



Island Heights Office Of Emergency Management Newsletter

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What is Emergency Management?

The mission of Emergency Management is to protect the residents of Island Heights through the development and implementation of emergency response plans and coordinate emergency response activities. We accomplish this mission by identifying hazards that could occur in Island Heights, determining the appropriate level of response and recovery resources needed, and creating plans to manage those responses.

The Island Heights Office of Emergency Management (OEM) was established many years ago, beginning as the Civil Defense office. In 1986, the New Jersey State Police formally established the municipal OEM and set up guidelines for its staffing and operation after which the Borough Council enacted an Ordinance establishing the Island Heights OEM. The Island Heights OEM represents a Local Emergency Planning Council, with membership from the Police, Fire and First Aid Departments. The Mayor and Council and Public Works are also represented.

The Island Heights OEM meets regularly and conducts emergency response exercises each year. One such exercise conducted annually is a response to an incident at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. During these exercises, graded by both the State Police and FEMA each year, we demonstrate our ability to alert our emergency response team, activate and operate our Emergency Operations Center, communicate with other emergency agencies, inform the public of emergency situations and prepare for evacuations. And, we exercise our response plans for hurricanes, winter storms, long-term power outages and other emergencies during other drills.

The OEM also coordinates damage assessment after storms and other disasters and works with FEMA to obtain disaster relief funds, which brought in thousands of dollars to repair bulkheads and streets damaged by recent storms.

The Emergency Operations Plan

The Island Heights Emergency Operations Plan was originally developed in 1990 based on guidelines provided by the State Police. It is updated annually and is reviewed and must be approved by the Ocean County Sheriff's Department and the New Jersey State Police.

The Plan covers topics such as:

- Description of the Borough and its emergency response capabilities
- Analysis of the types of emergencies we are vulnerable to
- Methods to alert the public of emergencies
- Coordination of emergency response and Borough agencies during emergencies
- Maintaining government operations during emergencies

Some of the types of emergencies the Plan addresses include:

- Hurricanes, Nor'easters and winter storms
- Fires
- Hazardous material incidents
- Long term power outages
- Nuclear power plant incidents
- Acts of terrorism

People Needing Assistance during Emergencies

Each year a flier is sent out by the OEM to all residents. It asks for anyone who may need assistance during an emergency to identify themselves. This includes hearing-impaired, mobility-impaired and vision-impaired citizens, people with medical conditions that require special equipment and un-interrupted power, and any other medical condition that would indicate that assistance would be needed in the event of a long term power outage or if an evacuation is necessary. The OEM works with the Police Dept and First Aid Squad to ensure we are aware of those individuals and that we have the capabilities to provide any assistance that might be needed for these and all citizens. These forms can be filled out and dropped off at Police Headquarters. This information is kept confidential.

How do I reach the Island Heights OEM?

IH OEM Coordinator:

Douglas Platt

Tel: (732) 270-5500

Mail: P.O. Box 484

Island Heights, N.J. 08732

E-mail: ISLHTSOEM@comcast.net



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Family Emergency Operations Plan

Does your family have an Emergency Operations Plan? If not, you should. Don't wait until an emergency or disaster strikes before you develop your plan. You really need to identify what type of hazards and potential risks your area faces, what you will take with you if you are asked to evacuate, what you will do with your pets and livestock, where you will go if you are asked to evacuate, etc. You should also have a family meeting place in the event of a problem in your home. Local media will provide information regarding shelter locations, evacuations routes and other pertinent information

If you are told to EVACUATE, where will you go?

Ocean County Emergency Management has worked with the State Police, Department of Transportation and all municipalities to develop a comprehensive evacuation plan, in the event of a large-scale emergency. In the event that an evacuation is ordered, the Island Heights OEM will coordinate with the Police, Fire and First Aid Departments to notify all residents. Residents will be advised to take emergency supplies with them, secure their home and leave as quickly as possible. Evacuation routes will be established by the Police Department. Generally, Island Heights residents will be asked to leave the Borough via West End Avenue, go North on Vaughn Avenue and will be directed to Fischer Blvd. Further evacuation route instructions will be provided along the way, depending on the type and size of the emergency.

During school days, all school children will be evacuated to other schools away from the emergency site using school busses coordinated by Ocean County. Island Heights Grade School children will usually be transported to Toms River High School North. Central Regional students will usually be transported to Ocean County College. St. Joseph's Grade School and Monsignor Donovan High School students will usually be transported by bus to Toms River Intermediate East School. In each of these sites a reception center will be set up. It will be necessary, for the safety of the children, for parents or guardians to bring proper identification to retrieve their children.

Island Heights OEM will assist anyone who is mobility impaired, vision impaired or hearing impaired to evacuate. If you or someone you know may need this assistance, you should advise the Island Heights OEM in advance, if possible.

If you are told to EVACUATE, what should you bring?

- Prescription medicines and medical information for each person.
- Non-prescription drugs (aspirin, antacids, etc.)
- Two day supply of bottled water for each person
- Two day supply of ready to eat foods for each person
- Baby supplies (formula, diapers, medications)
- Sanitary supplies (toilet paper, disinfectant, etc.)
- Several days supply of clothing for each person
- Any special dietary needs
- Telephone numbers of doctors, pharmacists, friends and relatives
- Flashlights and portable radio, spare batteries
- Pets, and pet supplies
- First Aid Kit
- Cash or Travelers Checks
- Identification (Driver's license, etc.)
- Cell Phone and chargers (Car and AC)

If you are sent to a shelter, you will be provided with meals, sleeping facilities, rest room facilities and, in some cases, arrangements for pets. Pet owners need to advise Shelter Managers if they have their pet(s) with them.

Reverse 911 Emergency Notification System

The Borough of Island Heights has implemented an automated notification system to alert residents to emergencies and important information by telephone, text message and email. During times of emergency, recorded messages can be sent in a matter of minutes to all registered residents, and family members, providing information about the emergency and protective actions to take. For more information and to register and add additional telephone numbers and email addresses to the notification lists, please go to the borough website at www.islandheightsboro.com or contact borough hall at 732-270-6415

What else can you do?

Residents should keep alert to any emergency news broadcasts, even if the event is not in your immediate area. Forest fires can spread smoke, ash and flying embers for miles. Persons with breathing difficulties should remain indoors if there are forest fires in the area. Severe heat waves also cause problems for people with breathing difficulties and other health issues. In snow events, try to clear snow away from fire hydrants on or near your property. During and after heavy rain, avoid driving through flooded areas. And always, if you see something, say something.