
Press Release

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BURLINGTON COUNTY GEARS UP FOR HURRICANE IRENE

Residents Along Rancocas Creek Urged To Be Prepared To Evacuate

All Residents Urged To Assemble A Home "Disaster Kit"

With Hurricane Irene advancing up the Eastern Seaboard and projected to bring heavy rains, record flooding and damaging winds to New Jersey late Saturday through Sunday, Burlington County officials are recommending that residents along the flood-prone areas of the Rancocas Creek be prepared to evacuate and are alerting all residents to be prepared for the worst.

"We're looking at the worst hurricane impact in years," said Freeholder Chris Brown. "Our Emergency Management personnel will activate the County's Emergency Operations Center during the day Saturday in anticipation of major flooding, fallen trees and other wind damage. Residents should know that this is not a time for complacency."

All residents are urged to have on hand a "disaster kit" containing the necessities they will need in the eventuality they face a long-term loss of electricity and other utilities, or may be forced to evacuate their homes.

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This includes a supply of bottled water, non-perishable food, a manual can opener, a fire extinguisher, a change of clothes, first-aid kit, bedding, prescription drugs, sanitary needs, a standard AM/FM radio, flashlights and extra batteries, and any items required for infants or persons with disabilities.

“This and other information can be found in the County’s Disaster Guide, which can be accessed on the County’s webpage,” said Brown. “Now is the time for families to go on the Internet and find out what they can and should do to sustain themselves during this period of emergency.”

The homepage can be reached at www.co.burlington.nj.us and the online Disaster Guide can be accessed under the bar that reads “How do I...”

Meantime, the Health Department also has posted a collection of information and precautions to be accessed at www.co.burlington.nj.us/health. Individuals should then click on “NJ Hurricane Resource” icon.

While the path of the hurricane and impact predictions have been adjusted, the Weather Service has been steadfast in its determination that flooding on inland waterways, including the Rancocas Creek, could reach record levels, said Kevin Tuno, Burlington County Emergency Management Coordinator.

“Our immediate game plan is to make sure that the communication network is in place to notify creek front residences as quickly as possible, especially if flooding is approaching a disaster stage,” said Tuno. “Meantime, we are working through local emergency coordinators, to make sure homeowners understand the threat.”

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