

**TOWNSHIP
OF
NEPTUNE**



**OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

There are actions you can take that will help you get ready for, and cope with almost every type of emergency.

Perhaps the most basic thing you can do is to **KEEP CALM**. This may mean the difference between life and death. In many disasters, people have been killed or injured needlessly because they acted thoughtlessly or did nothing.

In a time of emergency, taking proper action may save your life. Take time to think, and then take the considered action that the situation calls for. Usually, this will be the action you have planned ahead of time or the action you have been instructed to take by responsible authorities.

The following general guidelines apply to most types of emergencies in our area.

FOUR STEPS TO SAFETY

1. FIND OUT WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

Contact the Neptune Township Office of Emergency Management and the American Red Cross — be prepared to take notes:

1. Ask what types of disasters are most likely to happen. Request information on how to prepare for each.
2. Animals may not be allowed inside emergency shelters due to health regulations.
3. Next, find out about the disaster plans at your workplace, your children's school or day care center and other places where your family spends time.

2. CREATE A DISASTER PLAN

Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for a disaster. Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather and earthquakes to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.

1. Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen. Explain what to do in each event.
2. Pick two places to meet:
 - a. Right outside your home, in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
 - b. Outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.
3. Ask an out of state friend to be your "family contact." After a disaster, its often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Every one must know your contacts number.
4. Discuss what to do in an evacuation. Plan how to take care of your pets.

3. COMPLETE THIS CHECK LIST

- Post emergency telephone numbers by phone
- Teach your children how and when to call 911 for emergency help
- Teach each family member how to use a fire extinguisher and know
- where it is.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home.
- Conduct a home hazard hunt.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supply Kit.
- Take a Red Cross First Aid and CPR Class.
- Determine the best escape routes from each room in your home.
- Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.
- Check if you have adequate insurance coverage.

4. PRACTICE AND MAINTAIN YOUR PLAN

1. Quiz your kids every six months so they remember what to do.
2. Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.
3. Test and charge your fire extinguisher.
4. Test your smoke alarms monthly and change batteries yearly.

Hazards most likely to impact Neptune Township residents and visitors:

TORNADOES

A ***TORNADO*** is a violent storm with whirling winds of up to 300 miles per hour. It appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud, from gray to black in color, which extends toward the ground from the base of a thunder cloud.

A ***TORNADO WATCH*** means that tornadoes may occur in or around your area. Listen to local radio, television, or the Weather Channel for more information.

IF YOU ARE AT HOME, go to a corner of your home basement and take cover under a sturdy workbench or table. If your home has no basement, take cover in the center part of The house, on the lowest floor, in a small room such as a closet or bathroom, or under sturdy furniture. Stay away from windows to avoid flying debris. Do not remain in a trailer or mobile home, take cover elsewhere in a nearby shelter or lie flat in the nearest depression or ditch.

IF YOU ARE AT WORK in a building, go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor, or to the designated shelter area.

IF YOU ARE AT SCHOOL, follow the instructions of school authorities. These usually involve taking shelter in interior hallways on the lowest floor, and staying out of structures with wide, free span roofs, such as auditoriums and gymnasiums.

IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE IN OPEN COUNTRY, take cover and lie flat in the nearest depression, such as a ditch, culvert, excavation, or ravine and cover your head with your arms.

HURRICANES

WHAT TO DO BEFORE A HURRICANE

1. Know the advisories issued by forecasters, which describes the location, strength, and movement of the hurricane.
 - a. **HURRICANE WATCH** means the hurricane conditions pose a possible threat to your area; it does not mean they are imminent.
 - b. **HURRICANE WARNING** is issued when a hurricane is expected to strike within 24 hours. Areas subject to storm surges and flooding may be evacuated on advice of local authorities.
2. Be prepared for possible evacuation.

WHAT TO DO DURING A HURRICANE THREAT:

1. Listen for hurricane advisories on TV, radio, or by telephone.
2. During a *hurricane watch* you should:
 - a. Follow instructions from your local officials.
 - b. Cover windows with tape or boards.
 - c. Secure outdoor objects.
 - d. Fuel your car.
 - e. Prepare an evacuation kit.
 - f. Wedge sliding glass doors to prevent them from lifting off the tracks.
3. Be prepared to evacuate.
4. When advised to evacuate:
 - A. Travel with care. Follow evacuation routes. **Take necessary medication with you.**
 - B. Leave early enough to avoid flooding, fallen trees, or down power lines.
5. If authorities do not recommend evacuation, stay indoors and away from windows. Do not be fooled if there is a lull, it could just be the eye of the storm. The wind will pick up again.
6. Avoid using the phone except for emergencies.

WHAT TO DO AFTER A HURRICANE:

1. Remain in your shelter or home until informed by local authorities that it is safe to leave.
2. Keep tuned to your local radio or TV station for advice and instructions from emergency officials.
3. Stay away from disaster areas.
4. Drive only when necessary. Streets will be filled with debris and possibly downed power lines.

IF DISASTER STRIKES

IF DISASTER STRIKES:

Remain calm and patient. Put your plan into action.

B. CHECK FOR INJURIES:

Give First Aid and get help for seriously injured people.

C. LISTEN TO RADIO FOR INSTRUCTIONS:

Evacuate, if advised to do so. Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.

D. CHECK FOR DAMAGE IN YOUR HOME:

1. Use flashlights — do not light matches or turn on electrical switches.
2. Check for fires, fire hazards, and other household hazards.
3. Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve. Open windows and get everyone outside quickly.
4. Shut off any other damaged utilities.
5. Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline, and other flammable liquids immediately.

REMEMBER TO:

1. Confine or secure your pets.
2. Call your family contact — do not use the telephone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency.
3. Check your neighbors, especially elderly or disabled persons.
4. Make sure you have an adequate supply of water in case service is cut off.
5. Stay away from downed power lines.

EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

Your Emergency Management Team is advising you that when you are told of a pending emergency or disaster, you should have an Emergency Evacuation Kit prepared. It should consist of the following

- A pillow and blanket for every person being evacuated.
- Some canned goods to be shared in a mass feeding.
- A battery-operated radio and extra batteries.
- Any medication needed by family members.
- Personal items such as: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, etc.
- First Aid Kit.
- Coloring books and crayons for kids.
- A metal box containing
 - a. Social Security cards
 - b. Birth certificates
 - c. Marriage and death certificates.
 - d. Drivers license
 - e. Cash and credit cards
 - f. Wills
 - g. Insurance papers
 - h. Deeds
 - i. Stock and bonds
 - j. Savings and checking account books.
 - k. Small valuables: photos, watches, jewelry, etc.

If packed correctly, this can be put into a small cardboard box, so it can be evacuated with you and your family.

EVACUATION

1. Follow the instructions and advice of Emergency Management Officials.

If you are advised to evacuate, do so promptly. If you are instructed to move to a certain location, go there — don't go anywhere else.

2. Secure your home before leaving.

If you have time, and if you have not received other instructions from your local government, you should take the following actions before leaving your home:

- A. Bring outside possessions inside the house or tie them down securely.
- B. Disconnect any electrical appliances the cannot be moved — *but don't touch them if you are standing in water.*
- C. Lock house doors and windows.

3. Travel with care.

- A. Leave early enough to avoid being stranded on flooded roads.
- B. Make sure you have enough gas in your car.
- C. Follow the recommended routes or the evacuation signs.
- D. As you travel, keep listening to the radio for additional information and instructions from your emergency management officials.
- E. Watch for washed out or undermined roadways, earth slides, broken sewer or water mains, loose or downed electrical wires and falling or fallen objects.
- F. Watch out for areas where rivers or streams may flood suddenly.
- G. Don't try to cross a stream or pool of water unless you are certain that the water will not be above your knees or the middle of your tires all the way across. If you decide it is safe to cross put your car in low gear and drive slowly through it. Avoid splashing water on the engine causing it to stall. Also, remember that your brakes may not work as well after the wheels of your car have been in deep water.

FIRES

Fire safety rules are of special importance in an emergency, but they should also be observed everyday to prevent disaster.

Most fire deaths occur in the home. There is one low-cost, easily obtainable device which has been proven to save lives; a smoke detector. Deaths from fire in the home have been substantially reduced when smoke detectors were present.

A smoke detector should be placed as close as possible to the bedrooms. It is also a good idea to install a smoke detector on each level near stairways to the rest of the house. Smoke detectors should be checked and maintained regularly. Each member of your family should know what to do if the smoke detector goes off. A little time spent selecting escape routes and practicing what to do may save lives if a fire occurs in your home. Agree on a place to meet outside so you can be sure everyone gets out of the house safely.

TO KEEP FIRES FROM STARTING

1. Clean out attics, basements, closets and garages frequently. Don't let trash and "junk" accumulate.
2. Extension cords should not be overloaded. Check cords often for fraying, and avoid running them under rugs. An extension cord used to connect appliances should always be safely discarded after use.
3. Store flammable liquids in approved containers outside the home if possible. Never use gasoline, benzene, naphtha, and similar liquids inside — their odors will readily ignite from any kind of spark. Rags soaked in cleaning fluids or turpentine sometimes catch fire by themselves (this is called spontaneous combustion), and they should be safely discarded after use. Also, never smoke when handling flammable liquids.
4. Check your home's heating sources. Many home fires are started by faulty furnaces and stoves, cracked or rusted furnace parts, chimneys with creosote build-up. Be sure whatever heating source you use is clean and in good working order.
5. When stoves or heaters have an open flame, keep the unit away from walls, furniture, draperies, and other flammable items and place a screen in front of the flame.

LIGHTNING

Lightning is a serious hazard during thunderstorms and tornadoes. The following precautions should be followed when a lightning storm is imminent:

- A. Take cover inside a home, large building, or car.**
- B. Inside a home: avoid using the telephone, except for emergencies. Avoid bathtubs, water faucets, sinks and metal pipes.**
- C. If outside the home with no time to reach safety, follow these rules:**
 - 1. Do not stand under a tree — it acts like a lightning rod.
 - 2. Avoid structures in open areas.
 - 3. Do not stand on a hilltop or beach.
 - 4. Get away from open water and don't fish from a small boat.
 - 5. Get away from motorcycles, scooters, golf carts, and bicycles.
 - 6. Put down metal tools (including golf clubs).
 - 7. In a forest, seek shelter along a low lying area.
 - 8. If you are isolated in a level field or open area and you feel your hair stand up on end (which shows that lightning is about to strike), drop to your knees and bend forward putting your hands on your knees. Do not lay flat on the ground.

WINTER STORMS

Severe winter weather can dramatically increase death and injuries.

KEEP POSTED ON WEATHER CONDITIONS.

1. A *blizzard* is the most dangerous of all winter storms. It combines cold air, heavy snow, and strong winds that blow the snow about and reduce visibility to only a few yards.
2. A *winter storm warning* is issued when heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain are forecast to occur.
3. A *winter storm watch* indicates there is a threat of severe weather in a particular area.

BE PREPARED.

1. Keep an adequate supply of heating fuel on hand and use it sparingly.
2. If you have a fireplace, keep a good supply of dry wood on hand.
3. Stock an emergency supply of food and water as well as emergency cooking equipment such as a portable stove.
4. Make sure you have a battery-powered radio and extra batteries on hand.
5. Keep a fire extinguisher available.
6. Comply with local emergency parking and traffic regulations.

DRESS FOR THE SEASON

If you spend much time outdoors, wear several layers of loose-fitting, light-weight, warm clothing rather than a single layer of thick clothing. Mittens are warmer than gloves. Use a hood to protect your head and face and cover your mouth to protect your lungs from the extremely cold air.

FLOODS

Flood warnings are forecasts of impending floods which are given by radio and television and through local government emergency forces. Careful preparations and prompt response will assure personal safety and reduce property loss.

BEFORE THE FLOOD

1. Flood insurance is available in participating communities through federally sponsored National Flood Insurance Program. Contact your local licensed insurance broker or agent for more information.
2. Find out how many feet your property is above or below possible flood levels; when predicted flood levels are broadcast you will be able to determine if you are at risk for flooding.
3. Keep a stock of food which requires no cooking or refrigeration.
4. Keep a portable radio, extra batteries, and flashlights in order.
5. Keep first aid supplies and medications needed for family members.
6. Keep automobile fueled.
7. Store drinking water in closed, clean containers.
8. If flooding is likely and time permits, move furniture to upper levels and unplug any electrical equipment that cannot be moved.

AFTER THE FLOOD

1. Do not use fresh food that has come in contact with flood waters.
2. Do not visit the disaster area. Your presence will probably hamper rescue and other emergency operations.
3. Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before returning it to service.
4. Use battery-operated lanterns or flash lights, not oil or gas lanterns or torches to examine buildings. Flammables may be inside.

5. Report broken utility lines to police or other appropriate authorities.
6. Keep tuned into your local radio or television station for advice and instructions from the emergency management officials.
7. Notify your insurance agent or broker if your property was damaged by the flood.

SPECIAL ADVICE ON FLASH FLOODS

In many areas, usually heavy rains may cause quick or “flash” floods. Small creeks, gullies, dry streambeds, ravines, culverts or even low-lying ground can flood quickly and endanger people, sometimes before any warning can be given.

There are two types of flash flood advisories: a *flash flood watch* and a *flash flood warning*. A flash flood watch means that heavy rains occurring or expected to occur soon may cause flash flooding in certain areas, and citizens should be alert to the possibility of a flood emergency which will acquire immediate action. A flash flood warning means that flash flooding is occurring or imminent on certain streams or designated areas, and immediate action should be taken by those threatened.

In periods of heavy rains, be aware of the hazard of flash floods and be prepared to protect yourself against it. If you see any possibility of a flash flood occurring where you are, move immediately to a safer location (don't wait for instructions to move), then notify your local authorities of the danger so they can warn other people.

DURING PERIODS OF HEAVY RAINFALL:

1. Stay away from natural streambeds.
2. Know where the high ground is and how to get there in a hurry
3. Stay out of flooded areas.
4. Abandon stalled vehicles in flooded

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POLICE-FIRE-MEDICAL EMERGENCY.....	9-1-1
Neptune Township Police.....	732-988-8000
Neptune Township Municipal Offices.....	732-988-5200
Neptune Township Public Works Department.....	732-775-8797
J C P & L.....	1-800-662-3115
NJ Natural Gas.....	1-800-221-0051
Jersey Shore University Medical Center.....	732-775-5500
American Red Cross.....	732-493-9100
Neptune Township Office of Emergency Management.....	732-988-8000 Ext. 299
Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management.....	732-431-7400

Radio Stations

The Point	94.3 FM
WRAT	95.9 FM
WHTG	106.3 FM
	1410 AM