

It's Hurricane and Tropical storm season and the Office of Emergency Management would like you to stop and take a few moments of your time to be prepared for the upcoming season. First thing is that we want you to get on social media if not already (City of South Amboy web page or Facebook). Be sure to sign up on Nixle to receive alerts and notifications from SAPD and OEM www.nixle.com also sign up for alerts from the State of New Jersey www.njalert.gov.

Know the special danger from hurricanes and tropical storms

Tropical storm winds which can have wind speeds of 39-73mph

Hurricane winds can reach 74-95mph for a category 1 storm to a category 5 storm which will have winds above 155mph.

Storm surge is a dome of water 50-100 miles wide and as high as 25ft high that is pushed ahead of the storm. It devastates coastal communities as it sweeps ashore.

Make a plan

Find out if you are in a high risk area,

Know how you will evacuate if told to do so

Know where your local shelter is located

Know what to do if advised to shelter in place

There are other things that you need to do to be prepared, you need to think about your pet as a lot of shelters DO NOT take animals into them.

You need to prepare an emergency kit for an Emergency, this should include your medication, cash (no power), driver license, wills, insurance papers, Food and drink, etc. When preparing this kit keep in mind you should have rations for at least 3 days.

Floods/Flash Floods

Floods develop over several hours or several day. Streets can become swift-moving rivers, creating great danger for pedestrians and drivers. With that in mind you should always turn around and **NEVER** attempt to cross moving flood water-whether on foot or by auto. Just six inches of fast-moving floodwater can knock you off your feet. Two feet of water can sweep an SUV off the road.

Flash Floods occur with little or no warning and are deadly and fast moving. They can begin within the first hours of a rain event, or after a dam or levee failure, or following the sudden release of water held back by an ice or debris jam. Their power can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, scour out new channels and can also trigger catastrophic mudslides.

Evacuate/Shelter in place

If you are told to evacuate that means to leave your home or workplace and follow an Evacuation route if one to a safe shelter. You should know where you're local shelter and its phone number (732)525-5961. Emergency Management Officials will use radio/TV broadcast & the Local Emergency alert system which includes Nixle and reverse 911.

All of the above topics and many more topics can be found on the following sites New Jersey Office of Emergency Management web page www.ready.nj.gov. Red Cross www.redcross.org.

The Office of Emergency Management for the City of South Amboy has a form in place in conjunction with the County of Middlesex Emergency Management. It's called Special Needs Form which can be picked up @ the Senior Citizen Resource Center. This will help the Local OEM and County OEM during an evacuation.

