
Steps You Should Take Now to Prepare for Hurricane Sandy

Create an action plan now.

- Families should discuss what to do in the event that water, gas, electricity, and phone services (both land line and mobile) are shut off. Determine how you will find each other if you are separated. Go over evacuation plans and where you will go if you have to leave your home. Find out if there are local storm shelters in your community.
- Pet-owners should plan how to take care of their pet during the storm.
- Business owners should create action plans for work places.

Put together a basic supplies kit now.

- 1 gallon of water per person, per day, for at 3 days to use for drinking and sanitation.
- 3 to 5 day supply of non-perishable food. Avoid foods that will make you thirsty. Use this link to the FDA's website to gather information on how to keep food safe during and after power outages:
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm076881.htm>
- Can-opener and eating utensils
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Prescription medications
- Personal hygiene products including moist towelettes (in case bathing facilities are not available), soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.

Prepare your home now.

- Conduct a home inventory including furniture, appliances, clothes, electronic equipment, and other valuables. Take photos of your personal property so you can document the current condition of your home. You can assess your home's vulnerability to hazards, such as flooding, using the following links:

FEMA's Hazards Map Portal:

<https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/wps/portal>

FloodSmart.gov:

<http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>

- Clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts
- Bring inside all outdoor furniture, garbage cans, and any other outdoor objects that cannot be tied down.
- Keep track of watches and warnings for the storm, evacuation zones, and risk of storm surge, flooding, and high winds.

Prepare your vehicles.

- Fill your gas tank immediately.
- Conduct any maintenance on your vehicle that you might do if you were going on a long road trip.

Keep a list of contact information for reference.

- To report a power outage, contact Connecticut Light & Power at (800) 286-2000.
- For information on community services and assistance, call InfoLine (United Way) at 211.

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In case of an emergency, life-threatening situation or downed line, call 911.

Congressman Murphy's office will be open and available for people to use as a resource as well. You can call us at (860) 223-8412 or come into the office at 114 West Main Street, Suite 206 in New Britain.