FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 26, 2012

## County encourages you to prepare, plan and stay informed

Effects of Hurricane Sandy are anticipated early next week

FREEHOLD, NJ – Monmouth County's Office of Emergency Management is closely monitoring and preparing for Hurricane Sandy and its predicted high winds and heavy rain.

"We are asking all residents to take this weekend to prepare, plan and stay informed," Freeholder Director John P. Curley said. "County staff is working to make sure that we are prepared and can respond effectively; we ask that residents do the same."

Steps that residents can take are:

- **Prepare** Get a Kit
  - o Prepare a kit with children
  - o Preparing makes sense for older americans
  - o Preparing makes sense for pets
- **Plan** <u>Create an emergency plan</u>. You should contact the emergency management office in your local municipality if you have specific questions about storm preparations in your town. Contact information for all Monmouth County municipalities can be found on the <u>Information Center web pages</u> of the county website.
- Stay informed Listen to local radio stations

Updates about the county's preparation efforts will be provided now and throughout the storm on the county website and on Facebook and Twitter.

"Please prepare yourself, your family and your home for the storm," Sheriff Shaun Golden said. "Think about and plan for what you will do if your power goes out for an extended period of time or school is cancelled for your children and you still need to go to work."

Golden also asks that residents do not call 9-1-1 unless they are experiencing a real emergency.

"Requests for information should be directed to your town, your power company or your other service provider," Golden said. "Help keep the 9-1-1 lines clear and refer all non-emergencies calls to your local non-emergency numbers. In most towns this is town hall or the police department."

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