

Communications Before and After a Storm

One of the most crucial things that everyone must remember in the event of an imminent, pending or occurring emergency situation is to stay informed. Identify how local authorities will communicate with you in an emergency and how you will get the information.

As a resident of Millstone, where can you go for information?

- ❖ Visit the township website – www.millstone.nj.us
- ❖ Want to be more proactive than the occasional visit to the site? Sign up for the township email communications on your first visit and you will be notified every time the site is updated.
- ❖ Call the Office of Emergency Management: **732-446-2375**
- ❖ The internet not really your thing? The following locations will have manually posted information as well: Millstone Community Center @ 463 Stagecoach Road, Country Corner Stores @ Millstone & Perrineville Roads, Millstone Middle School (electronic bulletin board) @ 5 Dawson Court. This is dependent on conditions and staffing.
- ❖ Watch the Millstone Public Access channel 77 or listen to NJ-based radio stations
- ❖ Download the American Red Cross Hurricane App - The app is free and available for both iPhones and Android phones. The App gives people local and real time information for hurricane threats where they are located-whether it's the community where they live or the places they love to vacation. It gives instant access to information on what to do before, during and after hurricanes with preparedness information developed by trusted Red Cross experts.

What is the best way to communicate your situation during an emergency?

- ❖ Home phone is the best way – conditions permitting
- ❖ Internet/Social Media sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc)
- ❖ Cell Phone – however, expect dropped calls & busy lines due to high volume
- ❖ Two-way radios as supplemental means of communication in addition to cell phones. Purchase a Family Radio Service (FRS) for short-distance two-way radio communications. These are also good for use at family outings – like trips to theme parks or hikes in the park.

- ❖ Users of the Red Cross Hurricane App can also tap the “I’m Safe” button to post a message to their social accounts, letting friends and loved ones know they are out of harm’s way.

How should you and your family prepare?

There is no better means of getting through an emergency situation than to take the time now to get prepared. Both natural and human-caused disasters can strike at a moment’s notice – anytime and anywhere.

- ❖ Make a kit – keep supplies in an easy-to-carry preparedness kit that you can use both at home or if you need to evacuate.
- ❖ Make a plan – and practice it. Meet with your family members and discuss how you will prepare and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, work or go to school. Identify responsibilities for each person during the event of an emergency so everyone knows their role and you can all work together calmly as a team. Plan what to do if you are separated during an emergency and choose two places to meet – somewhere right outside your home and another place outside of your neighborhood in case you are unable to return home.

Remember – an emergency affecting you is also affecting everyone around you as well. Storms and other large disasters are typically not isolated incidents. Be sure to stay calm and have patience with not only those you hold dear, but with your township and state authorities and our emergency services personnel. It is everyone’s top priority to get each and every person affected in the event of an emergency to safety first and then to return to normal as soon as possible.