

## FLOODING (CONT.)

- All clothing, curtains, and bedding should be washed with hot, soapy water then bleached, if possible. Furniture and floors may be rinsed with clean water after washing with soap and water; disinfect if possible.
- Flood insurance is valuable financial protection. You should be aware that your homeowner's policy probably does not cover damage from flooding. Check into the availability of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program by contacting your local insurance agent or broker.

## PREPARE FOR FLOODING

- Know your flood risk. Do your local streams or rivers flood easily? If so, know your evacuation routes.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs and in various containers.
- Keep a stock of food that requires little cooking and no refrigeration, and keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days.
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit for possible evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers, such as backpacks. Keep important family documents in a waterproof container.
- Keep first aid supplies on hand along with a battery-powered portable radio. Keep flashlights in working order.
- Install check valves in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Have your family learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid; how to use a fire extinguisher; and how and when to turn off water, gas, and electricity in your home.



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

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ...



**GREENWICH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
Environmental Services  
622-7838  
M-F 8am-4pm



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/floodsafety/floodsafe.shtml>



**FEMA**  
<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/index.shtml>

## TOWN OF GREENWICH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

101 Field Point Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
Phone: 203-622-6488  
[www.greenwichct.org](http://www.greenwichct.org)

# STORMS

## Hurricanes and Storm Flooding



Division Of Environmental Services

*Enjoy the Outdoors Safely*

## FACTS ABOUT NOR'EASTERS AND FLOODING

The hurricane season officially starts in June and ends in November each year. The New England coast feels the effects of these hurricanes in the resulting storm —the Nor'easter.

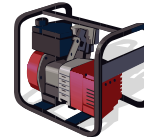
Heavy and sustained rain fall and wind-driven waves batter the coast line. The outcome is flooding and severe beach erosion.

During this season Greenwich residents should prepare for localized flooding and possible power outages related to inclement weather.



## IN CASE OF POWER OUTAGES

- Keep candles, flashlights, a battery-powered radio and back-up batteries handy. Exercise caution with candles – especially if you have young children and/or pets in your home. Warn your children of the danger of candles and light them only where absolutely necessary.
- Conserve water. Well users should, in anticipation of power failure, fill your bathtub and other large containers with water. Even if you are on public water supply, a power outage may adversely affect the amount of available water.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed to slow the thawing of food. In anticipation of a power failure, turn your refrigerator/freezer controls to the coldest setting to build up a cooling reserve. Do not forget to reset once the storm outage has passed.
- Thawed food may be cooked if maintained below 45°F, otherwise it should be discarded. It is not recommended to refreeze any food once it has thawed. 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 the proper temperatures. All stuffed meats and poultry should be discarded.
- Turn the thermostat down and unplug your appliances. This prevents damage to the appliances and power can be restored more easily when the system is not overloaded.
- Home generators are handy for backup electricity. To operate a generator safely, follow the manufacturer's instructions - and NEVER operate a generator indoors. Do not supply generator power to your home's main line as you may injure a utility employee. Plug appliances (and their extension cords) directly into the generator, being careful not to allow equipment or cords to sit in pooled water.
- Stay indoors and off of roads to facilitate emergency crews and their access to damaged utilities.



## IN CASE OF FLOODING

Flood water must be assumed to be contaminated. These waters may carry the germs of a range of sicknesses including diarrhea and other communicable diseases. All material that they touch should be either disinfected or discarded.

- If your home is flooding, turn off the furnace and the gas valve at the appliance. Do not handle energized electrical equipment in wet areas. If 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 on foot. The water may be unsanitary and any fast running water could sweep you away.
- If you are in a car, avoid driving through floodwaters. Fast water could sweep your car away. However, if you are caught in fast rising waters and your vehicle stalls, leave the car.
- Private wells that have been flooded must be disinfected before use. It is important to wait until flood waters have receded to the point where waste disposal and septic systems can operate normally. A well drilling company can arrange this service – drink bottled water in the meantime.
- 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 or discard them after contamination with flood waters.

