



NEWS RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Caroline Calderone Baisley
Director of Health
Tel [203] 622-7836

or

Michael S. Long, Director
Division of Environmental Services
Tel. [203] 622-7838

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For Immediate Release

RESPONSE TO STORM FLOODING AND POSSIBLE POWER OUTAGES

Due to the inclement weather that will be moving into the lower Fairfield County area in the next 48 hours, there is every possibility that storm-like conditions will bring heavy rains, local flooding and possible power outages. As rains occur and become heavier at times, Greenwich residents are advised to keep the phone numbers listed below handy, listen to local news radio (WGCH 1490AM) and utilize information from the Town's website (www.greenwichct.org - see NEWS on front page and click "Response to Storm Conditions") for additional information.

Important Phone Numbers:

- GREENWICH EMERGENCY DISASTER PHONE NUMBER – 866-245-4260; this number is in service ONLY during emergencies. If called, you will hear a recorded message.
- TO REPORT ONLY EMERGENCIES – For all Police, Fire and EMS emergencies, dial 911.

The following information has been assembled for the general public:

STORM CONDITIONS

Power Outages

Storm conditions can bring high winds, torrential rain, flooding and power outages when storm warnings are in effect, stay tuned to the radio (local radio WGCH 1490 AM) or television Channel 12 for official bulletins. Keep a battery-powered radio handy, stay indoors, travel only if necessary. Motor vehicles

should be kept off the street so emergency response crews can access the area to clear trees, service wires and respond to medical emergencies.

Power outages can pose health hazards. Community shelters will be opened and available if needed.

During power outages:

- Unplug your appliances
- Generators should be used with caution. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and **NEVER** operate a generator indoors. **DO NOT** to supply generator power to your home's main line as you may injure a utility employee. Be aware of pooled water at all times.
- Conserve fuel and water. A few large containers can be filled with warm water for an emergency supply.
- Observe health precautions when issued
- Do not use charcoal grills indoors or gas stoves as a source of heat. Either one can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Fireplaces may be used as long as they are properly vented
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed. When anticipating a power failure, set refrigerator and freezer temperatures to a colder setting to build up a cooling reserve. With the door closed, fully stacked freezers will keep for two days, while half full freezers will keep food for one day. Dry ice can be used safely in freezers; however, gloves must be worn in handling and proceed as recommended.
- All thawed food may be cooked if maintained below 45°, otherwise it should be discarded. It is not recommended to refreeze any food once it has thawed.
- Refrigerated food, especially perishable items such as eggs, milk, fish, meat and poultry, should be maintained at 45°, 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. Any doubt concerning food items, discard or contact the Division of Environmental Health at 622-7838, to discuss certain situations.

Flooding:

During a storm, flood waters may enter your home or flood your property.

- If your home or workplace 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.
- 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.
- All clothing, curtains, bedding, etc. should be washed with hot, soapy water, than bleached if possible. Furniture and floors may be rinsed with clean water after washing with soap and water; disinfect if possible.

- Do not handle electrical equipment in wet areas
- Wear protective clothing while cleaning up debris
- All food items exposed to flood waters should be discarded. Cans and conventional jars free of rust or dents must be washed and sanitized before they are opened. If you are in doubt, throw it out rather than risk disease.
- Cooperate with local officials.

Local Non-Emergency Phone Numbers:

Greenwich Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health	622-7838/622-7842
Greenwich Fire Department non-emergency	622-8087
Greenwich Police Department non-emergency	622-8000
Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Service – American Medical Response (AMR)	1-800-379-7700
Department of Public Works Highway Division	622-0942
Department of Parks and Recreation Tree Division	622-1429
Greenwich Chapter, American Red Cross	869-8444