

JB MDL Office of Emergency Management (OEM)



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY

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Emergency Alert System Changes

As of September 2016, the National Weather Service has adopted three new weather event codes.

• **Extreme Wind Warning (EWW)**

The extreme Wind warning is an existing operational warning issued for advanced notice of sustained winds of 115 miles per hour or greater in association with major hurricanes.

• **Storm Surge Watch (SSA)**

The storm Surge Watch is issued for the possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland, generally within 48 hours, associated with a tropical, subtropical or post-tropical cyclone.

• **Storm Surge Warning (SSW)**

The storm Surge Warning will be issued to provide advanced notice of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland, generally within 36 hours, associated with a tropical, subtropical or post-tropical cyclone.

Severe Weather Preparedness

How familiar are you with the appropriate actions to take during a tornado, hurricane or other severe weather event?

Some tornadoes strike rapidly, without time for a tornado warning and sometimes without a thunderstorm in the vicinity. When you are watching for rapidly emerging tornadoes, it is important to know that you cannot depend upon seeing a funnel: clouds or rain may block your view. The following weather signs may mean a tornado is approaching: a dark or green-colored sky, a large, dark, low-lying cloud, large hail, or a loud roar that sounds like a freight train. If you notice any of these conditions, take cover immediately and keep tuned to local radio, JB MDL AM radio 1650, TV stations or to a NOAA Weather Radio. <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>

Should a tornado warning be issued for JB MDL, the base will sound a 3 to 5 minute steady tone siren over the Giant Voice speakers to warn personnel. This indicates a tornado is imminent or in progress. Take cover.

Hurricane season runs June 1st through November 30th. Hurricanes are categorized in five different groups, from a Category 1 to a Category 5 with a Category 5 being the worst with winds greater than 157 mph. A hurricane watch means that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 MPH) are possible within 48 hours or less, whereas a hurricane warning is issued when hurricane conditions are expected in 36 hours or less. Hurricanes hit NJ in 2011, Irene & 2012, Super Storm Sandy. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

“When thunder roars, go indoors” during lightning, find a safe enclosed shelter when you hear thunder. Check the weather forecast before participating in outdoor activities. If the forecast calls for thunderstorms, postpone your trip or activity or make sure adequate safe shelter is readily available. If you are caught in an open area, crouch down in a ball-like position (feet and knees together) with your head tucked and hands over your ears so that you are down low with minimal contact to the ground. Do NOT lie down. Lightning causes electric currents along the top of the ground that can be deadly over 100 feet away. Crouching down is the best combination of being low and touching the ground as little as possible.



After a storm, roads may be flooded. FEMA tells us as little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle and as little as two feet of water can carry most cars away. Avoid driving through these areas, especially when the water is moving fast. Should heavy rains or flooding be expected, move valuables from lower floors to higher ground. When roads are blocked, don't drive around the barricades. As the National Weather Service says: **Turn Around, Don't Drown.**

Earthquakes can happen on the east coast. On 23 Aug 2011, a 5.8 earthquake was felt in NJ, PA and NY. As recent as 13 Dec a 1.9 magnitude quake hit central NJ.

JB MDL earned the “Storm Ready” certification from the National Weather Service by ensuring the installation is prepared for any natural disaster. If you need information on how to prepare for these or any other event, please contact OEM at the numbers to the right.

Emergency Kit Supplies

A basic emergency supply kit could include any of the following.

- Water, one gallon per person per day for at least three days.
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic for shelter-in-place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Manual can opener for food.
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger.

<http://www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit>

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Training Section

James Ferguson 609-754-6223
Tim Larkin 609-754-6208
TSgt Holloman 609-754-3731
SrA Hill 609-754-5194