- Operate shelters as long as required
- Offer limited hot showers during the day at the Town Gym located at Town Campus (Campus Drive)
- Provide non-emergency assistance where possible
- Assess damage to and protect Town property
- Insure continuity of Town Services

GETTING INFORMATION

GETTING INFORMATION BEFORE THE EVENT

INFORMATION SOURCES

- Town of Madison Website
www.madisonct.org
- Town of Madison email list (sign up on website)
- Madison, CT Facebook page
- Text and Voice messages from the Town of Madison sent through CTAlert (sign up at www.ctalert.gov)
- Madison Public Schools eNotify (sign up at www.madison.k12.ct.us)
- Madison Community Television
- Local radio stations:
 - 960 AM WELI
 - 99.1 FM WPLR
- National Weather Service – NOAA (www.weather.gov)

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, depending on circumstances.

GETTING INFORMATION DURING AND AFTER THE EVENT

Getting information during and after the event 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:

- Sometimes Land lines may work when cell phones do not
- Text messaging often works best (as was the case after Hurricane Sandy 2012). Text messages can often be delivered when phone calls can't get through.
- A battery-powered radio could prove invaluable
- The town will put informational posters at various public locations around town (Town Campus, Senior Center, open grocery stores such as Stop & Shop and Roberts).

REQUESTING ASSISTANCE

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 those who need 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.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE AFTER THE EVENT

Requesting assistance after the event can 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.***

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). Deciding not to evacuate when ordered is an individual (and possibly a foolish) decision. Emergency service providers WILL NOT put themselves at risk to assist people in areas under evacuation orders during the height of the event. 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 (Rx, eyeglasses)
- Medical Equipment (oxygen, C-Pap)
- Baby Supplies (diapers, formula)
- Toiletries
- Clothing & extra shoes
- Bedding or sleeping bag
- Keys: home & car
- Important Documents: driver's license, insurance policies
- Phone numbers: friends, doctor, insurance company
- Cash: ATM and credit card machines require electricity

SHELTERS

TOWN SHELTER

The primary shelter is at the **Gym on the Town Campus** off Duck Hole Road.

The Town Gym shelter will be opened if an evacuation is ordered. Typically, town shelters remain open for 2 to 3 days. Residents needing longer term shelters may be directed to a

regional shelter. Services will be limited and residents who attend should come prepared. Basic medical services *may or may not be available*.

Under certain circumstances the North Madison Congregational Church at the intersection of CT Route 80 and 79 may be opened as a secondary shelter. 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.

THINGS TO BRING TO A TOWN SHELTER

- Medical Supplies & Equipment**
(prescriptions, eyeglasses, dentures, oxygen, C-PAP)
- Baby Supplies;** diapers, formula, etc.
- Toiletries;** toothpaste & brush, shampoo, comb, soap, etc.
- Clothing;** a change of clothes & extra shoes
- Specialty foods,** if on a restricted diet
- 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

AMENITIES AT THE TOWN SHELTER

- A cot and blanket
- An area for pets with cages & water. (Bring pet food)
- Electricity for medical devices
- Simple food (Those with severe allergies should bring food)
- Bathrooms and hot water for showers

REGIONAL SHELTER

We expect the Red Cross to operate a regional shelter (Killingworth or Deep River) that will provide services not available in town shelters. Information about regional shelters may be available before the storm. (The list of what to bring to town shelters may not be the same for Red Cross shelters)

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 to residents; this distribution will PROBABLY be made from the parking lot at the Daniel Hand High/Polson School campus on Green Hill Road, depending on circumstances. 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.

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY EMERGENCY PLANNING

Planning for emergencies can save lives and can limit property damage. Please make your emergency plans well in advance. If many members of a community are prepared, the community as a whole benefits as well.

Those with special medical equipment or needs, such as an oxygen cylinder or concentrator, C-PAP machine or medications that require refrigeration, need to make alternate plans for an extended power outage.

Templates for emergency plans are located [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) and the state of Connecticut website at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/communications/pdf/preparedness12pg.pdf>

SPECIAL NEEDS

- The town will attempt to deliver meals to shut-ins when roads are passable
- Meals-On-Wheels may not be able to deliver meals for several days after a severe storm
- The Town does not have a supply of oxygen cylinders or generators to power specialized medical devices; in an extended power outage you should seek alternative housing if you have need of this equipment
- 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.

EMERGENCY KIT:

Emergency supplies are of two basic types: supplies needed to “**shelter in place**” (staying home for long periods of time without electricity and “**evacuation**” (ready to leave home quickly for an evacuation situation). Some items will be part of both kits. Preparing your kits ahead of time helps in ensuring your kit is complete and ready when/if needed.

SHELTER IN PLACE:

- MEDICATIONS:** maintain a supply of critical medicine for at least 7 days.
- MEDICAL DEVICES**
- WATER:** One gallon of water per person per day. Only use this water for consumption, toilets can be flushed with pond/stream/pool water. Maintain at least a three day supply. In extended emergencies potable water will be available at the volunteer fire departments.
- FOOD:** Use fresh and frozen foods first as long as they have maintained proper temperature. Canned foods may be eaten without heating. Be sure to only heat foods in well-ventilated spaces. Food for infants and those on special diets should be part of the ready supply.
- HEAT:** most heating systems will not operate during a power outage. Heating requirements will vary by household, but remember that carbon monoxide is a lot more dangerous than cold.
- Manual can opener
- First Aid kit including non-prescription drugs
- Batteries
- Plastic sheeting and Duct tape
- Cash
- Extra Toiletries
- Household bleach
- Pet food and supplies, pet medications

EVACUATION KIT

- ALL** items from your **SHELTER- IN-PLACE** kit.
- A 3 day supply of water and non-perishable food
- A change of clothing and footwear for each family member
- Sleeping bags or blankets
- Extra glasses
- Battery powered radio
- Extra car keys
- Road map
- Road flares
- Pet supplies (food, leash, crate, toys)
- Basic tools, including a manual can opener
- Copies of family records
- Waterproof containers
- Writing and reading material, games and toys
- Needles and thread
- Trash bags and ties
- Protective clothing for the season, rain gear
- Sun screen

MAP

Madison Town Campus • 8 Campus Drive, Madison, CT

