

## **Message from the Watchung Borough Office of Emergency Management:**

The Office of Emergency Management wants you to know that all of our Emergency Service Teams: Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, CERT team are preparing for the onset of storm Joaquin.

In light of recent weather forecasts, the Office of Emergency Management would like to urge you to make preparations for the upcoming storm. **The Borough mailed out an Office of Emergency Management letter this year which included a two sided magnet that lists important contact information, emergency checklists and safety tips in the event of a storm or disaster. If you did not receive a magnet, please visit Borough Hall to obtain one.**

The Borough suggests some of the following tips that may be useful when planning, however for a more comprehensive list please see the two sided magnet:

### **Stay Connected:**

Compile a list of emergency phone numbers, including your utility company's phone numbers.

Sign up to be registered for the police department emergency notifications and resident e-mails on the Borough's website at [www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov). The Borough's primary and most effective means of mass communication are our Resident Emails and Text Alert System. Visit our website at [www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov) and click on the Borough e-news Updates by Email button.

Create accounts/register and sign up for alerts with your utility companies (PSEG, JCP&L, NJ American Water). Don't forget to follow them on social media for updates.

### **Formulate a plan:**

Discuss storm safety with your family.

Ensure that your household has plans to receive emergency alerts and warnings.

Dedicate a safe location and have an evacuation plan.

Determine what method of communication your family will use if you are separated or if your phone line is not in service.

Register at the American Red Cross Safe & Well website so family members can locate you if you evacuate.

Keep in mind some shelters may not allow pets, so prepare for your pets and livestock in advance.

### **Make an Emergency Kit**

Keep one gallon of water per person, per day for at least three days.

Maintain at least a three day supply of non-perishable foods and a manual can opener.

Ensure you have a battery-powered radio and fresh batteries.

Keep flashlights and extra batteries on hand.

Ensure all of your prescriptions are filled and that you have a first aid kit.

Consider purchasing a portable gas generator.

Make a kit for your pet that includes food, cage, water bowl, water and any medications they may need.

**PLEASE SEE THE EMERGENCY MAGNET FOR ADDITIONAL TIPS AND INFORMATION. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN EMERGENCY MAGNET, PLEASE VISIT BOROUGH HALL TO OBTAIN ONE!**



## Borough of Watchung

15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069

TELEPHONE: (908) 756-0080 FAX: (908) 757-7027 [WWW.WATCHUNGNJ.GOV](http://WWW.WATCHUNGNJ.GOV)

This magnet is intended to assist you in preparing for an emergency and as a resource tool during an event. PLACE THIS MAGNET SOMEWHERE VISIBLE, such as your refrigerator, so you can access it when needed.

Visit the Borough's website for more emergency preparedness information.

SIGN UP NOW TO BE REGISTERED FOR POLICE DEPT. EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND RESIDENT E-MAILS ON THE BOROUGH'S WEBSITE AT [WWW.WATCHUNGNJ.GOV](http://WWW.WATCHUNGNJ.GOV).

The Borough's primary and most effective means of mass communication are our Resident E-mails and text alert system. Visit our website at [www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov) and click on the Borough e-news Updates by Email button. Notifications and alerts on many subjects, not just emergencies, can be sent via email or text and are available on Facebook & Twitter.

### Important Contact Information

- Emergency: Dial 911
- Police non-emergency: 908-756-3663
- JCPL: 800-662-3115
- PSEG: 800-436-7734
- NJ American Water: 800-272-1325
- Comcast: 800-934-6489
- Verizon/FIOS: 800-837-4966
- NJ BOARD of Public Utilities complaints : 800-624-0241
- FEMA Assistance: 800-621-3362
- Red Cross: 877-272-7337
- Board of Health: 732-968-5151  
908-756-0080 Ext. 211
- Optimum: 973-230-6046

### How to get Information

In case of a town wide emergency, please contact us. Do not wait for information to come to you. The Borough does not have the resources to go "door-to-door" with information.

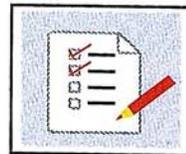
- Resident E-MAIL. Sign up now!
- Somerset County Alerts. Sign up at [www.co.somerset.nj.us](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us) to receive info regarding County roads, recycling and other County updates.
- Watchung Website- check our website leading up to, during and after an event. Information is posted on emergency preparedness and active event information.
- Optimum Ch. 15.
- Watchung Radio Station 1610AM.
- Call, email or come to the Borough Hall or Police Headquarters.
- Sign up for Police Dept. Notifications and Borough E-News at [www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov).
- Talk to your neighbors.



### In Case of Emergency

Plan ahead and have needed items on hand before the storm arrives. A typical emergency checklist should include having the following items ready:

- Extra cash on hand.  
(no power=no debit machines or banks)
- Extra blankets and warm clothes.
- Non-perishable food.
- Manual can opener.
- Battery Powered radio.
- Plenty of potable water.
- Ample supply of prescription medications.
- First aid kit.
- Battery operated lights.
- Chemical light sticks.
- Fresh batteries with an extra supply.
- Important family documents in water tight bag (home owns insurance info, car insurance, birth certificates, etc.)
- Tools (wrench, pliers, etc.).
- Fuel in your vehicles.
- A paper list of important phone numbers.
- Extra pet supplies.
- Have a backup sump pump and a backup battery power supply.



Please turn magnet over for additional information.

### Generator Safety

- Carefully read the manual for operating instructions.
- Never use your generator in an enclosed area such as your garage. The engine gives off carbon monoxide which is lethal to humans. Generators must be outside your home. Secure it with a lock and chain.
- Generators should be located at least 10 feet from your house.
- Do not fill your generator with gasoline while it is running. ALWAYS TURN THE MOTOR OFF BEFORE FILLING. The heat/spark from the engine can ignite the gas.
- Store your gasoline in a well-ventilated area and only in approved containers.
- If you "hardwire" your generator into your house, make sure this is done by a licensed electrician. Otherwise you run the risk of starting a house fire.



### Downed Poles and Wires

- All wires should be treated as if they were "live" with electricity.
- Report downed poles/wires to your utility company.
- Do not approach wires lying in or on the ground or road. Power can arc under the ground and come up many feet from where the wire is located.
- Do not attempt to move or cut trees that have wires entangled in them. The utility company must verify the power is off and have their crews cut the tree. If the street is closed off with barricades (i.e. orange cones) DO NOT drive around them. The utility company must verify the power is off and have their crews cut the tree.
- If the street is closed off with barricades (i.e. orange cones) DO NOT drive around them. Especially if it looks like the barricades have been moved. The power line may be live and you will place yourself and vehicle inhabitants in danger. Seek an alternate route.



### Important Tips/Things to Remember

- Check on your neighbors regularly. Especially the elderly or homebound. If you cannot get to them, call the police.
- If you have the means, equip your house with a generator. Do not forget extension cords.
- For information on Warming Stations, check the Borough Website at [www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov) for updates.
- DO NOT use your gas stove for heat. This can give off carbon monoxide which can be deadly.
- DO NOT use camp stoves or grills indoors.
- Restaurants and businesses that handle food MUST consult with the Board of Health before opening after a prolonged power outage.
- For residents with well water, fill up the tub before a storm for toilet flushing.
- For residents with a pool, use pool water to flush toilets. Save your potable water.
- Use your car to charge your cell phone.
- Keep refrigerator closed to maintain the cold.
- Frozen water bottles in your freezer will act like ice blocks and keep it frozen longer while the power is off. Frozen bottles placed in the refrigerator will help keep your items cold longer. When they thaw out you will have a fresh supply of drinking water.
- If you smell gas, do not use candles, call 911 immediately and then the utility company.
- Have books, games or other activities for children.
- Many resources exist online for preparing for a storm or power outage.
- Plan ahead!

Visit the Borough Website at  
[www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov)  
and [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
for more links and information.

This information is in cooperation with Watchung  
Office of Emergency Management, Police & Fire  
Departments, Watchung Rescue Squad and  
CERT team.

Please turn magnet over for additional information.