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2015

Gloucester County Severe Storm Newsletter

A Publication of the Gloucester County Board of Freeholders

A Message from the Gloucester County Freeholders



As life continues to get back to normal after the June 23rd, 2015 storm that caused more than \$15 million in damages in our region, took down trees, knocked out power and wreaked havoc to our county for more than a week, we want to make sure that you have all the information on storm safety, how to stay informed and where to go for help in the event of power outages or other emergencies.

We also want to thank all of the police, fire, EMS, public works departments, dispatchers, hospital workers, Red Cross volunteers, mayors, NJ State Forestry Services and everyone else who pulled together from across Gloucester County for coming to the aid of their neighbors during this past storm event.

Towns helped out other towns and private industries helped by stepping

in for the county to use them as staging areas for public works and debris collection. The County Office of Emergency Response, Public Works crews and members of so many departments rallied so that our residents could try and gain a sense of normalcy during a very abnormal experience. So many people worked tirelessly for days to help get our lives back on track – TEAMWORK was alive and well here and all efforts were appreciated.

So herein, you should find ways to stay connected to find out about upcoming weather events and other emergencies so you have the information you need when you need it.

Thanks for staying Storm Strong Gloucester County!



Robert M. Damming
Freeholder Director



Giuseppe 'Joe' Chila
Freeholder Deputy Director

Stay Connected

Subscribe to get FREE alert warnings from Gloucester County via email and text. All you have to do is visit www.gloucesteralert.com



Gloucester County uses Gloucester Alert to immediately contact you during a major crisis or emergency. Gloucester Alert delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on all your devices:

- e-mail account (work, home, other)
- cell phone
- text pager
- or PDA

When an incident or emergency occurs, authorized senders will instantly notify you using Gloucester Alert. This alert system is your personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact and other important information.



Join the Gloucester County Emergency Management Page on Facebook.com. It will keep you in the know about emergency conditions, information and where assistance can be found.

Definition: A Severe Weather Watch vs. A Warning

Do you know the difference between a severe thunderstorm watch and a severe thunderstorm warning?

A severe thunderstorm watch means that the potential exists for the development of thunderstorms that may produce large hail or damaging winds. When a watch is issued, you should go about your normal activities, but keep an eye to the sky and an ear to the National Weather Service's weather radio or local radio and television stations for further updates and possible warnings.

A severe thunderstorm warning, on the other hand, means that a severe thunderstorm is occurring or is imminent based on Doppler radar information. You should move indoors to a place of safety. Schools should think about delaying departure of buses, and should take quick action to delay outdoor sports activities, etc.

The term severe refers to hail that is dime size, 0.75 inches in diameter or larger, and/or wind gusts to 58 mph or more. Although lightning can be deadly it is not a criterion for what the National Weather Service defines as severe since any ordinary thunderstorm can produce a lot of lightning. Also, excessive rainfall may lead to flash flooding, but heavy rain is not a criterion for the term severe. Severe strictly refers to hail at

least 3/4 of an inch in diameter or wind gusts of at least 58 mph.

If hail golf ball size or larger is falling, it indicates that a storm is very well organized and likely has a rotating up-draft. Any storm producing giant hail should be watched closely for signs of a possible tornado.

A tornado watch, like a severe thunderstorm watch, means that conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms to form, but it also means that a few storms may be capable of producing a tornado.

A tornado warning is the ultimate in severe warnings; it means that a tornado is either occurring or imminent based on radar. You should take cover immediately.

Breakneck Road, Mantua Twp., June 24th, 2105



Prepare a Disaster Supply Kit

Important and useful Emergency Preparedness information for individuals and families (and their Pets). A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- 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
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger



Once you have gathered the supplies for a basic emergency kit, you may want to consider adding the following items:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks and change; extra set of car keys
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container.
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted, nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Damage to Homes and Personal Property: What are the options available to homeowners following an emergency or disaster?

In most instances, homeowners must turn to their applicable insurance policies in order to financially address the damages incurred as a result of a disaster.

It is only under circumstances where the destruction caused by a natural or human caused incident are so severe and/or widespread that the federal government will make available individual assistance to families and homeowners.

This type assistance typically comes in the form of Housing Assistance (including Temporary Housing, Repair, Replacement, and Semi-Permanent or Permanent Housing Construction) and Other Needs Assistance (including personal property and other items).

Note: This type of federal assistance was not authorized by FEMA for the Severe Summer Storm that impacted our County on June 23rd, 2015.



Towns helping towns:

Logan Township Public Works helping clear out Wenonah.



July 3, 2015

To: Chad Bruner, County Administrator
From: Mayor John R. Dominy, Borough of Wenonah

Dear Chad,

I am writing this letter to thank you and the County for your invaluable assistance this past week.

Your willingness to provide County equipment and man power on such short notice to assist with Wenonah's overwhelming storm damage was beyond all expectations.

I, along with Wenonah's residents, would like to express our wholehearted appreciation for all that you have done in our behalf.

Very truly yours,
John R. Dominy, Mayor
Borough of Wenonah

Letter of Appreciation from Mayor Dominy

Emergency Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities



Gloucester County is committed to insuring access, integration and inclusion of all individuals in the emergency management process - mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The Division of Disability cooperates with the Office of Emergency Management and other County Departments in "Whole-Community Planning".

Whole Community Planning embraces all human service providers to ensure that everyone can access mass care shelters, understand emergency information, evacuate safely and receive recovery information.

The Division of Disability is a resource agency for our community members with disabilities who may need extra support during an emergency. Individuals in need of additional assistance may include: those who have cognitive disabilities; who have physical disabilities, who have transportation disadvantages, who are blind, visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing; who may lose support of attendants and caregivers; who have a mental illness and those who do not have adequate support from family, friends or caregivers.

Register Ready

The State of New Jersey has developed a statewide registry known as "Register Ready"; it is voluntary and free of charge to all State residents. The Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management works collaboratively with the State to assist you. The Registry is designed to assist emergency responders in locating those residents that may need assistance in evacuating in an emergency and who lack adequate assistance from families and caregivers. 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 disability, communication barrier, or lack of transportation.

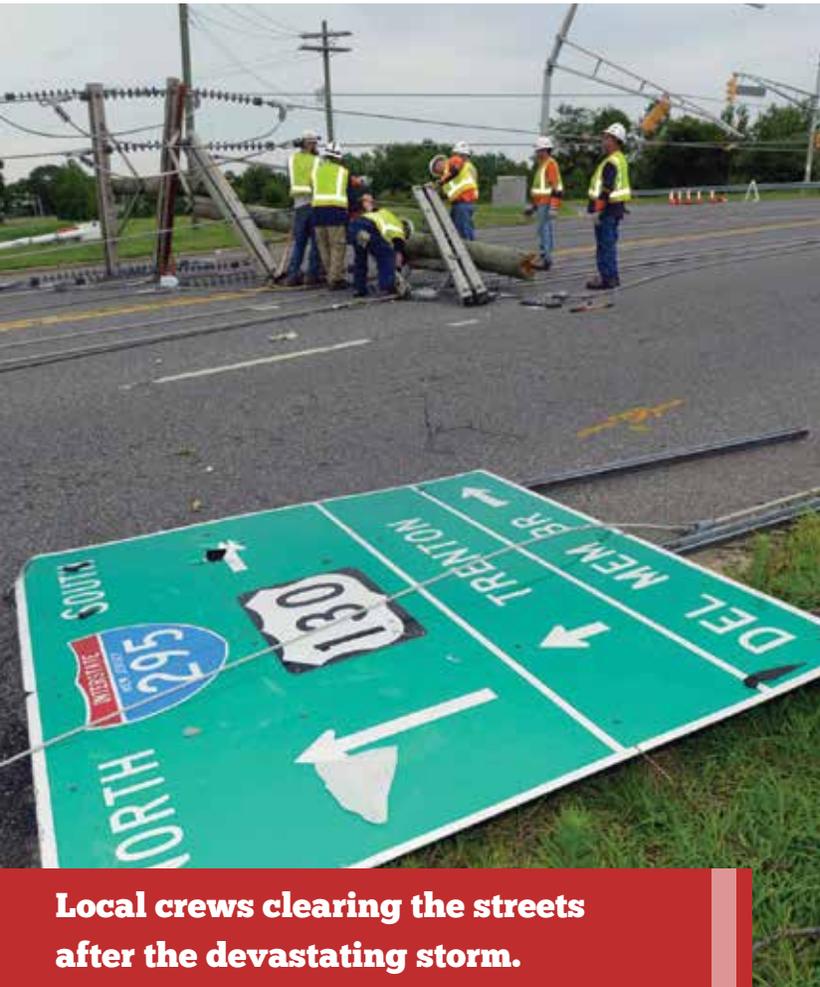
Remember, your priority should be to relocate with a family member or friend first.



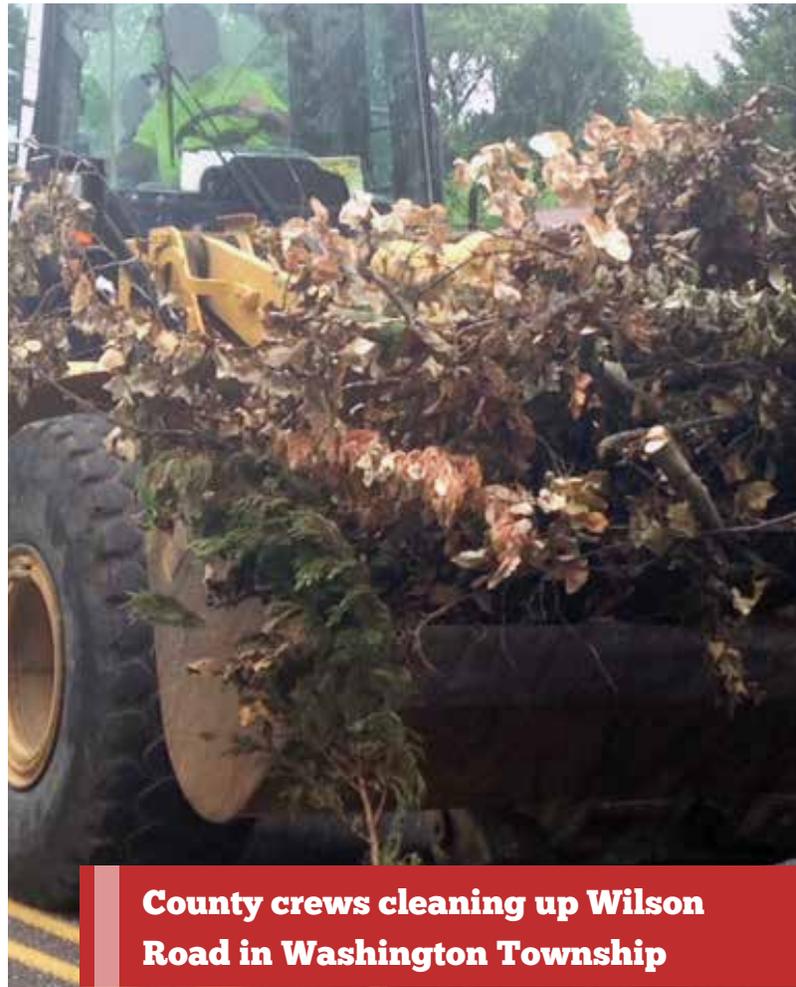
How to Register

There are several ways to complete the Register Ready Form:

- Call Toll Free 211 to register by telephone; TTY/TTD translation services are available
- Or visit www.gloucestercountynj.gov and click on the link for Disability Services or call the Division of Disability Services at (856) 384-6842.



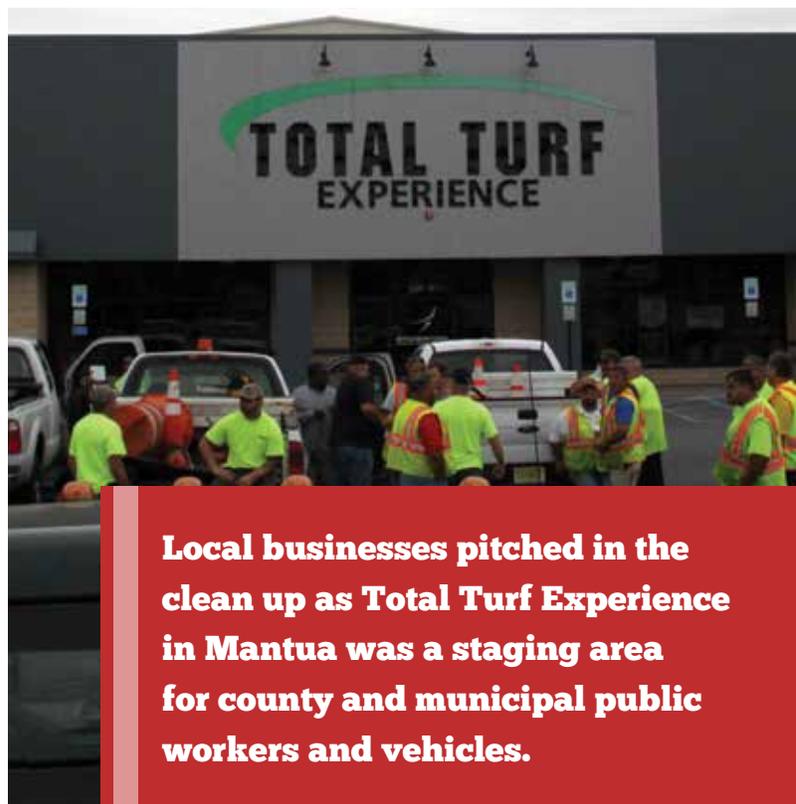
Local crews clearing the streets after the devastating storm.



County crews cleaning up Wilson Road in Washington Township



Westville Public Works lends a hand to help to clear debris.



Local businesses pitched in the clean up as Total Turf Experience in Mantua was a staging area for county and municipal public workers and vehicles.

MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT



Rodney J. Sawyer
Chief of Police
David Mastrogiacomo
Captain

405 Main Street
Mantua, New Jersey 08051
mantuapd@mantuatownship.com
(856) 468-1920
Fax (856) 464-0237



Jeffrey Ferry
Lieutenant
Darren White
Lieutenant

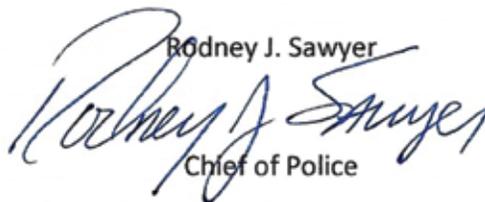
To: Freeholder Director Robert Damminger & the Gloucester County board of chosen freeholders
Re: Assistance with storm clean up in Mantua Township
Date: July 22, 2015

Director Damminger,

I would personally like to thank you, the Freeholders, County Administrator Chad Bruner, County Engineer Vince Voltaggio, and the Gloucester County Highway Department and all of its members for your assistance with the massive cleanup due to the June 23rd storm which crippled much of the county. Having worked alongside these crews as they initially cleared debris from roadways to restore travel through the Township, I know the stress and strain they encountered with angry residents, impatient motorists, downed power lines, the weather and for the first week of this cleanup, they had no power themselves. Most workers involved in this cleanup effort spent their time working to restore the quality of life for residents of Mantua Township and throughout Gloucester County before they themselves could begin to deal with their own.

Watching as these crews restored Breakneck and Heritage roads, Mantua and Center Streets and Mantua Blvd from disaster areas to almost pre-storm condition within days was not only impressive, but completely unexpected. In witnessing the devastation, I expected this cleanup to be a several month process, but with Gloucester County's assistance it was knocked out in several days. While some residents did not fully realize the magnitude of the situation we were facing and in some instances took their frustrations out on your work crews. I know the few weeks of inconvenience was much better than the few months we were facing without your help.

This storm was a defining moment for County and Municipal leadership and workers from day one. With coordination, cooperation, and teamwork, we all stepped up and got it done! Thank you for all that you and your employees have done to get Mantua Township and Gloucester County back on their feet.

Rodney J. Sawyer

Chief of Police

CC: jb, cb, ps, vv

Pets and Disaster Safety

Our pets enrich our lives in more ways than we can count. They are members of the family. In turn, they depend on us for their safety and wellbeing. The best way to ensure the safety of your entire family is to be prepared with a disaster plan. If you are a pet owner, that plan includes your pets. Being prepared can help save lives. If it is not safe for you to stay, it is not safe for them either.

- Know which hotels and motels along your evacuation route will accept you and your pets in an emergency. Call ahead for reservations if you know you may need to evacuate. Ask if no pet policies could be waived in an emergency
- Most American Red Cross shelters cannot accept pets because of health and safety concerns and other considerations. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are allowed in Red Cross shelters
- Know which friends, relatives, boarding facilities, animal shelters or veterinarians can care for your animals in an emergency. Prepare a list with phone numbers
- Although your animals may be more comfortable together, be prepared to house them separately
- Include your pets in evacuation drills so that they become used to entering and traveling in their carriers calmly
- Make sure that your pet's vaccinations are current and that all dogs and cats are wearing collars with securely fastened, up-to-date identification
- Many pet shelters require proof of current vaccinations to reduce the spread of disease.
- Consider having your pet "micro-chipped" by your veterinarian

Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers so that they can be carried easily.

Your kit should include:

- Sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that they can't escape
- Food, drinking water, bowls, cat litter/pan and a manual can opener
- Medications and copies of medical records stored in a waterproof container
- A first aid kit
- Current photos of you with your pet(s) in case they get lost. Since many pets look alike, this will help to eliminate mistaken identity and confusion
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable



Know What to Do as The Disaster Approaches!

- Often, warnings are issued hours, even days, in advance. At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pet.
- Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets.
- Ensure that all pets are wearing collars with securely fastened, up-to-date identification.
- Check that your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice.
- Bring pets inside so you won't have to search for them if you need to leave quickly.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Robert M. Damminger, Director	853-3395
Giuseppe (Joe) Chila, Deputy Director	853-3382
Lyman Barnes	853-3380
Daniel Christy	853-3383
Frank J. DiMarco	853-3386
Jim Jefferson	853-3384
Heather Simmons	853-3378

ROW OFFICERS

Sheriff Carmel M. Morina	384-4600
Clerk James N. Hogan	853-3237
Surrogate Helene M. Reed	853-3282
Prosecutor Sean Dalton	384-5500

Useful/Helpful Phone Numbers and Websites:

Gloucester County Emergency Response Center

1200 North Delsea Drive, Clayton, NJ 08312

(856) 307-7100 or www.gloucestercountynj.gov

Like us on Facebook for the latest information about conditions in our county

Searching for a Lost Pet

Gloucester County Animal Shelter (same address as above)

(856) 881-2828

South Jersey Chapter of the American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/nj/sewell>

PSEG

www.pseg.com or 1-800-436-7734

Atlantic City Electric

www.atlanticcityelectric.com or 1-800-833-7476 to report outages and downed wires

Gloucester County Division of Consumer Affairs

254 County House Road, Clarksboro, New Jersey 08020

(856) 384-6855 or www.gloucestercountynj.gov

Know the phone numbers for your homeowners and auto insurance companies.

**Hurricane Season
is from June 1st
through Nov 30th
New Jersey's tropical
storm activity is typically
between August and
late October.**

- Stay Informed
- Make a Plan
- Build a Kit
- If you are told to evacuate - Go!

For more information visit www.gloucestercountynj.gov and click on Hurricane Survival Guide