



Dear Friend,
Recent years have taught us that while we live in a wonderful state and nation, we are not immune to disaster, whether man-made or natural.

The fact is, Mother Nature can be unpredictable. Disasters often strike without warning, forcing families to evacuate their neighborhood or be confined to their home. And while we cannot prevent disasters from happening, we can take steps to protect our families.

It is important, however, to take action now and not wait until disaster is imminent.

Disaster preparedness may seem long and involved, but the peace of mind that comes from being prepared is, in reality, the result of a few simple tasks, and well worth the effort. This brochure provides details on what you can do to be prepared in the event of a disaster, as well as contact information for disaster-related relief organizations.

As you take the necessary precautions to keep your family safe, be assured my colleagues in the State Senate and I will work to ensure that our State remains prepared for potential future disasters. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Senator Roxanne J. Persaud
19th Senate District

For more Information

contact:

The American Red Cross
1-800-RED-CROSS
www.redcross.org

New York State Division of Homeland
Security and Emergency Services
Emergency Management Individual
Assistance
(518) 292-2326
www.dhSES.ny.gov/eom

New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
(518) 402-8013
www.dec.ny.gov

National Flood Insurance Program
1-800-638-6620
www.fema.gov/business/nfip/
or contact me:

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1222 East 96th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11236
Tel: (718) 649-7653

ALBANY OFFICE:
504 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247
Tel: (518) 455-2788

persaud@nySenate.gov
persaud.nySenate.gov

**If you see a disaster and
are near a phone, call 911.
Never think that authorities
have already been alerted.**

Be sure to provide the following information:

- ▶ Your name, and the phone number from where you are calling
- ▶ What happened
- ▶ Your exact location, including nearby intersections, landmarks, the building name and/or apartment number
- ▶ How many people are injured and their conditions
- ▶ What help, if any, is already being administered.
- ▶ Do not hang up on the dispatcher until you are told to do so. If the dispatcher says authorities have already been alerted, hang up immediately to allow other emergency calls to get through.

Additional Flood Relief Measures

- ▶ On October 29, 2012, thousands of New York residents and businesses were affected by Hurricane Sandy's devastation.
- ▶ In response, the New York State Senate created a Bipartisan Task Force on Hurricane Sandy Recovery, the purpose was to outline recommendations on storm relief, aid recovery efforts and assist in future disaster planning.
- ▶ Congress allocated over \$50 billion to fund recovery efforts for Hurricane Sandy, the second costliest storm in U. S. history.

Protecting your Family

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
ROXANNE J. PERSAUD
19TH SENATE DISTRICT

PERSAUD.NYSENATE.GOV
PERSAUD@NYSENATE.GOV

GENERAL PROVISIONS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

In general, prepare a disaster supply kit that would keep your family self-sufficient for at least three days. Provisions may include:

- ▶ a three day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and non-perishable food; rotate your food supplies every six months and change water every three months;
- ▶ a first aid kit containing your families prescription medications;
- ▶ one change of clothing and footwear per person;
- ▶ battery-operated radio, flashlight and extra batteries;
- ▶ an extra set of car keys; a credit card, cash or travelers checks;
- ▶ toilet paper and other personal hygiene items;
- ▶ special items for babies, the elderly or disabled; and
- ▶ an extra pair of glasses.

Discuss a family escape plan should it become necessary to leave your home during a disaster, and practice your escape plan periodically. In addition, be aware of disaster plans at your children's school and your workplace. Families

should establish a meeting place outside the neighborhood, too, in the event that a family member can't return home.

It is also wise to designate an out-of-state friend as a contact person and direct family members to check in with him or her if your family is separated during a disaster, when it may be easier to call long-distance.

Be able to locate and turn off water, gas and electricity mains and valves in your home if instructed to do so. During an emergency, stay tuned to local radio or television stations to receive instructions. Keep important family documents in a waterproof container; and prepare a smaller kit for the trunk of your car.

Make plans for the care of your pet(s). Animals are not allowed in most evacuation shelters. Ask your veterinarian to recommend how to best provide for your pet.

If you are a member of a neighborhood organization, include disaster preparedness as a new activity. For instance, know which neighbors have special skills and consider ones that have special needs, including the elderly and those who are disabled. Neighbors should also plan for child care in the event some parents can't get home.

When there is a tornado watch or warning

Try to get to a storm shelter if one is available. If not, follow the tips listed below.

If outdoors...

- ▶ If possible, get inside a building.
- ▶ If shelter is not available, or there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area, or crouch near a strong building.
- ▶ Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- ▶ Use arms to protect head and neck.

If in a car...

- ▶ Never try to outdrive a tornado in a car or truck. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and can lift up a car or truck and toss it through the air.
- ▶ Get out of the car immediately and take shelter in a nearby building.
- ▶ If there is no time to get indoors, get out of the car and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle.
- ▶ Be aware of the potential for flooding.

If in your home...

- ▶ Go to the basement; if possible, hide under the stairs, a table, or an old mattress.
- ▶ If you do not have access to a basement, use a small, windowless room on the first floor, such as a closet or bathroom.
- ▶ If none of these options are available, try to put as many walls as you can between you and the tornado.

In a severe snow or ice storm

Stay indoors, avoid unnecessary travel, and stay tuned to local radio or television stations to receive weather updates. If you must go outside, wear several layers of lightweight clothing rather than a single heavy coat. Wearing gloves and a hat, and covering your mouth, protects you from extreme conditions.

During a thunderstorm

Seek shelter in a building or vehicle. Avoid using a landline telephone, and turn off and unplug electrical appliances. Avoid taking a bath or shower or washing dishes—wires and water are conductors of electricity. If you are caught outdoors during an electrical storm, keep away from trees and hills. Make yourself the smallest target possible by squatting low to the ground, placing your hands on your knees with your head between them.

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If a flood threatens your area

Listen to local radio and TV stations for updates and possible evacuation plans. Move furniture and valuables to higher levels in your home. Move to higher ground, away from streams, storm drains and rivers. Do not attempt to drive through areas of deep water. If your car stalls in rapidly rising water, abandon immediately.

Safety in the Workplace

It may be a fire, a blackout, or a storm. Or a co-worker may fall seriously ill. If you work eight hours a day, you spend 40 hours a week at work, which means there is ample opportunity for any such instance to occur. Preparing for emergencies can save a co-worker's life.

The American Red Cross offers courses in first aid, CPR, use of automated external defibrillation machines and injury control. For more information, contact your local Red Cross chapter, or visit www.redcross.org.

APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE FROM FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can help those who have been affected by disasters. The Individuals and Households Program (IHP) provides money and services to people in the disaster area when losses are not covered by insurance, and property has been damaged or destroyed.

The IHP provides money for temporary housing, repair, replacement of destroyed houses, permanent housing construction and other needs including medical, dental, moving, storage and transportation expenses.

If you reside in a home that is in a Presidentially-declared disaster area, you may apply by phone to FEMA for assistance. Call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) (hearing and speech impaired individuals should call 1-800-462-7585). For more information, please visit: www.fema.gov.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR SPECIFIC DISASTERS

Before a hurricane strikes

Secure outside objects or bring loose objects inside; trim trees and bushes; check roofs and house structures; secure your boat; shutter, board or tape windows; make sure your car is fueled so that you could evacuate if necessary.