



CONTACT:
Vincent Basara,
[City of Camden](http://www.cityofcamden.com) 856-757-7200

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CAMDEN
NEW JERSEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: October 1, 2015

**** ADVISORY ****

MAYOR REDD ASKS RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR IMPENDING WEATHER EVENT

Nor'easter weather pattern expected to impact New Jersey

CAMDEN, NJ – Mayor Dana L. Redd would like to urge Camden residents to be prepared for severe weather conditions that are expected in the coming days. There may be potential flooding throughout South Jersey on Friday and Saturday. Earlier today, Governor Chris Christie declared a state of emergency throughout the state in anticipation of the pending storm. The National Weather Service is forecasting a dangerous nor'easter weather pattern that may impact New Jersey beginning on October 1, 2015, including high winds, very heavy rain, inland river flooding, as well as major coastal flooding with heavy surf and beach erosion.

The National Hurricane Center currently has forecasted the track for the impending weather event Joaquin, now a major hurricane. Joaquin is currently projected to be moving northward off the mid-Atlantic coast late on or about October 4, 2015. This could cause significant flooding, dangerous storm surges between eight and ten feet, substantial wind damage, and stream and river flooding threatening homes and other structures. These weather conditions may cause power outages, hamper transportation and obstruct traffic.

"We ask that our residents be prepared in case of severe flooding, downed trees or other conditions and ask that everyone comply with the governor's declaration," said Mayor Dana Redd. "The safety of our citizens is my number one concern. Camden is prepared and if necessary, the City will activate our Office of Emergency Management. We urge our residents to avoid unnecessary travel in case of severe weather."

BE PREPARED: Helpful tips

Set up emergency information sources

- **Social Media.** "Like" the [NJOEM on Facebook](#) or Follow on [Twitter](#). Be sure to sign up for Twitter Alerts at the NJOEM account set up page so you can receive a direct notification to your phone whenever NJOEM issues an alert.
- **Nixle Connect** allows the NJ State Police and the NJOEM to send messages to the public by text/SMS, e-mail, and Internet posts. Register to receive messages by sending a text message with your zip code to 888777 (data rates may apply depending on your plan). You can also register on-line at www.nixle.com.
- **NOAA Weather Radio.** NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from a station

nearest your location. NOAA Weather Radios are typically inexpensive, easily available in stores and can usually be programmed for your specific area. [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards](#)

- **TV, radio and newspapers.** Continue to monitor these outlets to stay informed of breaking news and continued coverage of emergency events.
- **Cellular Mobile Emergency Alert System (CMAS).** The National Weather Service can now send free weather warnings directly to your phone if a hazard is imminent in New Jersey. Check with your wireless carrier to see if your wireless phone is WEA (Wireless Emergency Alert) enabled to receive these messages.
 - Read about WEA alerts: [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#)
 - For more CMAS info: [FCC CMAS Page](#)
- **Connect with your local information sources.** Contact your [County/City Office of Emergency Management](#) to learn about the localized information sources.
- **Get up-to-date severe weather information:**
 - [Hurricanes And Tropical Storm Forecasts - National Hurricane Center](#)
 - [New Jersey Specific Weather Forecasts, Watches And Warnings](#)

Know the special dangers from hurricanes and tropical storms

- Hurricane winds can reach 74-95 mph for a Category 1 storm, to above 155 mph for a Category 5 storm.
- A storm surge is a dome of ocean water the hurricane pushes ahead of itself. At its peak a storm surge can be 25 feet high and 50-100 miles wide. The storm surge can devastate coastal communities as it sweeps ashore.
- [Floods and flash floods](#) result from the thunderstorms and torrential rains that accompany a hurricane.
- [Tornadoes](#) accompany seventy percent of hurricanes that make landfall.
- Prepare Your [Home](#), [Mobile Home](#) or business for hurricane or tropical storm conditions

Make a Plan

- Find out if you are in a [high risk](#) area.
- Learn what to do if you live in a [high rise building](#) or if you live in a multi-unit building.
- Know how you will [Evacuate](#).
- Know what it means to [Shelter-in-Place](#).
- Have a family communication plan so family members know how to let others know they are safe and have a plan for reuniting if separated.
- Register at the [American Red Cross Safe & Well website](#) so family members can locate you if you evacuate.

- **Have a cell phone or traditional land line?** Have a backup plan if electricity, cell phone towers or utility lines fail. Be prepared for prolonged problems with phone of all types and internet connected devices.
- **Know how you will contact your utility.** If your power is out, you **MUST** report it to your utility company. Do not assume the utility company is aware that your residence is out. [The NJ Board of Public Utilities web page](#) lists all utility contact information for the state.
 - **Power outages** require special planning.
 - **Learn about [food safety](#)** during a blackout.
 - **Make a back up power plan if you are medically dependent on electricity**
- **[Individuals and Caregivers](#) managing access/functional needs** should plan now for a support network, special supplies for preparedness kit and transportation.
 - **Consider registering at [NJ Register Ready](#) if you medical, mobility and/or any other need** that may require additional assistance from emergency responders.
- **[Preparedness for Your Pet](#)** and livestock require planning. **Remember:** Shelters do not allow pets, only service animals.
- **[Build a Kit](#).** Be sure to include:
 - **Special items for children**
 - **Special medical, durable equipment and/or access/functional needs supplies** needed to maintain independence for up to 2 weeks.
 - **Make a kit for your pets**
 - **Kit in your car** in case you need to evacuate
 - **Evacuation and shelter kit** in case you evacuate, think about what special supplies you or your family will require if you are in a shelter for 2 weeks.

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