FLOODING (CONT.)

- All clothing, curtains, and bedding should be washed with hot, soapy water then bleached, if possible. Furniture and floors may also be disinfected.

- Flood insurance can be valuable. You should be aware that your homeowner’s policy probably does not cover damage from flooding. Check into availability of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program by contacting your local insurance agent.

PREPARE FOR FLOODING

- Know your flood risk. Do your local streams or rivers flood easily? Know your evacuation routes and shelter areas.
- Store drinking water in various containers.
- Keep a stock of food that requires no cooking and no refrigeration. Keep enough supplies for at least three days.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit for possible evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers, such as backpacks. Supplies should include first aid supplies and flashlights.
- Have a battery-powered portable radio on hand and listen for weather updates and instructions.
- Keep important family documents in a waterproof container.
- Install check valves in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid. Know how to use a fire extinguisher and to turn off water, gas, and electricity in your home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ....

- **GREENWICH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**
  Environmental Services
  (203) 622-7838
  M-F 8am–4pm  Counter hours: 8am–1pm

- **NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**
  http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov

- **FEMA**
  http://www.community.fema.gov/hazard/flood/be-smart

- **AMERICAN RED CROSS—GREENWICH CHAPTER**
  (203) 869-8444

- **GREENWICH DEPT. OF PARKS AND RECREATION**
  Tree Division
  (203) 622-7824

Greenwich Emergency Disaster Phone Number:
866-245-4260
this number is in service ONLY during emergencies

To report an Emergency: Dial 911
Report all downed power lines, gas leaks and fires

High Winds and Local Flooding

TOWN OF GREENWICH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

101 Field Point Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
Phone: 203-622-6488
www.greenwichct.org

Rev. 05/16
The hurricane season officially starts in June and ends in November each year. Often New England feels the effects of these hurricanes sometimes resulting in a Nor'easter. Heavy sustained rain fall along with wind-driven waves may batter the coast line, causing local flooding and severe beach erosion.

During each hurricane season residents should prepare for possible local flooding, power outages and relocation if needed.

**Facts About Nor'Easters and Flooding**

- Keep candles, flashlights, a battery-powered radio and back-up batteries handy. Take caution when using candles, especially around young children and pets. Teach your children of the danger of candles and to use them only when absolutely necessary.
- Conserve water. Private well water users should anticipate problems, so a bathtub or other large containers should be filled with water. Those on public water may also be affected. Bottled water should be on hand.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Food will remain fresh for up to 4 hours after the power goes off. In anticipation of a power failure, turn your refrigerator/freezer controls to the coldest setting to build up a cool reserve. Freeze water in plastic bottles in case they are needed.
- Perishable foods such as eggs, milk, fish, meat and poultry should be maintained at 45°F or below. Foods should be cooked or discarded after three hours of not being maintained at proper temperatures. All stuffed meats and poultry should be discarded. Thawed foods may be cooked if maintained at 45°F or below, otherwise they should be discarded. It is not recommended to re-freeze food once it has thawed.
- House thermostats should be turned down and appliances unplugged. This will prevent any damage. Power is restored more easily when the system is not overloaded.
- Home generators are handy for backup electricity, but they can be dangerous. To operate a generator safely, follow manufacturer’s instructions and NEVER hook them up directly to your home’s main line. Never let equipment or electrical cords sit in pooled water.
- Stay indoors during a storm and be careful walking around once the storm has passed.
- Stay off local roads to avoid any dangers. This measure will help emergency crews access the areas of concern.

**In Case of Power Outages**

**In Case of Flooding**

Flood water is assumed to be contaminated. These waters may carry waste material from contaminated sources. Items that they touch should be disinfected, if possible, or discarded. All food items exposed to flood waters must be discarded.

- If your home is flooding, turn off the furnace and the gas valve at the appliance, water and electricity. Do not handle energized electrical equipment in wet areas. If the meter goes under water, shut off the gas valves and all appliances. Be sure to have the electrical system thoroughly checked and repaired before use. Additional information can be obtained by calling Connecticut Natural Gas at 869-6900 or CL&P at 800-286-2000.
- Never try to cross a flooded area. The water may be unsanitary, deep and be near a downed power line.
- If you are in a car, avoid driving through floodwaters. Fast water could sweep your car away. Leave your car only if it safe to do so.
- Private wells used for water must be disinfected before use. On site septic systems used for waste disposal will operate normally when waters have receded. A well water drilling company can assist with well disinfection. Always drink bottled water if your well is flooded.
- Wait until flood waters are below basement level before trying to drain or pump the basement.
- Never allow children to play in flood waters. Clean all toys and equipment with a disinfectant, if possible, or discard them.