

Berkeley Waterways Commission Flood Pamphlet

What Residents Should Know

Introduction:

When storms, hurricanes, nor'easters, winds, high tides, flooding, ect. occur in the waterfront communities, special precautions must be taken. This pamphlet was prepared by the Berkeley Township Waterways Advisory Commission in consultation with the Mayor's office and Township Authorities to be used as an aid in preparation for such events. It is most important that property owners living on the water be prepared in advance of significant weather events to protect your homes, personal property, boats, and most importantly, your lives. This pamphlet was designed to be used as a check off list to assist the property owner in preparing for such events with emphasis on safety. We strongly suggest that you take the time to develop a plan that meets your specific needs in advance of serious weather events.

Communications:

It is vital that you stay in touch with various levels and sources of communication available as storm conditions develop, during and after the event.

- **Radio:** WOBB-AM 1160 WOBB-FM 92.7
WJRZ-FM 100.1 WJLK-AM1310
WJLK-FM 98.5 WRAT-FM 95.9
- **Comcast TV:** Weather Channel #39
- **Direct TV:** Weather Channel #362
- **NOAA:** 162.5mhz wxchannel 5
- **Berkeley Twsp. Web Site:** berkeley.nj.us
- **Nixle:** To sign up, go to www.Nixle.com and click register
- **Berkeley Police Facebook:** Go to Berkeley Police Facebook and sign up



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The Township of Berkeley



Emergency Evacuation

What You Should Know

Emergency Evacuation Orders:

In the event that you are advised of mandatory or voluntary evacuation, you should be aware of the personal responsibility of your decision to leave or remain in your home.

There can be a mix of orders, mandatory or voluntary in the same general area, based on reports and advisements from authorities.

- **Mandatory Evacuation:** It means that weather conditions have deteriorated to the extent that lives can be placed in danger and evacuation is strongly recommended to safeguard lives. It must be realized that such situations can become so severe that rescue by emergency personnel may not be possible, leaving you on your own
- **Voluntary Evacuation:** It means that the burden to stay or leave becomes the responsibility of the individual homeowner, based on their assessment of weather conditions as reported by news outlets, local forecasts, and other outlets.

Emergency Evacuation Routes:

In the event that you are advised to evacuate your homes you will be directed to one of the following.

- Travel north, continuing on Rt. 9N, accessing the Garden State Parkway
- Drive to Veterans Parkway and access the Garden State Parkway just past Central Regional High School
- Continue on Veterans Parkway to Whiting on Rt. 530 to Rt. 539 North to Rt. 195
- For most current instructions refer to the communications section of this pamphlet.

Personal Contact Numbers

In the event that you decide to leave your home in an evacuation situation, consider leaving a directory of personal emergency contact numbers for reference by emergency personnel who might enter your home for security reasons.

- Prepare a list of numbers to be attached to a refrigerator door or other convenient location.
- Your name, cell phone number, email address.
- Name of family members who could be contacted in the event you are not able to take a call.
- Address of the place you will be staying, motel, hotel, family member and telephone number of each location.

Personal Property Preparedness

Important documents and personal mementos that cannot be replaced are often overlooked in haste to leave. Consider making copies of documents that might be difficult to replace if destroyed.

- Ready all important papers and valuables in a Pick-Up and Go Bag for quick evacuation.
- Consider storing your essential documents in a permanent file that can be retrieved at a moments' notice.
- Cell phones and chargers.
- Insurance policies, Deeds, Medical Records, Birth Certificates, Passports, Bank Books, Computer Mem Cards.
- Treasured and irreplaceable family mementos, pictures, jewelry and documents.
- Prepare all needed medical equipment and medications.
- Consider a plan for your pets.
- Move your vehicles to higher ground. Official site is the Middle School on Forest Hills Parkway.

Home Preparation: Interior

Certain recommendations are made here, but all may not apply based on your decision to remain or leave. The action items that you address in preparing your home should be based on the severity of forecasts and personal decisions.

- Move articles and valuable items away from windows.
- Elevate furniture and food if necessary.
- Consider ice packs in freezer and fridge.
- Board up windows.
- Back up your computers.
- Unplug valuable electronic items that may be subject to surges or lightning strikes.
- Secure your firearms and ammunition.
- Consider shutting down utilities.

Home Preparation: Exterior

Where possible, item should be moved to sheltered areas or tied down to withstand high winds. Exterior items are subject to wind and water damage.

- Remove or secure all patio furniture including portable gazebos.
- Disconnect propane tanks and natural gas from grills and secure grills and tanks.
- Remove or secure loose planters, flags and other items subject to high winds.
- Secure and tie down garbage and recycling containers.
- Cut power to bulkhead docks.
- Secure rain gutters and ladders.
- Open foundation flood vents if manual.
- Consider heavy plastic covering on slider doors.
- Consider sinking a tie down post.

Emergency Equipment

Often times emergency equipment is not utilized on a regular basis and can become inoperative. Periodically check portable generators for operation and fresh fuel. Keep flashlights handy with sufficient batteries. Store drinking water, food, blankets, clothing and other comforts

Boat Preparedness

Pre-planning here is critical and will greatly reduce your stress if you ever need to take action. The two major factors are wind and tidal surge. Some suggestions to consider:

- Remove canvas and all items that will be blown off or damaged by high winds.
- Batteries fully charged and bilge pumps working.
- Will you stay in the water or be on land?

In water considerations:

- Mooring whips will lose their effectiveness as the water rises, so if possible consider multi point tying, securing the vessel several feet off your primary dock by tying across the lagoon. This will depend on your lagoon location and good neighbor relations. Also you must be aware and not impede navigation of other vessels leaving their lagoon at the last minute. Plenty of line slack so the vessel can rise with tidal surge. Consider your anchor line as one to use if needed.
- Disconnect shore power.

Out of water options:

- Your traditional marina or more inland?
- Drain plug out?
- Additional securing, whether blocked or on trailer.

There are many resources on this subject compiled from years of experience from boaters throughout the country. Below are a few sites that we suggest you visit.

www.boatus.com/hurricanes/brochure.asp
www.southwindssailing.com/hurricane-boat-preparation-plan.php
www.cruisingworld.com/how/how-prepare-your-boat-storm