

HURRICANE AND STORM PREPAREDNESS LETTER - JUNE, 2017

Dear Resident:

This weekend, the National Weather Service (NWS) enacted the emergency phone system with a Tornado Warning at 6:40 Saturday morning, waking most of the Township. Shortly after, the Township posted to the Township Facebook and Twitter, and I shared it to my page as did others. The NWS has confirmed that two tornados touched down in Howell. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

Tornados, unlike hurricanes and snow events, come suddenly with little time to prepare. In fast moving situations, there is no time for the police to do a reverse 9-1-1 call in advance. The NOAA Wireless Emergency Alert System alerts the public through cell phones in the affected area for imminent threat of extreme weather, evacuations, amber alerts, and Presidential alerts during a national emergency. This requires no enrollment, but it does require that your cell phone be on and will override the Do Not Disturb mode. If your phone was on, please confirm that you have a push notification location set up and that NWS alerts are set to ON. You can go to the device's settings Area>Privacy>Location Services and turn on push notifications for Storm. Every phone is different, so please contact your wireless provider for assistance. Should the tornado have touched down in Marlboro, we would have activated the Marlboro OEM and begun messaging using reverse 911, Facebook, Twitter and email. We are grateful that was unnecessary.

As we enter the start of the 2017 Hurricane season, although Tornados are rare in our area, severe storms and hurricanes do happen. When severe weather brings emergencies, power outages, and communications disruptions it is vitally important that the Marlboro has as many ways to reach you as possible. This Tornado Warning was a reminder that all residents should make the time to Plan and Prepare.

Plan and Prepare in just three steps.

1. **STAY INFORMED!**
 - Visit the Township Website and sign up for email updates, www.facebook.com/marlborotownship/ and Twitter www.twitter.com/MarlboroTwp
 - Register your home phone and cell phones for reverse 9-1-1 emergency updates. NOTE: home phones are often not operational when power is out. It is suggested to register your cells as well as home.
 - Multiple lines of communication are imperative especially when there are power disruptions. You can register for any or all of these Township communication methods by clicking [HERE](#).
2. **MAKE A PLAN!**
 - Get Together with your family and make a communications plan ahead of time.
 - Keep a written record of all important phone numbers.
 - Designate an individual out of state to serve as a family point of contact and make sure that all family members know how to contact them.
3. **BUILD A HURRICANE KIT!**
 - Stock a 2 week supply of emergency necessities, including copies or pictures of important documents.
 - Store clean-up and repair supplies in a safe place.
 - Don't forget special supplies for babies, the elderly, those with access or functional needs or fur family members.
 - Make your hurricane kit portable and waterproof in case you have to evacuate.
 - Review your homeowner's or renters insurance plan as it relates to natural disasters.

The New Jersey OEM has prepared a [HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE](#) providing details on the three steps to Plan and Prepare as well as important State and Federal phone numbers, web addresses and social media sites. The NWS Hurricane Preparedness Webpage can be found [HERE](#). Our fur family members need an emergency plan, too. Visit Ready.gov for more.

Our website includes a 'Storm Updates' section which may be found on the Alerts tab on the homepage. Communications including storm emails, preparedness information, Office of Emergency Management notifications, and JCP&L updates are all posted there for your convenience and reference may be found [HERE](#).

An emergency can happen at any time. By taking a few moments now to Plan and Prepare we can help to ensure that our family and community weather any storm.

Mayor Jon Hornik