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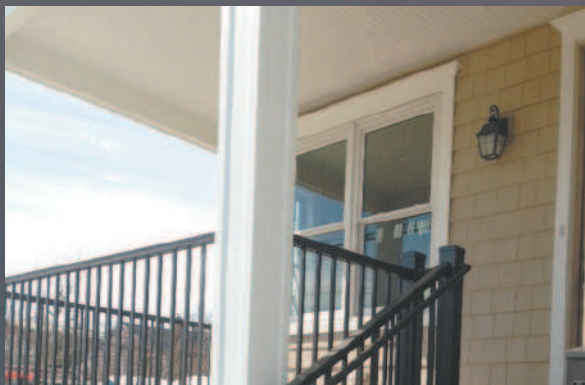
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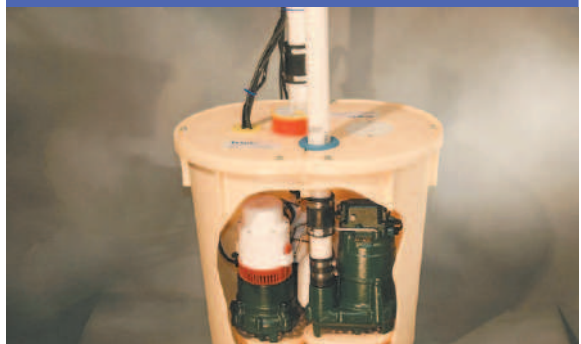
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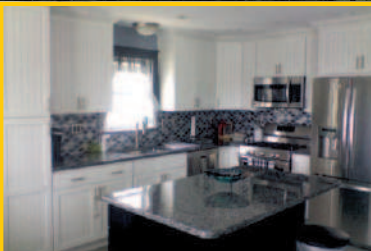
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PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY

Hurricane Sandy destroyed portions of the Atlantic City boardwalk on Oct. 29, 2012.

Hurricane forecaster still watching out for the ‘big one’

BY R.J. LIBERATORE JR.
Staff Writer

Every year at this time, retired National Weather Service forecaster Jim Eberwine, 68, of Absecon puts an eye to the sky and waits.

Eberwine, a former weather forecaster under President Richard Nixon, isn't looking for the usual. He is watching for the once-in-a-lifetime encounter with a storm like the one nobody remembers: the hurricane of 1821.

The storm came ashore in North Carolina and continued up the East Coast through Delaware. It passed over Cape May, Atlantic, Ocean and Monmouth counties in New Jersey

before striking New York City.

Coastal New Jersey was on the worst side — the northeast side — and suffered significant damage as a result of a 29-foot storm surge, he said.

The hurricane struck at low tide, but produced a 5-foot storm surge off of Delaware Bay.

Sandy's flooding was caused by a 14.4-foot storm surge, Eberwine said.

A storm like the 1821 hurricane will happen again, he said, and will bring unique circumstances.

"It would be devastating for Cape May, Atlantic County, Ocean County," he said.

A Category III storm could produce winds of 110 to 130 miles per hour and cripple the state, he said.

"You can't walk in it," he said. "You would put your life in jeopardy."

Such a storm would produce a least an 18-foot storm surge, the forecaster said.

"JFK Airport would be under 21 feet of water. It is hard to imagine."

Inland areas would not be spared.

Philadelphia could expect Category II conditions, and Harrisburg would have Category I conditions.

"Philadelphia would have several feet of

See FORECASTER on Page 33



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Being prepared means being equipped with the proper supplies you may need in the event of an emergency or disaster, according to the American Red Cross, which advises that you should keep your supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

At a minimum, you should have:

Water – one gallon per person, per day (three-day supply for evacuation; two-week supply for home).

Food – non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (three-day supply for evacuation; two-week supply for home).

Flashlight, battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio if possible), extra batteries, first aid kit, medications (seven-day supply) and medical items, multi-purpose tool, sanitation and personal hygiene items.

Also, copies of personal documents including medication lists and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies, cell phones with chargers, family and emergency contact information, extra cash, emergency blanket and a map of the area.

Consider the needs of all family members and add supplies to your kit. Suggested items to help meet additional needs are:

Medical supplies (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc.), baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers), and games and activities for children.



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Emergency kits like this one are available at redcrossstore.org.

Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl), two-way radios, an extra set of car keys and house keys and a manual can opener.

Additional supplies to keep at home or in your survival kit based on the types of disasters common to your area such as:

A whistle, N-95 or surgical masks, matches, rain

gear, towels, work gloves, tools/supplies for securing your home, extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes, plastic sheeting, duct tape, scissors, household liquid bleach, entertainment items, blankets or sleeping bags.

Many supplies from this list are available for sale at redcrossstore.org. You can get more advice at redcross.org.

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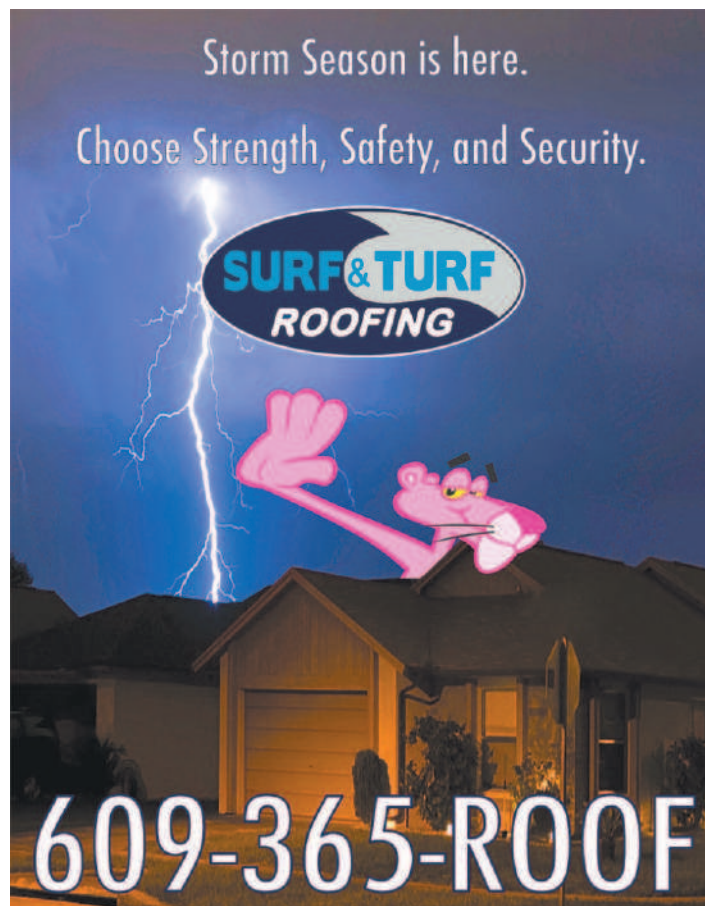
Cape May County

NOAA Weather Radio 162.400 MHz, WIBG 1020 AM, WCMC 1230 AM, WMID 1340 AM, WOND 1400 AM, ESPN 1450 AM, WBSS LaFIESTA 1490 AM, WIBG 94.3 FM, WAYV 95.1/102.3 FM, WTKU 98.3 FM, WTTH 96.1 FM, WFPG 96.9 FM, WCZT 98.7 FM, WZBZ 99.3 FM, WZXL 100.7 FM, WMGM 103.7 FM, WSJO 104.9 FM, WFNE 106.3 FM, WPUR 107.3 FM

Tip

Having a battery-operated radio is recommended because radios and cellphones can't be charged if there is a power failure.

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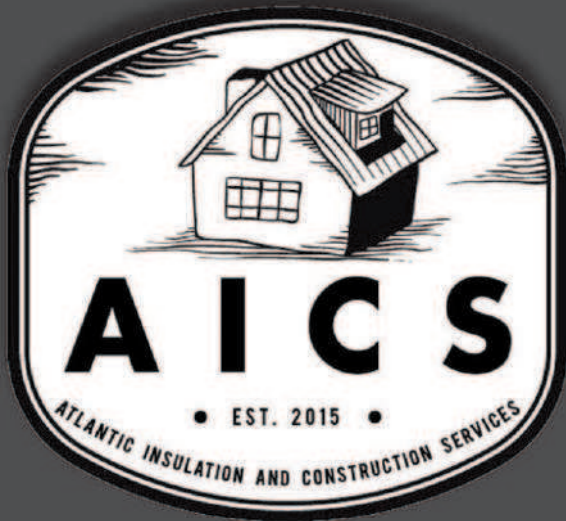
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ERIN GRUGAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Storm clouds passing over the Eighth Street beach in Ocean City Aug. 2.

Advance planning can help make a long stint indoors bearable

BY LAURA STETSER
Staff Writer

When a weather disaster looms, one thing people can expect is to be stuck indoors for an extended period of time. But some careful shopping and prep work can help ensure that you will be ready for whatever Mother Nature throws your way.

Ready Atlantic, the disaster preparation website for Atlantic County, recommends preparing a disaster emergency kit containing important items to have on hand to get you and your family through a disaster.

Key items are flashlights, extra batteries, cash and credit cards. Having a battery-operated radio is recommended because radios and cellphones can't be charged if there is a power failure.

Set aside enough bottled water and nonperishable food to get through several days. If the food includes canned goods, find or purchase a nonelectric can opener. Be sure to include the family's essential medicines as well as any eyeglasses and contact lenses. Have sturdy shoes and changes of clothes handy.

If you have pets, carriers and leashes should be within reach in case evacuation is needed. It's

also a good idea to have a full supply of pet food.

Preparing your family for emergencies is also something you can do to feel ready for a storm, according to the website. Teach children how to call 911 in the event adults are unable to. Show each family member how to turn off the gas, electricity and water. Arrange to have a meeting place in case of separation, or choose someone outside the area to act as an out-of-town contact for everyone to check in with if local communications systems go down.

Store valuables in waterproof containers on the highest level of the home. Avoid elevators, stay indoors, and avoid windows, skylights and glass doors. Do not use open flames such as candles or kerosene lamps as a source of light, and when the power goes out, turn off major appliances to reduce power surges when electricity is restored.

Bon Appétit magazine recommends freezing food that you would normally refrigerate, such as milk and meat.

"The thawing process will buy you some time. Freezing big containers of water also will leave you with giant ice cubes that will slow down the unsavory side effects of perishables warming," the article suggested.

Set aside shelf-stable foods such as bread, crackers, peanut butter and jelly. The magazine also recommends frying bacon ahead of time for sandwiches or snacking, and boiling eggs but leaving them unpeeled so they stay fresh longer. Other suggestions include buying cheeses that are room-temperature-friendly, and mashing beans such as cannellini or garbanzos with some olive oil and garlic as a dip.

A severe weather preparation article on the National Public Radio website suggests purchasing disposable plates and silverware to avoid the backup of dishes in the sink. It also recommends having a full propane tank for an outdoor grill so that some cooking could still be an option. Keep the refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible.

Tip

Key items for disaster preparation are flashlights, extra batteries, cash and credit cards.



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Trim any dead tree branches and limbs that are close to your home.

Protect your home for the long haul and immediately before a storm

BY NANETTE LOBIONDO GALLOWAY
Staff Writer

Many of the ways people can protect their home during a severe weather event or flooding are measures that can be taken well before the meteorologist issues an emergency alert.

According to emergency officials in Longport — which has published two brochures on the topic and also offers tips in its newsletter, Longport Town Topics — taking protective measures is part of responsible homeownership.

Such measures include raising the ground level of your home above flood elevation, correcting any drainage problems, installing

floodgates and storm shutters, waterproofing walls, caulking around windows and weatherstripping doors. Grading

around a home's exterior so water slopes away from the foundation can help prevent water infiltration. Knowing the base flood elevation can help you be prepared when the warnings come. Flood elevation certificates can be obtained from a municipality's building department.

Homeowners are also advised to keep the home's roof in good condition and make sure all shingles are secured. Getting regular roof inspections to prevent leaks during severe weather is also suggested.

When a severe storm approaches, it's time to step into action with immediate protective measures such as moving furniture out of areas that might flood and sandbagging around the foundation. Outdoor furniture and barbecue grills should be moved indoors or tied down to prevent them from blowing away and damaging your or a neighbor's property. Even small pieces of wind-driven debris can become projectiles that can shatter windows and injure people and animals.

Hard sheathing or plywood can be used to cover up windows and doors; garage doors should be reinforced. If you don't have hurricane shutters, install ½-to ¾-inch marine plywood cut to fit windows and doors. Drill holes for screws no greater than 18 inches apart, and attach the plywood to the wood trim, overlapping the edges at least 4 inches. Mark the pieces so you

know which openings they fit.

Trim any dead tree branches and limbs that are close to your home. Clear debris from gutters and downspouts, and move potted plants indoors. Tie down the doghouse, playhouse and swing set.

One of the most important things people can do to prevent the loss of life or permanent injury when flooding is eminent, especially when ordered to evacuate, is to turn off all utilities at the main switch to minimize damage from gas leaks that can cause fire or electrocution. Fire extinguishers are a must for every home; knowing how to properly use them is just as important.

Local building departments are resources for finding reputable contractors who can weather-proof structures in advance of a storm or help after a flood.

Recently constructed homes are built to comply with the latest building codes designed to prevent loss of property during major weather events, but older homes that have not been recently renovated may be prone to flood damage. Always call the local building department before undertaking a renovation project to be sure the work complies with current building codes.

For more information see flood.org or fema.gov.

Tip

Turn off all utilities at the main switch to minimize damage from gas leaks that can cause fire or electrocution.



Debris from storms can litter coastal areas, releasing hazardous waste into the ecosystem.

How hurricanes affect the ecosystem

Hurricanes and other strong storms can have a profound impact on communities. Power outages, flooding and interruption of communication systems can interrupt everyday life. But storms and natural disasters can wreak havoc on animals, ecosystems and coastal habitats.

Although parts of the world have been subjected to hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes and other storms for millennia, experts at the United States Department of the Interior and the U.S. Geological Survey say that today's storms may be more detrimental to animal life and ecosystems than ever before. That's because periodic disturbances on plants and animals that result from storms are compounded by consistent environmental changes brought on by human development and industry. Animals that could once bounce back from a weather event may find it harder to rebound because their habitats have already been weakened by human interference.

In 1998, Hurricane Georges was the most destructive hurricane to strike the island of Puerto Rico since 1932. Georges further stressed the habitat of rare species such as the sea turtle and the highly endangered Puerto Rican parrot, cutting the parrot population in half. Conservation specialists estimate there are fewer than 50 of these parrots currently living in the wild and roughly 140 in captivity.

Thousands of animals live in coastal regions. In

addition to high, damaging winds taking down trees and defoliating forest canopies, wind can cause powerful storm surges that displace sand. Ultimately, entire coastal landscapes may be reshaped or reduced.

Information from the University of Rhode Island estimates that hurricanes such as Ivan, Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike have changed shoreline positions of about 328 feet (100 meters) in certain areas. Northeastern coastal areas in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have been entirely reshaped in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Wildlife that may have been living in the dunes or coastal channels of areas impacted by hurricanes and other storms may have been obliterated or forced to relocate to other, less tolerable locations. Barrier islands, important for protecting areas of the coast, shift or erode, taking out forests that are resting places for migratory birds. Should a storm take place during a period of mating or egg-laying, entire generations of animal life can be wiped out.

Coastal areas are not the only places impacted by such storms. During Hurricane Sandy, seawater breached many areas that had never before seen such a surge in water levels. Saltwater intrusion can change other wetland ecosystems, making them inhabitable for some organisms not acclimated to salty conditions. Displaced sand can end up suffocating

insects and other animals in areas where it has been dumped, and may impede the growth of grasses and other plants that feed a wide variety of animals.

Hurricanes can affect marine life as well. Hurricanes can destroy oyster beds and crab habitats and displace fish that feed many other large marine creatures. Flood waters can transport sewage and untreated chemicals from land into the water, harming marine life as a result. Fish and crustaceans may be tossed on shore, where they are unable to return to the safety of the water. Furthermore, discharge of boat fuel and oil from wrecked vessels can infiltrate marine ecosystems, further damaging delicate species.

Hurricanes can cause structural changes, interruption of food sources and destruction of homes while slowing down communication methods. But hurricanes affect the animals that live in and around storm-ravaged areas as well.

Tip

Saltwater intrusion can change other wetland ecosystems, making them inhabitable.

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County registry puts people with special needs first in an emergency

BY SUZANNE MARINO
Staff Writer

Rob Cozen, deputy director of the Somers Point Office of Emergency Management, said all of the information and the guidance the OEM offers is predicated on two words: lessons learned.

"We know what happens when we have a full moon, a high tide, wind that comes in from the northeast; we know where it will flood. Predicting what will occur during an emergency like a hurricane is getting much better, and we know where our attention will likely need to be focused," said Cozen. "So we are ready to mobilize immediately if the need is there."

Several times throughout the year the OEM team is out at events encouraging residents to be prepared in case of a storm. Cozen said they stress at every event for residents to take advantage of the county special needs registry for family members or neighbors who are elderly, have trouble walking, are on heavy medication, or have any other condition that could compromise their ability to leave quickly in case of an emergency.

Cozen said registering on the Atlantic County website, aclink.org, is a simple process. Click on special needs registry, and fill in the name, address and nature of the disability for the person being registered.

That will set the wheels in motion to take care of a neighbor or loved one in case of an emergency a month from now or a year from now. Once they are registered in the system the local OEM will be notified. The lists are continually being updated, he said.

The county will then alert the municipalities of special needs residents who may need additional help in an emergency.

"They county puts a plan in place that makes sure these are the first people taken care of if there is a real problem. It is very effective and very efficient," added Cozen.

Neil Regina, a deputy coordinator with the Somers Point EOM, said that with so many apartment complexes in Somers Point and a significant number of senior citizens, emergency officials have to have plans in place and be ready to mobilize immediately in the case of an emergency.

"We are always monitoring the weather and looking at the possible scenarios," he said.

Cozen said the first line of defense in an emergency is to have in place a plan for the family's safety.

In cases of severe flooding or loss of power for several days, shelters will be opened, he said, but they are by nature for emergency only and not really comfortable, he said.

Instead of just waiting to be evacuated to a shelter, he advised families to have an emergency plan in place for where to go in an emergency, such as family or friends who live outside the area, and to be ready to move on short notice. And when pets, special needs individuals or senior citizens are involved, planning is all the more important, Cozen stressed.

"What is the worst thing that can happen when you plan? There will be a little more nonperishable food in the house, water, extra batteries, some extra cash that you can put back in the bank if you don't need it, a full tank of gas — and if need be you go visit your kids in Cherry Hill for a couple of days," he said.

To register a special needs individual see www.aclink.org.

Tip

Register a resident with special needs at aclink.org.



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Have a plan to protect your pets during a disaster

Ready.gov, the nation's public information initiative to inform Americans about how to protect themselves in an emergency, reminds residents that it's important to think of the needs of their pets when disaster strikes and offers the following guidelines:

Bring your pets inside immediately.

Have newspapers on hand for sanitary purposes. Feed animals moist or canned food so they will need less water to drink.

Animals have instincts about severe weather changes and will often isolate themselves if they are afraid. Bringing them inside early can stop them from running away. Never leave a pet outside or tied up during a storm.

Separate dogs and cats. Even if your dogs and cats normally get along, the anxiety of an emergency situation can cause pets to act differently. Keep small pets away from cats and dogs.

In an emergency, you may have to take your birds with you. Talk with your veterinarian or local pet store about special food dispensers that regulate the amount of food a bird is given. Make sure that the bird is caged and the cage is covered by a thin cloth or sheet to provide security and filtered light.

If you evacuate your home, do not leave your pets behind. Pets most likely cannot survive on their own and if by some remote chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.

If you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for you and your pets; consider loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area who would be willing to host you and your pets in an emergency.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer.

Tip

If you evacuate your home, do not leave your pets behind.

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Be 'Register Ready' before the next storm hits

"Register Ready" is a free, voluntary and confidential web-based program designed to identify the needs of people who may find it difficult to get to safety in the event of an emergency.

People special needs (or caregivers on their behalf) are encouraged to register electronically, if possible, at www.registerready.nj.gov.

Alternatively, they can call New Jersey's toll-free 2-1-1 service. This service will register people, offer free translation, and provide TTY services for the hearing-impaired.


The NJ Special Needs Registry is designed to help emergency responders locate and safely evacuate people who could find it difficult to help themselves in the event of a major disaster, such as a hurricane.

You (or someone on your behalf) should register if you may find it difficult to get to safety with family or friends, or to a public shelter during an emergency evacuation because of a physical or cognitive limitation, language barrier, or lack of transportation.

You will only be asked for information necessary to get you to the safest place possible, if you have no other means to evacuate. The New Jersey Special Needs Registry complies with all privacy laws.

Even if you are registered, your first choice should be to move to a safe location with family or friends in a storm emergency. Make those plans in advance. The availability of public shelters will depend on the size and scope of the emergency.

A caregiver should accompany you to your pre-selected location or a public shelter, if possible. Make a back-up evacuation plan, in case your caregiver is unavailable.



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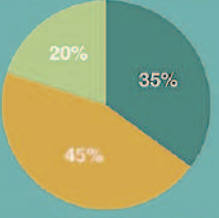
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*Names provided by the World Meteorological Organization

Be prepared: Visit hurricanes.gov and follow @NWS and @NHC_Atlantic on Twitter. May 25, 2017

2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook



Named storms
11-17

Hurricanes
5-9

Major Hurricanes
2-4

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If you plan to use a portable generator to operate loads in your home during a utility power outage, you'll need to have a manual transfer switch installed, as doing so will allow you to run hardwired appliances in your electrical panel and evade the dangers of back-feeding once local utility power is restored. Operating a portable generator at a safe distance from your home will help you avoid the deadly threat of carbon monoxide emissions as well as damage to the generator caused by overheating. To ensure you are providing enough clearance between your home and portable power source, run a 25-foot power cord straight out from your home's power inlet box. Placing the generator at the other end of the power cord and away from other walls, barriers or objects should help ensure safe operation.

- Run all portable generators outside.
- Keep portables away from open windows and open garages.
- Keep a carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- Have extra gas on hand and store in well ventilated area. If you experience symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning (i.e. headaches, dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath and fatigue), leave the area right away and find fresh air.

When running a portable generator, you can power multiple items at the same time based on unit size and wattage. Consider the ability to keep your refrigerator running while making coffee and powering a reading lamp.

A perk to having a portable generator is the ability to temporarily power your microwave or crockpot for heating meals. Have a recipe on hand that affords you the option of cooking with portable generator power.

If you have already invested in a home standby unit, performing required maintenance is key to ensuring your generator will operate as intended during a power outage.

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LAUREN CARROLL

Stay safe during and after a power outage

Ready.gov, the national public service advertising campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies, offers the following tips for staying safe in a power outage:

Only use flashlights for emergency lighting; candles can cause fires.

Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Most food requiring refrigeration can be kept safely in a closed refrigerator for several hours. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours.

Take steps to remain cool if it is hot outside. In intense heat when the power may be off for a

long time, consider going to a movie theater, shopping mall or “cooling shelter” that may be open in your community. If you remain at home, move to the lowest level of your home, since cool air falls. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty.

Put on layers of warm clothing if it is cold outside. Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors. Never use your oven as a source of heat. If the power may be out for a prolonged period, plan to go to another location (the home of a relative or friend, or a public facility).

Turn off or disconnect appliances and other equipment in case of a momentary power “surge” that can damage computers and other devices. Consider adding

surge protectors.

If you are considering purchasing a generator for your home, consult an electrician or engineer before purchasing and installing one.

Only use generators away from your home and never run a generator inside a home or garage, or connect it to your home’s electrical system.

After a power outage

Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40° F (4° C) for two hours or more or that has an unusual odor, color or texture. When in doubt, throw it out.

If food in the freezer is colder than 40° F and has ice crystals on it, you can refreeze it.

Contact your doctor if you’re concerned about medications having spoiled.

Restock your emergency kit with fresh batteries, canned foods and other supplies.

Tip

Only use flashlights for emergency lighting; candles can cause fires.

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How to report and track power outages

Atlantic City Electric customers have several ways to get and communicate information when the power goes out.

Call 1-800-833-7476 to report outages and downed wires, and request a call back so the utility can verify if outages still exist.

You can also download a mobile app at atlanticcityelectric.com/mobileapp or from your favorite app store to get the

latest news, report an outage, access outage maps of your area, and call directly to get estimates for when power will be restored.

Customers can go online to atlanticcityelectric.com, click "Outage Center" and enter their account information to get the latest news, report an outage, access outage maps of their area, get important contact information and estimates for when

power will be restored from anywhere you can access the Internet.

Customers are also advised to go online and sign into their account to make sure their current service location telephone correctly listed. This will help match your street address to your telephone number quickly if you have to report an outage.

Important Phone Numbers

Report power outages and downed wires: 1-800-833-7476

Customer Service: 1-800-642-3780

Servicio en Español: 1-800-642-3780

TTY for Hearing Impaired: 1-800-898-8056

You can also find Atlantic City Electric on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Forecaster

continued from Page 10

water in their downtown area," Eberwine said.

Most of the storms that form during the hurricane season, which runs June 1 to Nov. 30, pass to the east of New Jersey thanks to the natural cover of the Middle Atlantic Ocean coast, he said.

In the hurricane season's first months, storms are born in the

Caribbean and move up through the North Carolina. They then turn inland or out over the Atlantic Ocean before reaching New Jersey, which gets wind and rain, but is spared most of the hurricane's harmful effects, he said.

But when September rolls into October the weather turns colder and everything changes, he said.

"It's what happens after that. We get into the late summer and early fall and there are cold

outbreaks."

High-pressure systems form over the northern Atlantic Ocean and play a steering game with hurricanes that come from the south.

"They are restricted by the high pressure," he said. "The hurricanes can turn left or right."

In 1991, the Perfect Storm turned west, he said. Hurricane Sandy also turned west and came ashore near Absecon.

"High pressure settles in the north Atlantic, and the storm was forced to turn left and toward New Jersey," he said.

The storm's mightiest portion, northeast of the eye, slammed over Burlington, Ocean and Monmouth counties.

"It brought 36 hours of water toward the mainland," Eberwine said.

Portions of the boardwalk were lost, municipalities flooded, and barrier islands were cut into two.

But Sandy wasn't the worst storm the shore could have, he said; a Category III storm would be much worse.

"Sandy was only a storm with 75-80 mph winds," he said.

People living east of Route 9 should listen for an evacuation order, which could come 48 hours before the storm's arrival, he said.

The order could come earlier if many people are vacationing at the shore. For example, if Sandy had happened in August rather than October, there would have more people to evacuate, he said.

"If you stay, what happens if you have a heart attack, if you choke or needed medication?" he

Tip

Jim Eberwine advised anyone who is forced to evacuate to bring along a 10-day supply of daily care items.

said. "Nobody can get to you. When they ask you to leave, they will supply the rest of the things you need. They want to get you out of harm's way."

Eberwine advised anyone who is forced to evacuate to bring along a 10-day supply of daily care items.

"They used to say three days," he said. "I think it's more like 10 days now. They want to get you out of harm's way."

Many things can happen, he said.

"People are dying to get back into their homes," he said. "They are as mad as heck but they have to realize that there is destroyed property along the coast. Gas lines are severed. There is no electricity, and there is cold water running through the streets."

Sometimes people have to realize that their home might not be there when they return.

"I like to think if I had the money the first thing I would buy would be a house on the beach," he said. "But the day may come when I would have to wake up and my home may not be there, or it would be heavily damaged. I would have to adapt to it."

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Secure your boat before the storm arrives

The following guidelines do not ensure a boat will escape damage, but a well-planned strategy will help reduce the chances of disaster.

Determine if you will trailer or haul your boat, secure it in a marina or move it to a previously identified hurricane mooring. Keep in mind the hazards hurricanes present: wind, tidal surge and wind-driven waves.

Check your insurance policies to know your responsibilities, as well as those of your marina or storage area. Gather insurance policies, registrations, inventories and other records. You may need them when you return to check on your boat.

When removing your boat from the water:

If you can, put your boat and trailer in a garage. Avoid exposure to wind and park away from trees.

Lash the boat to the trailer and secure the boat to a fixed object, preferably from four directions.

Remove half the air from the tires. Block the tires to prevent rolling.

Seal door openings and tape windows that may break.

Remove sails, rigging and other loose objects.

Increase the weight of your trailered outboard by filling it with about six inches of fresh water and leaving in the drain plug.

If you plan to haul your boat, be sure the marina can store and secure it quickly. Check into prearranged contracts for hauling and have an alternate plan in case the marina cannot meet the sudden demand that would be generated by an approaching hurricane.

If you are leaving your boat at the dock:

Double all lines and protect them from chaffing.

Make sure boats will not strike a roof as water level rises.

Make sure all cleats and winches are well secured to the boat.

Adjust lines to accommodate unusually high or low water.

Install fenders to protect boats from rubbing against piers, pilings and other boats.

Cut off all electrical devices, except bilge pumps, for the duration of the storm.

Remove all loose items (canvas, sails, dinghies, radios and cushions) and lash down everything you cannot remove.

Seal doors, openings and tape windows that may break.

Do not stay aboard.

If you are anchoring your boat in open water:

Select a location that offers the best protection from wind and storm surge.

Before leaving the dock remove sails, rigging and other loose items.

Lash down those items that cannot be removed.

Seal all doors and openings and tape windows that may break.

Avoid channels and tidal currents.

Leave early for your site because of danger of high winds and strong currents.

Bridges may be locked down to accommodate land traffic.

Do not tie up to other boats.

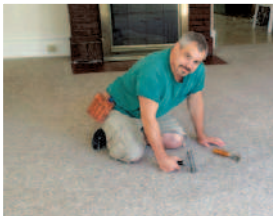
Practice runs should be made to determine accessibility, depth of water, location of bridges and to locate obstructions and objects on which to secure lines.

Make sure all cleats and winches are well secured to the boat. Cut off all electrical devices, except bilge pumps, for the duration of the storm.

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