

# TOWN OF DOVER

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*William E. Close, Jr., Administrator*

*James P. Dodd, Mayor*

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR**

The Town of Dover, including the Office of Emergency Management, Police Department, Fire Department and Department of Public Works have begun to prepare for the eventual arrival of Hurricane Irene which is currently projected to hit the New Jersey area sometime this Sunday, August 28, 2011. Experts are predicting this hurricane as one of the most significant weather events to hit the east coast of the United States in decades. They are recommending that people begin taking action immediately to prepare for significant damage caused by high wind and flooding rain. The storm has the potential to bring significant rainfall totals. Current projections are for 6-12 inches of rain. This is on top of already saturated conditions as a result of an extremely wet month of August. Rainfall of this magnitude could possibly cause major to record flooding. On top of hurricane preparations, anyone living in a flood prone area is encouraged to take necessary steps to protect your homes and property. In addition, anyone in a low lying area needs to be aware of the potential for flash flooding.

The Town encourages residents to begin taking steps immediately to prepare for a significant weather event. Flooding has the potential to have aggravated effects if residents lose power for a length of time and/or have to leave their homes. The loss of power may prevent residents from operating pumps and other electrical items in their home. As we await the probable arrival of Hurricane Irene to this area, there are several steps that should be taken to help with the potential impact the storm may bring. Attached are sites with information that may be helpful to you in preparing for this event including [www.hurricane.com](http://www.hurricane.com). However, I would suggest that residents consider having the following items at a minimum:

1. Battery operated flashlights
  2. Battery operated radio
  3. Extra batteries
  4. Fresh drinking water (water bottles)
  5. Cell phones charged
  6. A "Go Bag" prepared with necessary items (clean clothes, medicine, water, etc) in the event you have to quickly leave your residence.
  7. Vehicle filled with gasoline
  8. If you have a generator or pump, make sure it is in working order.
- Additionally, residents should begin taking in outdoor furniture, umbrellas and any other items that may be damaged by the storm.
9. Make provisions so you will not have to walk your pets during the storm.
  10. Gas powered stoves and generators produce the deadly gas Carbon Monoxide, and must be used only in a well ventilated area.
  11. Fill your refrigerator with water, and your freezer with ice. This will help keep food longer during a blackout.

The Dover Police Department and Office of Emergency Management will closely monitor this situation and update residents as necessary.

We will also utilize the Reverse 9-1-1 telephone system for emergencies if necessary; however, that system may become overloaded if the entire county suffers damages. There is no need to subscribe to Reverse 9-1-1 as your home telephone number is automatically added to the data base. The Reverse 9-1-1 system does not utilize any cell phone data base and therefore will not make notification to residents on cell phone numbers.

Residents may also want to click on the following link to the State of New Jersey's Office of Emergency Management website for additional information on emergency preparedness. The website address is: <http://www.state.nj.us/njoem/plan/kit-plan.html> . Upon review of this information on *hurricane preparations*, I encourage you to forward it to anyone in town or in the area of the projected storm that should be taking steps to prepare for it as best they can. I cannot stress enough the importance of being prepared for this storm.

We will be meeting tomorrow to coordinate with State and County officials on preparations for the pending storm. Should the need for a shelter arise from the potentially damaging winds or flooding conditions that occur, we have a plan in place for evacuation of any residents who need to be temporarily relocated. The shelter would be opened at the Dover High School should conditions dictate.

In the event of an emergency during the storm, residents should call 9-1-1. For all other inquiries or to report property damage, please contact 973-366-2200 x.112.

I have met with our staff and we are making the necessary preparations for this event and to respond to the needs of the community as best we can. Please assist our employees and volunteers in their efforts to help you during this time.

Respectfully,

Mayor James P. Dodd