



2015 SEVERE WEATHER ISSUE

THE PIPELINE



September 2015 Volume 19, No. 2

Important Preparedness Information

*This "Pipeline" has been provided by the Town of Charlestown to share critical emergency information with our residents and visitors in the event of severe weather. The information provided contains educational materials as well as valuable resources. We encourage you to take a few minutes to review this information and keep it posted in an easily accessible location should you need to refer to it at a later date. **PLEASE NOTE:** the information provided is meant to serve only as a guide. Preparation and common sense are always your best defense!*

Do not underestimate the potential danger of severe weather.

Flood Insurance and What You Should Know!

Congressionally mandated reforms required by the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 that repeal and modify the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Biggert-Waters), while slowing some flood insurance rate increases, will still result in rising premiums and surcharges. The Town of Charlestown has been working diligently to offset these proposed rate increases by participating in the Community Rating System (CRS) Program.

On May 1, 2015 the Town was officially accepted into the CRS Program by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The CRS Program is a voluntary program that recognizes communities for floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards. The Town has achieved a Class 7 rating, the first in the State of Rhode Island and the second community to receive such a great rating in the entire Northeast. The Class 7 rating qualifies all property owners with a, "standard" flood insurance policy, for a 15% discount on their flood insurance premiums. "Preferred Risk Policies" will not be awarded the discount as they already receive discounted rates; however "grandfathered" policy holders will still be eligible to receive a 5% discount.

The Town is working hard to reduce your premiums through the CRS program; however there are steps you can take as well: (continued next page)

September is National Preparedness Month

Sign up for Code Red

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/F7C384CF8C1D>



CEMA Needs Volunteers All Year Long

"The Power, Phone and Cable TV have been off for 3 days. Nothing to Do! I wish I had joined Charlestown Emergency Management as a Volunteer."

If this was you, join us before the next Disaster. We have volunteer assignments to match any individual's skill set.

Contact CEMA Deputy Director Sara Michaud at 401-327-0187 or Email

cema.deputydirector@charlestownri.org

for more information.



Get a Flood Insurance Policy

- Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because our community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded.
- A flood insurance policy will help pay for repairs after a flood and, in some cases it will help pay the costs of elevating a substantially damaged building.
- Don't wait until the next flood to buy insurance protection. In most cases there is a 30 day waiting period before NFIP coverage takes effect.
- Renters should also consider buying a flood insurance policy for their contents.
- Be sure to photograph your home's contents and put important papers and insurance policies in a safe place.

If you already have a flood insurance policy

- Verify your Flood Zone – with recent updates to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM's), your home may be located in a different zone from what your insurance company has on file.
- Obtain an Elevation Certificate for your dwelling and verify your insurance company has based the premium on your dwellings true height. (Note: Should you need an Elevation Certificate, be sure to contact the Building Department to see if we have one on file, all Elevation Certificates received are retained as permanent records and copies are available upon request.)
- Higher deductibles may also reduce your premium.

Consider some permanent flood protection measures

- Proper grading around the exterior of your home should drain water away from the foundation.
- Install gutters and downspouts and verify proper drainage away from the foundation.
- Incorporate Flood Mitigation into your remodeling projects such as elevating your mechanical and electrical equipment.
- Some properties may be mitigated by installing flood vents and/or filling in basement/crawlspace areas that are below grade on all sides.
- Elevate your dwelling above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Drastic discounts may be achieved for each foot of elevation above the Base Flood. Note: The RI State Building Code requires a minimum of one foot of freeboard above the BFE. (lowest floor at BFE plus 1 foot)
- Before you build, obtain the proper Building Permits and do it right the first time.
- You may look up your property's Flood Zone Information on the Town's website at <http://www.charlestownri.org> (see GIS link symbol below); additional information is also available under the Building/Zoning Department or at <http://www.ready.gov/floods>;



Additional flood protection measures with no cost

- Keep debris and trash out of streams, ditches and storm drains.
- Report missing or damaged silt fence; they help keep our streams clean.
- Sign up with the Town for "Code Red" an emergency messaging system and "Constant Contact" to stay informed.
- Elevate your belongings from the basement floor.
- During heavy rains check the current river status (flood gauge) at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps/>.

You may want to contact your insurance agent to discuss your policy and options. Additionally, I would encourage you to visit FEMA's webpage at <http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance> to learn more about programs the Town may be able to participate in for financial assistance, pending funding under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program. Feel free to contact me at (401)364-1215 or by email ~ jwarner@charlestownri.org should you have any questions pertaining to mitigation measures for your property.

Joseph L. Warner, Jr., CBO, CFM
Building/Zoning Official
Floodplain Manager

Before a Hurricane

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

- Make plans to secure your property. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with plywood cut to fit and ready to install.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Become informed about hazards and emergencies that may affect you and your family.
- Collect and assemble disaster and medical supply kits.
- Learn where to seek shelter from all types of hazards.
- Identify the community warning systems and evacuation routes.
- Designate a family meeting place.
- Designate an emergency contact outside of your area.
- Teach your children how and when to use 911.
- Post important phone numbers by all phones.
- Prepare in advance how to care for pets when disaster strikes.
- Store extra food and water for family members as well as pets.
- Plan for utility shut-offs. If you are sure you have time, shut off water, gas, and electricity if evacuating.
- Make a record of your personal property for insurance purposes. Take photos or a video of the interior and exterior of your home. Include personal belongings in your inventory.
- Keep important documents and medical information in a waterproof container. Secure vital records off premises or include as part of a disaster supply kit.
- Have cash readily available with small bills (banks and ATM machines may not be available)
- Fill all medical prescriptions.
- **Fill fuel tanks for all vehicles and generators.**

During a Hurricane

- Monitor local media for emergency instructions
- Stay indoors. Stay away from doors and windows. Locate a safe room or area in the interior of your home.
- Do not go outside in the calm of the hurricane "eye". In the "eye" winds and rain may stop for a few minutes or more than an hour. Beware—winds will return with greater intensity from the opposite direction.
- Call 911 ONLY for emergencies. Avoid using the telephone unless necessary.

American Red Cross Pre-Packed Disaster Kits and First Aid Kits

may be purchased on-line at www.redcross.org or by calling 401-831-7700 or by contacting the company of your choice.

<http://www.redcrossstore.org/category/id/1>

Evacuation Procedures Routes and Signage



The Charlestown Emergency Management Agency will commence tracking of any hurricane with the potential of taking a path along the Atlantic coastline five days prior to a potential arrival here in the Northeast. Should technology and advisories from the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center indicate a path that could pose a threat in this area, our local Emergency Operations Center will be staffed 24/7 and closely monitor the storm's path, wind velocity and potential for storm surge. Should conditions and advisories warrant, mandatory evacuation of Charlestown coastal areas will be ordered and commence no later than (32) hours prior to anticipated storm arrival. Following is some vital information regarding evacuation procedures, routes and posted signage:

If ordered to evacuate, you should leave right away and have provisions in place for lodging, food and personal care at a designated destination.

When leaving the area, use the State established community evacuation routes, which will lead you directly away from the coastline to the closest major highway of travel (I-95). The routing for Charlestown is as follows:

- ◆ Residents leaving via West Beach Rd. or any Rd. west (south) of West Beach Rd. will be directed onto Rt. 216 and to I-95.
- ◆ All other Charlestown residents will be directed onto Rt. 2, then onto Rt. 112 to Rt. 138 and onto I-95.
- ◆ To view evacuation routing, visit the State website at www.riema.ri.gov/ and click on Citizens section. Scroll down to Rhode Island Hurricane Evacuation Maps. Click on Charlestown or any other community to download PDF.
- ◆ Note the blue evacuation signs that are installed within coastal areas and the designated evacuation routes. By following the signage, people not familiar with local roads will be aided in leaving the area via the most direct route.
- ◆ Routes within each Rhode Island community have been designated so as not to impact the evacuation of adjoining communities. Please cooperate.

Plan to leave the area and have a definite destination. It is recommended that you travel to a local hurricane certified shelter where you will receive lodging, food and water. Under these conditions, further travel is not advised since other serious problems might be incurred. A certified managed shelter will provide you with a high degree of safety and security and remove much of the stress that might result from possibly being stranded on a highway.

If you go to a Shelter...

Charlestown residents, renters and tourists should be advised that the designated hurricane certified shelter is the Chariho Middle School located on Switch Rd. in Richmond. To reach the shelter, take Rt. 2 onto Rt. 112 and make a left onto Rt. 91. Travel west on Rt. 91 for approximately (3) miles and go right onto Switch Rd. The Chariho School Campus is located on the left about (1) mile from Rt. 91. The Middle School is located at the rear of the Campus. A limited number of directional shelter signs have been installed along the major routes. These can be observed with a red cross (+) in the middle of the sign.

Although the Charlestown Elementary School might suffice under other states of emergency, it does not meet wind sheer requirements and thus does not qualify as a Red Cross hurricane certified shelter. The Chariho Middle School offers excellent facilities to accommodate shelter requirements for an extended period of time that might involve a number of days. Shelter Team volunteers are trained in areas of registration, administering of CPR/AED, basic first aid, mass care including food and dormitory lodging, communications and security. Shelter patients will be encouraged to volunteer their services in areas where assistance may be needed.

Basic shelter supplies are stored within the community and will be available at the time of shelter opening. Arrangements are in place to utilize school food inventories, kitchen facilities and cafeteria areas. In addition, the Middle School offers excellent male and female locker room areas with ample bathroom and shower facilities. In addition to being a safe structure, the facility offers a lot of comfort opportunities for all age groups. Residents should

Shelter continued...

not envision this facility as being similar to some of those that were depicted along the Gulf Coast following hurricane Katrina.

NOTE: Not all shelters are open in all storms. Stay aware by checking with the latest local media information.

SOME THINGS TO BRING TO A SHELTER:

- Personal hygiene items
- Bedding such as sleeping bags, air mattresses and pillows for your own use (blankets and cots will be provided)
- Non-perishable snacks and personal meals
- Extra change of clothing
- Personal items (medications, eyeglasses, hearing aid, flashlights, toothbrushes, battery-operated radio, special diet foods, if appropriate)
- Baby supplies; ample amounts of baby food, formula, juice, diapers and wipes, and a stroller, portable crib or playpen
- Driver's license, other identification
- Cash, traveler's checks
- Important documents
- First Aid Kit
- Cards, Games, Books

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO A SHELTER:

- Weapons or explosive devices
- Intoxicating beverages
- Illegal drugs



Important Phone Numbers to Place by the Phone

Charlestown Ambulance Rescue (401-364-3742 for routine calls)	401-346-7744	National Grid (electricity)	401-465-1212
Charlestown Animal Shelter	401-364-1211	Police —Charlestown Automated Information System	401-213-6920
Charlestown Building Inspector	401-364-1215	Police —Charlestown	401-364-1212
Charlestown DPW	401-364-1230	Police —RI State	401-539-2323
Charlestown Transfer Station	401-364-1220	RI Dept. of Health Office of Drinking Water Quality	401-222-6867
Charlestown Town Hall	401-364-1200	RI American Rd Cross	401-831-7700 or 800-842-1122
Cox Cable Company	401-383-2000	RI Dept. of Health Office of Drinking Water Quality	401-831-7700 x 120 or x 110
Hospital —South County	401-782-8000	Special Needs Emergency Registry Questions or RI Relay	401-946-9996 (voice) or 711 (TTY)
Hospital —Westerly	401-596-6000	Verizon Phone Co. Repair	1-800-837-4966

Re-entry Into Evacuated Areas

RENTERS MAY NOT BE ALLOWED BACK INTO RENTAL PROPERTIES

Following evacuation, all roads leading into those areas will be blocked off by Police, Fire or Military personnel until such time that it is determined that re-entry by residents or contractors is deemed to be safe and advisable. To the extent possible, security for all of these areas will be provided. In order to assure for public safety and security concerns, a re-entry policy has been put in place. Residents, renters and contractors should make note of the following procedures to be followed to gain re-entry into evacuated areas:

Status for re-entry into evacuated areas will be made available to the public as part of periodic news releases made through various media resources.

Residents will be required to appear at Town Hall with photo identification and obtain a re-entry pass following confirmation of ownership for a particular property. Re-entry passes will be issued at the Tax Assessor's office area within Town Hall.

Contractors seeking re-entry must be duly licensed in Rhode Island, present a copy of a contract or notarized letter from the property owner authorizing access to the owner's property and subsequently obtain a re-entry pass.

Re-entry passes are stamped, dated and contain an expiration date. Passes are not transferable to any other parties.

Only after public safety and security are deemed to be under control within the community by the Charlestown Police Department and the Charlestown Emergency Management Agency, will the re-entry requirements be removed.

Structure Status:

- A. **UNSAFE** (Red Card) - Do Not Enter or Occupy
- B. **RESTRICTED USE** (Yellow Card) - Restriction Listed on Card
- C. **INSPECTED** (Green Card) - Lawful Occupancy Permitted

Repairs



- ◆ Take video or photos of all damage before repairs and keep receipts for insurance purposes.
- ◆ Contact your insurance company. Have your policy readily available so you can refer to the extent of your coverage.
- ◆ Make temporary repairs to correct safety hazards and minimize further damage. This may include covering holes in the roof, walls or windows and debris removal.
- ◆ Protect yourself from contractor fraud. Only hire licensed contractors to do repairs. Check with your local building department. Phone 401-364-1215.
- ◆ Contact your local building department to obtain required permits for demolition or repairs 401-364-1215.

DISINFECTION OF WELLS

1. Pour two cups of household bleach (5.25%) or a proportionately smaller amount of a stronger solution mixed with two gallons of water down along the well casing. This is adequate for a typical well (100' deep & 4" diameter). For deeper/shallower or wider/narrower wells, use proportionately different amounts.
2. Operate the well pump until the piping system is full of chlorinated water from within the well indicated by a chlorine odor from each faucet.
3. Allow chlorine to remain in the well and piping system overnight.
4. Pump the water to waste or use for non-consumptive purposes until no odor of chlorine is detected.
5. Allowing time for conditions to stabilize, arrange for a bacterial examination with the appropriate state agency or a HEALTH licensed laboratory to ensure the disinfection procedure was successful. Contact the HEALTH Office of Drinking Water Quality at 401-222-6867 if you have any questions.

HEAT DISINFECTION

1. Strain cloudy water through a clean cloth into a container to remove any sediment or floating matter. If water is clear, omit the step.
2. Boil the water vigorously (rolling boil) for at least one full minute.
3. After allowing the water to cool, it is ready to use. To improve taste, add a pinch of salt to each quart of boiled water or pour it back and forth from one clean container to another several times.

CHEMICAL DISINFECTION

Use fragrance—or additive-free bleach.
Read the label to find the % chlorine.

% Chlorine	Drops added per quart	
	Clear Water	Cloudy Water
4 to 6%	2	4
7 to 10%	1	2
Unknown	10	20

1 teaspoon equals approximately 100 drops.

1. Mix thoroughly by stirring or shaking the water in the container.
2. Let water stand 30 minutes.
3. A slight chlorine odor should be present in the water. If not, repeat the dosage and let stand an additional 15 minutes.

Police Automated
Information System
401-213-6920

Enroll on-line NOW... not when it's too late!

Register ON-LINE:
<https://kidsnet.health.ri.gov/emregistry/form.html>
DO NOT MAIL IN



Rhode Island Special Needs Emergency Registry

For Rhode Islanders with disabilities, chronic conditions, and special healthcare needs



The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) maintain a registry for **Rhode Island residents with disabilities, chronic conditions, and special healthcare needs**. By participating in the Registry, you permit RIEMA and HEALTH to share your information with local and state emergency responders, such as your town/city police or fire department. The information that you provide may help responders meet your needs during an emergency.

Instructions: To be included in the Registry, please fill out this form, sign it, and send it to **RIEMA, Database Manager 645 New London Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920** OR register online at www.health.ri.gov/emregistry. If you have questions, please call (401) 946-9996 (voice) or RI Relay 711 (TTY). If you cannot fill out this form on your own, please have a family member, caregiver, or other representative complete the form and submit it on your behalf.

New Registration Updated Registration

General Information <i>(Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory)</i>		10/2013
NAME: First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____ SEX: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		
DATE OF BIRTH: _____ STREET ADDRESS*: _____		
APARTMENT/UNIT or FLOOR: _____ CITY/TOWN*: _____ ZIP CODE*: _____		
PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____ <i>(*A phone number is required)</i>		
TTY: _____ E-MAIL: _____		
EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____ CONTACT'S PHONE: _____		
Life Support Systems	Mobility	
Which of the following do you use? (Check all that apply)	Are you confined to bed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Oxygen: <input type="checkbox"/> Tanks <input type="checkbox"/> Concentrator	Can you walk without assistance? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Respirator/Ventilator: <input type="checkbox"/> Battery backup for unit?	Which of the following do you use? (Check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dialysis: <input type="checkbox"/> Clinic <input type="checkbox"/> Home	<input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair/Mobility Vehicle	
<input type="checkbox"/> Electrical: <input type="checkbox"/> Pacemaker <input type="checkbox"/> Defibrillator	<input type="checkbox"/> Walker/Cane <input type="checkbox"/> Prosthesis: _____	
Are you diabetic? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Crutches <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Insulin-dependent? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Assistive animal <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the Above	Other Disabilities <i>(Use the back of this form, if needed)</i>	
Sensory, Cognitive, and Psychiatric Conditions	Please list other disabilities or relevant conditions:	
Which of these apply to you? (Check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Visually impaired <input type="checkbox"/> Speech impaired	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Legally blind <input type="checkbox"/> Non-verbal	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hard of hearing <input type="checkbox"/> Cognitively/Developmentally delayed	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Use hearing aids	Language	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf <input type="checkbox"/> Autism Spectrum Disorder	In what language do you prefer to receive emergency communications or assistance?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Seizure disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Alzheimer's/Dementia	<input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric Condition: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandarin <input type="checkbox"/> Cantonese <input type="checkbox"/> Russian <input type="checkbox"/> Krahn	
<input type="checkbox"/> None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/> Khmer <input type="checkbox"/> Farsi <input type="checkbox"/> Lao	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cape Verdean Creole <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
ETHNICITY: Hispanic or Latino? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No RACE: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> African American/Black <input type="checkbox"/> Asian		
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		

NOTE: By signing this form and submitting it to RIEMA/HEALTH, I agree to permit my information to be shared with local and state emergency responders. I understand that this is a voluntary program. While RIEMA/HEALTH will share this information in order to better assist me during an emergency, they cannot guarantee assistance in all cases.

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____
 Date: _____ List relationship if completing on individual's behalf: _____

Collection of Storm Related Debris

Debris resulting from a level 1 or level 2 hurricane will be relatively minimal and may be deposited at the Charlestown Recovery & Recycling Center under the rules, regulations and fee structure set forth by Town Ordinance. The Charlestown Department of Public Works will remove and transport all accumulated debris from Town maintained roads and municipal owned properties. Homeowners and Homeowner Associations must arrange for removal and transportation of debris from private roads and properties.

Owners of private properties are responsible for the removal of debris from their properties including transport to a collection-staging site and separation of debris at such site according to rules set forth within the Debris Management Plan. Trees that have fallen on homes or are threatening homes, may be removed under contract with the property owner, following the execution of a right-of-way property entry agreement and approval by a FEMA Public Assistance Officer. Private property owner applicants for this service will be required to seek recovery of contract costs from their insurance company, and reimburse FEMA.

Debris removal following a high level hurricane can be a monumental task requiring a long period of time, requiring the establishment of priorities and demanding the attention, cooperation and understanding of all residents.

New State Shelter Plan Pending in 2015

Superstorm Sandy



Though it is considered to be one of the deadliest storms of recent times, Sandy was only a Category 2 storm. It destroyed property worth \$50 billion and caused 165 deaths.

Related Storm Links

Center Disease Control
Printable Chart
National Buoy System
USCG Storm Center
FEMA
RIEMA
READY.GOV
CEMA

CERT
American Red Cross
American Red Cross RI
Special Needs (RI)
Charlestown Evacuation Map

<http://www.emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/>
http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/AT_Track_chart.pdf
<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/index.shtml>
<http://www.uscg.mil/news/stormcenter/>
<http://www.fema.gov/>
<http://riema.gov/>
<http://www.ready.gov>
<http://www.charlestownri.org/>
[\(Then Click on Emergency Services and then Charlestown Emergency Management\)](#)
<https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>
<http://www.redcross.org/>
<http://www.riredcross.org/local/ri>
<https://kidsnet.health.ri.gov/emregistry/form.html>
<http://www.riema.ri.gov/resources/citizens/evacuation/>

THE TOWN HALL PIPELINE

Charlestown Town Hall
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI 02813