

## Hurricane Facts and Options

### Here are the facts

- NOAA predicts that 2010 will be the worst hurricane season on record (the warming of the ocean will produce more frequent and more intense storms)
- Cape May County's Peak Hurricane season is mid-August through October (when our population can swell from 105,000 to 800,000)
- A Category 2 Hurricane has the possibility of inundating the entire Borough of Cape May Point.
- Cape May County is the 6<sup>th</sup> most difficult place to evacuate in the U.S.A. Because Cape May County has never been evacuated, it probably won't go smoothly.
- The Cape May County Emergency Management Coordinator says we should prepare our homes for a potential 17-foot surge (new moons and full moons would amplify a storm surge height.)
- If there is an imminent threat of a Category 1 hurricane (winds up to 78 mph), officials plan to shut down essential services (water, sewer, and electric) to mitigate equipment damage.
- Due to the impact on the tourism economy, the Governor's office will likely avoid a formal evacuation notice unless there is certainty of landfall here in Cape May County. "Certainty" in storm patterns is not reached until 24-hours beforehand. Evacuation of Cape May County would take at least 36 hours.
- At the South end of the peninsula, Cape May Point is the location in the county most vulnerable to the impact of coastal storms – and the most remote from evacuation destinations.

### Safest Option (recommended)

- **Early-Bird departure** (4 days before landfall, well before any official evacuation is announced) – avoid traffic; plan a pleasant, safe (pet friendly) destination outside of Cape May County among friends where you can eat and sleep in comfort until it's OK to return. This is the *only* low risk choice.

### Moderate Risk Option (like playing Russian roulette with a single bullet in a six-shooter.)

- Wait for Officials to recommend **Voluntary Evacuation**. (Two days before landfall) – Cars bumper-to-bumper on the road, some running out of gas; accidents likely; tempers short; people stopping to pee in the bushes, people drinking (the best and the worst of humanity); police and emergency vehicles unable to move through the dense traffic.

### High Risk Option (like Russian roulette with *three* bullets in a six shooter.)

- Await **Mandatory Evacuation Order** (24 hrs. before landfall) – traffic stalled; substantial risk of being stuck in your car as storm hits; no opportunity to rest, use a bathroom or get gas; travel restricted to designated evacuation routes, all traffic routed to a distant overcrowded shelter with cots, basic food, stressed-out strangers, no privacy, limited sanitation facilities, pets not allowed or caged and boarded separately, no opportunity to leave.

### Grave Risk Option (like playing Russian roulette with five bullets in the pistol.)

- **Ride it out** in your own house –all utilities shut off (water, electric, sewer, gas); all emergency services suspended (fire, rescue, police); no access to food supplies, water or other shelter; winds blowing over 70 mph (far too forceful to walk); rains horizontal; large dangerous objects airborne and lethal (pieces of roof, window glass, porch furniture, fences, trees or branches, shards of aluminum and vinyl siding, awnings, beach stuff, garbage cans); water levels may rise to depth of 17 ft above sea level filling the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of most private homes, the fire house and the municipal building; some homes will collapse under the forces of wind, waves, and surging water; others will be swept off their foundations. In short, Cape May Point will be inundated by seawater.

- In the unlikely event someone attempts to rescue you, you put them at risk by staying. It may be 4-5 days after the storm abates before anyone returns to the community, longer before utilities and public services are restored. Many weeks before friends and neighbors return to stay.

Of course, a hurricane may veer inland or out to sea at any time. You could gamble that the predicted storm track is wrong, that it will not make landfall here. You could possibly beat the odds and then smugly mock returning friends and neighbors. But it really is like playing Russian roulette, with each day of delay adding bullets to the cylinder: the fact that the gun doesn't fire when you pull the trigger does not make you smarter than those who leave town. Russian roulette is a fool's game.

What if the Fire Department only responded when there's the certainty of an actual fire? Nine out of 10 "fire" calls are false alarms, but by responding with alacrity to every call the Fire Department ensures there is no delay when an actual fire threatens life and property.

We ask you to be personally ready for weather emergencies by doing two separate tasks:

1. Today, fill out the attached EVACUATION/EMERGENCY/MEDICAL DATA SHEET (2 pages - 5 min. to complete)
2. By August 31, complete these two "READY" checklists:  
READY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLISTS (cover sheet + 5 pages)
  - PERSONAL SAFETY CHECKLIST (3 pages; less than 30 min. to complete)
  - PROTECTION OF PROPERTY CHECKLIST (2 pages; most can be done within a few days)

Support your friends and neighbors in doing this with you so that all those you care about are ready with nobody left out. Need I mention that by being ready for a hurricane, you and your friends are also well prepared for a host of lesser emergencies?

Richmond Shreve, Deputy Emergency Coordinator

## Borough of Cape May Point - Office of Emergency Management Evacuation/Emergency Medical Data

- **Priority Concern**

### GENERAL DATA

Last name (person #1) \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ # in Household \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last name (person #2)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other information

\_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Telephone (if any)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Telephone

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I am normally here (check all that apply) :

in winter  in summer  on occasional weekends  year-round

### MEDICAL CONCERNS

1. Print or type a list of your medical conditions (e.g., heart condition, diabetes, high blood pressure, hearing problems, etc.), allergies, medical equipment needs (e.g., hearing aids, walker, wheel chair) and/or medications (e.g., oxygen, prescription drugs).

2. Make a similar list for every member of your household.

3. Make several copies, put a date on each copy and put it in a zip-lock bag.

- Put one copy in the glove box of your car(s)
- Put one copy on the top shelf on the door of your refrigerator

### EMERGENCY ISSUES

I need shelter evacuation assistance.  Yes  No

I can hear the Circle fire siren.  Yes  No

I regularly monitor Fire Truck calls.  Yes  No

Three people in my Circle of Support (outside of my own household) are:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPERTY CONCERNS - Who (besides me) has a key to my house

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone number</i>

I rent my house to others.  yes  no

NOTE: This information is for emergency data base use only. This is confidential information. Any reproduction or dissemination of this information without the express permission of the Emergency Management Coordinator or Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators is strictly prohibited.

I have other rental properties on Cape May Point .  yes  no

Address(es) of other rental properties \_\_\_\_\_

Realtor (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Realtor Name</i>	<i>Phone number</i>

Trades people you normally call

<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone number</i>
Plumber		
Electrician		
Fuel supplier		

Type of heating system:  oil  propane  natural gas  geothermal

Where is fuel supply located? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is cut off switch? \_\_\_\_\_

In case of personal or property emergency notify (other than yourself)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Cell Phone</i>

**IN CASE OF A WEATHER-RELATED EMERGENCY, WAYS I CAN HELP OTHERS IF REQUESTED**

(check all that apply):

- Make phone calls to provide emergency info.
- Go to neighboring rental houses to provide emergency info.
- Register yourself or others who may have difficulty during an evacuation because of physical or other limitations or lack of transportation (by computer \_\_\_\_\_ or call 211)
- 4-wheel drive vehicle
- Able to cook for a group
- Training as a nurse or EMT
- CERT (Certified Emergency Response Training) volunteer
- My home is on higher ground (FEMA Zone X)
- Able to turn off water & have water key
- Able to turn off electric and/or gas
- My home has its own electrical generator

**ONCE COMPLETED, KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM AND MAIL A COPY TO:**

Emergency Management Coordinator, PO Box 490, Cape May Point, NJ 08212 or drop it off at the Borough Clerk's office. Questions? Call 609-884-8468 for Commissioner Joe Nietubicz (x 20) or Clerk Connie Mahon (x10).

Assistance Priority Code \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

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Cape May Point  
**READY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST**  
 July 31, 2010

September, 2010, is the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual “READY AMERICA” CAMPAIGN - ARE YOU READY?

**Let’s work together to make life safer for everyone!  
 We can help ourselves—and each other—if we’re prepared and have a plan.  
 You’re a hero for helping increase the safety and security of our community.  
 ARE YOU READY?**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Evacuation grows more difficult by the hour as a severe storm approaches.** You should have no problem leaving 4-6 days before the projected arrival of a storm. Although county Emergency Coordinators will be tracking the storm at that point, they won’t yet be giving the call to evacuate unless there is a high certainty of Cape May County’s being in the direct path of a storm. Three days before a major storm hits, those who are savvy about these things will already be getting on the roads. South Jersey has no hurricane shelters.

**Officials say it takes at least 36 hours to evacuate once the official word is given.** That’s an optimistic estimate because it assumes that both the Garden State and Routes 47/347 are made one-way North-bound. Factor in the fact that **the exact track of a major storm is still uncertain 24 hours beforehand.** Chances are good that the official call to evacuate will be made as late as possible. Even if you leave 48 hours before, you could still be stuck in endless bumper-to-bumper traffic as the storm hits.

Choosing not to evacuate is foolish. Even the first responders (fire, police, EMTs) will leave town once an official evacuation is announced. . They know that severe flooding and winds from a major storm are mortally dangerous in our exposed location. If first responders stayed, they too would become victims. You are literally on your own if you choose not to evacuate, and there will be absolutely nobody to help you even if your life is threatened. All services will be shut down (water, sewer, electric), and they will remain off until after the storm passes and recovery workers return to assess and fix damage.

**Our best strategy is to evacuate early** unless you have compelling reasons to wait. Get to a comfortable place on high ground inland (i.e., north of Vineland) and find a place where you can be safe, eat and sleep until you can safely return home. If the storm veers off and misses us, no harm—and if it doesn’t, you and those you love will be safe. While we can’t control weather-related emergencies, with moderate preparedness a potential disaster can become only an inconvenience. **All the action-items listed below are also opportunities to increase peace of mind and enhance our sense of community.**

**OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE ALL 625 HOUSEHOLDS IN CAPE MAY POINT “READY” BY LABOR DAY**

**GETTING READY**

*(Preparation for hurricane evacuation, floods, and also for lesser emergencies.)*

**Note:** Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters. Conditions that cause floods include heavy or steady rain for several hours or days. Flash floods occur suddenly due to rapidly rising water along a stream or low-lying area—OR unusually high tides and storm surges.

The following punch list of “to do” items allows you to improve your resilience as you complete each one. In order of priority (with completion times):

- EVACUATION/EMERGENCY/MEDICAL DATA SHEET (5 minutes to complete)  
*(Submit the completed form and also keep a copy in an envelope on your refrigerator marked “My Medical Data”.)*
- READY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST (this 6-page document)  
*(This is your household checklist, not something you need share or submit.)*
  - PERSONAL SAFETY CHECKLIST (less than 30 minutes to complete)
  - PROTECTION OF PROPERTY CHECKLIST (most can be done within a few days)

For more information, or for those with children, businesses, or special needs, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), the NJ Official Hurricane Survival Guide or the INFORMATION GUIDE FOR THE BOROUGH OF CAPE MAY POINT 2010 .

**PERSONAL SAFETY**

**Step 1: Complete your CMP Emergency Management Data Sheet TODAY.**

Take a minute now to save yourself untold hardship and time when you need help most. Fill in the form, keep a copy, and deliver the original to the Borough or mail to CMP Borough, PO Box 490, CMP (Att: Emergency Management Coordinator). Keep your information up to date.

**Step 2: Create a local circle of support.**

We know from past experience that those who “team up” with neighbors and friends fare much better than those who try to go it alone. We’re all much more likely to follow through with these types of tasks if we allow ourselves to be supported. Create a small, local support group (think about your neighbors or those you normally call or do things with). People you can count on for support are:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Cell phone</i>	<i>Address</i>

**Note:** The person we have designated to let know that we’re evacuating is \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 3: Plan for a temporary evacuation**

1. Two places (outside of Cape May County) I could drive to to be safe, eat & sleep:

<i>Place</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone</i>

2. Two people (outside of Cape May County) I will notify if I evacuate are:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Cell phone</i>

3. Out-of-state phone numbers I'll need are (see Note below):

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Cell phone</i>	<i>Location</i>

**Note:** After an emergency, it's often easier to call long-distance than locally. Have everyone in your family report their status to this long-distance contact who can pass the information along to others.

4. I have informed the people I live with and my out-of-area contact(s) of my communication plan.  Yes  No If "no," date by which I will inform them: \_\_\_\_\_

5. I have a detailed map that shows local roads and have determined multiple evacuation routes. Note that the Garden State Parkway may be extremely backed up or even flooded.  
 Yes  No

If "no," date by which I will secure a map and determine my evacuation route: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** The Cape May County Evacuation routes are:

- **Northbound: Garden State Parkway, Route 9, Route 47, Route 50**
- **Westbound: Route 49, Routes 47 and 347**
- Details at: <http://www.state.nj.us/njoem/plan/evacuation-routes.html>

6. If I have pets, my plan for caring for my pets if I have to evacuate is

I have a cage to put my pet(s) in

A hotel or residence I can take myself and/or my pets to is (phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (outside of Cape May County): \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Pets (except seeing eye dogs) CANNOT be brought into any Emergency Shelter. Check with a hotel in advance to see if they accept pets. Having a cage and a plan means you don't have to leave your special animal friends behind.

7. I keep at least \$100 cash or traveler's checks at all times.  Yes  No

**Note: Cash machines require electricity to function.**

8. I keep a 30-day supply of my essential prescriptions.  Yes  No

9. I will assemble medical information (for me and others in my household) on one sheet—medical conditions, allergies, medical equipment needs, and/or medications—in a zip-lock bag, and place it in my car's glove box and in the top shelf on the door of my refrigerator.

Yes  No

If "no," date by which I'll do this: \_\_\_\_\_

10. I keep my car's gas tank at least half-full at all times.  Yes  No

**Note: Gas pumps require electricity to work.**

11. If I have special dietary requirements, I can assemble a 3-day supply of what I'll need within an hour's notice.  Yes  No  N/A

Essential food items I'd need are: \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Within a hour's notice, the items I would need and could readily pack are:

I.D. (e.g., driver's license, passport, or real estate tax bill with home address)

Eyeglasses

Credit cards and at least \$100 in cash in

Hearing aids (and reserve hearing aid batteries)

Cell phone (plus phone charger and/or batteries or car adapter for cell phone)

Laptop computer (and charge cord) OR a back-up of the hard drive on my desktop computer

Underwear for at least 3 days

Sweater/rain jacket/windbreaker

Two changes of clothes

Extra pair of closed toed work shoes

Air mattress, mattress cover/sheets, blanket, pillow(s) or sleeping bag

A couple of good books, i-Pod (for music), Kindle, some games/puzzles/cards

Pet food (if I have pets)

Garbage bags

Roll of toilet paper

Bath towel, hand towel, and wash cloth

Cosmetics, tooth brush, tooth paste, soap, other hygiene items

Whistle to signal for help

First aid kit

Mess kit (one for each family member) or picnic basket with cups, eating utensils, bowls, and plates

Blank notebook and pencil

Bottle of wine

Other valuables, e.g., special jewelry (list)

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**Note: If an official evacuation occurs, the National Guard is often called into action to prevent looting. You will need I.D. to be allowed to return to your home once the emergency is over.**

13. I know where my valuable papers are (e.g., insurance policies, address book, bank information, on-line account passwords, social security card, birth certificate, passport, deed, titles, will, stock/bond certificates) and have secured them in plastic bags. I can transport them within an hour's notice.  Yes  No

If "no," date by which I will assemble my valuable papers in one, accessible, portable file.

14. My insurance agent's name is \_\_\_\_\_, his/her phone number is ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ and I have a copy of my home insurance policies with my valuable papers.

15. If I own a rental home, I'm willing to put an Emergency Information sheet on the refrigerator for my renters.  yes  no  N/A If "yes," by when \_\_\_\_\_?

16. Addresses of rental homes near me I'm willing to give emergency notice to:

16. I have an inventory of my house contents and valuables. I have given a copy to someone outside of Cape May County.  Yes  No

If "no," date by which I will make an inventory \_\_\_\_\_ and person I will send it to (name) \_\_\_\_\_ (mailing address) \_\_\_\_\_ OR (email address) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: The easiest way to make an inventory is to take photos and/or video of your property.**

#### **Step 4: Being ready at home if water, power, or heat are not available**

1. My house has an emergency generator that goes on automatically in case of a power outage:  Yes  No

2. My house has an auxiliary generator that I could start to keep essential appliances running.  Yes  No

If "yes," I rotate one or more 5-gallon cans of gasoline for my generator to have available at all times.  Yes  No

3. I have a gas stove (or Sterno) so I can heat food in the event of a power outage.  Yes  No

4. I maintain a 5-day supply of water and food that doesn't require refrigeration that I rotate to keep fresh.  Yes  No

**Note: In case of a storm, filling your bathtub with water to will allow you to flush toilets manually and/or have water for cooking and personal hygiene.**

**List of Emergency Staples** (rotate every 6 months – include items that don't need cooking)

Rice	Canned fish	Dried/canned milk	Pasta
Beans	Peanut butter	Cooking oil	Oatmeal/cereal
Sugar, salt, pepper	Coffee/tea	Crackers	Canned fruit/vegetables

5. I have a battery-powered, solar-powered or hand-cranked flashlight.  Yes  No

6. I have a battery-powered, solar-powered or hand-cranked radio that can recharge my cell phone and access NOAA Weather Radio information on an ongoing basis.  Yes  No

**NOAA local station coverage:** Atlantic City (162.400 MHz), Lewes (162.550 MHz), Philadelphia (162.475 MHz). Weather messages are repeated every 4-9 minutes and routinely updated every 1-6 hours (depending on weather conditions).

7. I have one phone that plugs directly into the phone line in my home.  yes  no

**Note: Portable phones and phones that use bases require electricity to function.**

8. I have a cell phone and keep it charged.  yes  no

**PROTECTION OF PROPERTY (ALL homes in low-lying coastal areas are in a FEMA Flood Zone)**

1. My home is in FEMA Flood Zone (circle one)

A    AE    AH    AO    A99    V    VE    X

**Note: Each municipality has a map that shows the Flood Zones, street by street. Go to the municipal building, look at the map, and see where YOUR home is. In Cape May Point most are "AE" (A "100 year" flood would reach 10 feet above mean sea level.)**

2. I'm receiving a discount on my homeowner flood insurance appropriate to the Flood Zone I'm located in.  Yes  No      Amt. of discount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. I have metal or plywood covers and can easily cover my most vulnerable windows and doors in case of a tropical storm or hurricane with winds above 70 mph.  Yes  No  
If "no," date by which I will obtain window and door storm covers: \_\_\_\_\_

4. My gas/oil tank is strapped to my house so it can't float away.  Yes  No

5. If my home is on pilings that would allow flooding to wash underneath, the area is cleared of debris that would impede the flow.  Yes  No  N/A  
If "no," date by which I will clear out the area and/or elevate items that would otherwise impede the flow: \_\_\_\_\_

6. If my home has a masonry foundation, I have "flood vents" installed (e.g., [www.smartvent.com](http://www.smartvent.com)) in the foundation that will allow water to flow through.

Yes  No  N/A

If "no," date by which I will call and get an estimate: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes," the area is clear and unobstructed to allow water to flow through.

Yes  No    Date by which I'll clear it out: \_\_\_\_\_

7. If my home is especially vulnerable to flooding, I have considered raising my house.

Yes  No

If appropriate to raise house, date by which I will call and get an estimate: \_\_\_\_\_

Rough estimate to raise house \$ \_\_\_\_\_

8. If an immediate emergency required it, the safest places in my house are:

<b>Room</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Circumstance (winds, flood, etc.)</b>

**Note:** The safest places could be under a piece of sturdy furniture (e.g., a table), against an interior wall away from windows, bookcases or tall furniture that could fall on you, or under an interior stair well. In a 2-story house, go to an interior 1<sup>st</sup> floor room.

### **WINTER STORM PREPARATIONS**

1. I have a snow blower or other mechanical snow removal equipment.  Yes  No
2. I have a snow shovel and a bag of ice-removal crystals.  Yes  No
3. I have a gas fireplace that will operate to keep some area of my living quarters heated to at least 68 degrees in the event of a power outage.  Yes  No
4. I know how to check the level in my gas/oil tank and keep it half full.  Yes  No

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For further information, get a copy of the INFORMATION GUIDE FOR THE BOROUGH OF CAPE MAY POINT (2010) pp.15-20 or NJ's Official Hurricane Survival Guide or the website of the NJ Office of Emergency Management ([http://nj.gov/njoem/plan/preparedness\\_foodwater.html](http://nj.gov/njoem/plan/preparedness_foodwater.html)). For questions or comments, contact Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Richmond Shreve, [rbshreve2@cape-may.net](mailto:rbshreve2@cape-may.net) or call 609-898-8714.

When you have completed this checklist, create a kit for the items you'll want ready-to-hand in an emergency (the checklist, a flashlight, radio, etc.) Use the kit and the checklist to easily gather the items you plan to take and keep with you (ID, medications, medical information, etc.).

## RENTAL PROPERTY EMERGENCY INFORMATION SHEET

Instructions: Put this sheet in a plastic bag and tape it securely to the refrigerator door. Enclose a copy of INFORMATION GUIDE FOR THE BOROUGH OF CAPE MAY POINT 2010.

Dear Renter,

Welcome! We hope you enjoy your stay here in our home.

For your peaceable enjoyment of our community and the safety of your family, please take a few minutes to look through the very helpful INFORMATION GUIDE FOR THE BOROUGH OF CAPE MAY POINT booklet that's behind this sheet (and replace it for our next guests, please).

Please note the following:

Medical emergencies or Fire – 911

The **address here** is: \_\_\_\_\_

between: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Streets in  
Cape May Point.

Walk-In Medical Care – Cape Urgent Care 609-884-4357

(9:00AM to 9:00PM seven days a week—located over the high bridge going out of Cape May on the Left just before the beginning of the Garden State Parkway – [after Ocean Drive traffic light keep left and make the next U-Turn crossing the southbound lanes and exiting into the first drive. Lobby and parking is behind the building].)

INFORMATION GUIDE sections of particular importance

- Siren signals (noon test, fire, flood/storm warning, mandatory evacuation) - p. 1
- Recycling information – p. 4
- Bar-B-Q, Kitchen and Candle safety tips – pp.10-13
- **Evacuation information - pp. 15-20**
- Schedule of events – p. 21
- Important Borough hours & telephone numbers (back cover)

THANKS FOR MAKING OUR COMMUNITY SAFER FOR ALL OF US  
BY BEING PREPARED.