HURRICANE SAFETY GUIDE

An Important Message From

Town Supervisor JOHN VENDITTO

The devastating effects of weather-related disasters like Hurricane/Super Storm Sandy have underscored the importance of being prepared locally for such events. It takes only one severe storm to devastate a community and the aftermath effects can last for years. We cannot afford to be complacent. That is why everyone must prepare for emergencies and take the time to plan and stay informed.

To help keep residents informed, the Town of Oyster Bay has an emergency notification system, Swift911™, enabling the Town to call thousands of residents per minute to convey vital information. These messages can be sent by telephone, e-mail, text or pager. If you have not already signed up for Swift 911, visit the Town's Web site, www.oysterbaytown.com, and follow the links to provide us with your contact information. The website also offers helpful hurricane safety tips. Additionally, you can contact the Department of Public Safety at 677-5350 and request a form to be filled out by you and returned to the Town with your contact information.

The Town's Emergency Operations Center, 677-5757, or the Department of Public Safety, 677-5350, are the agencies to call to report street flooding, downed trees in the street or a downed metal street light pole. Make sure you have the phone number of your local fire department handy for fire or medical emergencies.

There is no substitute for being prepared. This guide contains vital information to help you be ready in the event of an emergency. Please read it carefully and keep it handy for quick reference.

Sincerely,

JOHN VENDITTO
Town Supervisor

Local Emergency Phone Numbers

PSEG Long Island
(Electric emergency)
1-800-490-0075

National Grid
(Gas emergency)
1-800-490-0045

Town of Oyster Bay Emergency Operations Center
(516) 677-5757*

* Activated 24-36 hours before the potential arrival of gale force winds for residents who need further information such as evacuation warnings, emergency shelter locations and to get assistance in evacuating.

Town of Oyster Bay
Department of Public Safety
(516) 677-5350

2 WHEN TO EVACUATE

In the Town of Oyster Bay, rimmed both north and south by water, flooding can endanger lives. **If an evacuation of coastal areas is ordered, evacuate immediately.** High tides and strong winds may cause early flooding and make low-lying roads impassable. One foot of water can move 1,500 pounds. Seventy-four plus mile per hour wind can uproot large trees, rip roofs from houses and demolish homes. Learn the best evacuation route before a storm forms. Make arrangements to stay with friends or relatives inland until the storm has passed and don't forget to take your "Disaster Supply Kit."

- Tune your NOAA Weather Radio to 162.550 MHZ for up-to-the-minute National Weather Service forecasts, warnings and more, 24-hours a day. When you purchase a NOAA Weather Radio receiver, you are actually purchasing part of the National Weather Service network. The network is constantly upgrading its technology to provide the best, up-to-the-minute weather reporting services possible.
- **Tune your television to News 12 Long Island or FIOS 1.** If evacuation is ordered, it will be announced, along with evacuation routes and shelter locations.

3 WHEN THE HURRICANE HITS

- **Stay inside and keep away from windows and glass doors.** When the eye of the hurricane passes through the area, a period of calm, lasting anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours, will ensue. The length of time within the eye depends upon the size and speed of the storm. After the eye of the hurricane has passed, the high winds will resume.
- **If you are unable to evacuate and flooding appears imminent, turn off the electrical power to the house.** If you are unable to reach the circuit breaker before flooding, do not attempt to wade through the water in the house to do so. Water conducts electricity. If the water has reached an electrical outlet, it could cause serious bodily harm, if touched.
- Use your battery-operated radio for updates and emergency information. Do not venture outside until you have been advised that the hurricane has passed and it is safe to do so.

Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto speaks to residents at a previous Town sponsored Hurricane Preparedness Seminar at the Morrelly Homeland Security Center.

4 THE AFTERMATH OF A HURRICANE

- **Do not return to your home or go outside until all danger has passed.**
- **When returning to your home, look for visible structural damage before entering.** If there is a broken water, sewer or gas line, notify authorities immediately. If phones are out of order, Town workers and police will have access to communication. In most cases, cell phones will also continue to function when lines are down.
- **Loose, dangling electrical wires can pose a serious threat, as can downed wires covered by debris. Check carefully.**
- **Do not** use any electrical outlets or appliances until you are sure they are dry and free of water.
- **Do not** drink water from the faucet until officially notified that it is safe from contamination.
- Refrigerated food spoils rapidly when power is lost. Frozen foods may begin to defrost. Once defrosted, **do not re-freeze foods**.
- When returning to your community following the storm, avoid driving through streets flooded with salt water. If you must, be sure to immediately hose under the car or take it to a car wash for a chassis wash. Saltwater corrodes and destroys auto mechanisms.
- If your home has been damaged, contact your insurance agent immediately. He/she will advise you of what steps to take.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Scale Number (Category)	Sustained Winds in miles per hour	Damage	Examples & States Affected
1	74-95	Some Damage	Belle-Long Island (1976)
2	96-110	Extensive	Bob-Long Island (1991)
3	111-129	Devastation	Long Island Express (1938)
			Katrina-AL, LA & MS 2005
4	130-156	Catastrophic	Charley-So. FL (2004)
5	157+	Wide-Spread Catastrophic	Camille-LA & MS (1969)
	157+	Wide-Spread Catastrophic	Andrew-So. FL (2004)

Hurricane Gloria-Long Island (1985) Ranged Between Category 1 & 2
Hurricane Irene-Long Island (2011) Tropical Storm Upon Landfall, sustained winds of 65 mph
Hurricane Sandy-Long Island (2012) Tropical Storm Upon Landfall, sustained winds of 50-60 mph, gusts 80-90 mph

Safe Boating & Beach Precautions

- Special caution to be exercised in navigating waters as a result of seabed changes due to Sandy.
- Heed and respect National Weather Service warnings. Begin your safe anchorage trip before the storm surge arrives.
- After you have prepared your boat for the storm, leave it! DO NOT stay on boats during a hurricane.
- Remove trailerable boats from the water and store them on high ground.
- Keep safe anchor rigging on board, new or good ropes with extra length, and three or four substantial anchors.
- Heed rip tide warnings!

Visit These Websites for Storm Information

There are several weather-related web sites to help you keep track of the latest developments during the hurricane season.

New York Weather Forecast Office: www.weather.gov/okx/
NOAA National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov
FEMA-READY: www.ready.gov/make-a-plan
The Weather Channel: www.weather.com

1 PREPARE & BUILD AN EMERGENCY **KIT**

A disaster supply kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency as you may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. **Have enough food, water (one gallon per person, per day) and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours.** Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster to coordinate relief as quickly as possible. Basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for an extended period. Your supply kit should contain items to help you manage during this time.

Recommended Essential Supplies to Include in a Basic Kit

- ☐ **Water** one gallon per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- ☐ **Non-perishable Food** at least a three-day supply such as dry milk, boxed drinks, peanut butter, canned meats, tuna, beans, bread, crackers, cereal, dried fruit, **non-electric can opener**, paper plates & utensils
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand crank **radio** and a **NOAA Weather Radio** with tone alert and **extra batteries** for both
- ☐ **Flashlight** and **extra batteries**
- ☐ **First Aid Kit** including **prescription medications**, and **prescription eyeglasses** for your family
- ☐ **Whistle** to signal for help
- ☐ **Filter mask** or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- ☐ **Moist towlettes, garbage bags** and **plastic ties** for personal sanitation
- ☐ **Wrench** or **pliers** to turn off utilities
- ☐ **Plastic sheeting** and **duct tape** to shelter-in-place
- ☐ **Important Family Documents** such as copies of **insurance policies**, **identification** and **bank account records** in a waterproof, portable container
- ☐ **Items for unique family needs**, such as **infant formula** or **diapers**
- ☐ **Cell phone** and **charger**
- ☐ **Photo I.D. (drivers license), health insurance I.D. card, credit cards and extra cash**
- ☐ **Blankets, pillows, extra clothes**

Also...

- Make arrangements for temporary shelter for pets in the event of evacuation. **Pets are not permitted at hurricane evacuation centers.**
- Establish an out-of-town phone check-in number that family members can call in case of separation during the hurricane. Keep all calls as brief as possible. Text messages can sometimes get through when a phone call cannot.
- Fill clean containers with fresh water from the tap before the storm hits.
- Fill your car's gas tank. Evacuation may be necessary.
- Have battery-operated lanterns on hand. **Do not use candles.**
- Check fire extinguishers.
- Store all lawn and patio objects that could blow away.
- **Check with elderly neighbors or shut-ins.** Set up a buddy system to help them prepare for the hurricane and include them in evacuation plans.
- Hold family meeting to discuss evacuation procedures.
- **Do not tape glass windows with an X**, but do close curtains.
- Purchase flood insurance and take before and after photos of your home to document any damage.
- Consider purchasing an emergency generator for supplemental power.

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John Venditto

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Sign Up For Swift 911 Emergency Notification!

SWIFT 911 NOTIFICATION™

Add your contact information to our notification list so we can contact you with important information and announcements.

Sign up for Swift 911 by going to our Web site at **www.oysterbaytown.com** and clicking on the SWIFT911 link on the homepage. You will then be able to provide the Town with your contact information.

You may also call us at **(516) 677-5350** and request a form to be filled out by you and returned to the Town in order to add your contact information to the Town's emergency contact system.

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IT'S HURRICANE SEASON, BE READY

TOWN OF OYSTER BAY 1653 NEW YORK

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