Are You Prepared?

Join the New York City Housing Authority in ensuring that all NYCHA residents and staff are well prepared in case of a storm emergency. Together we can make sure that everyone is safe when disaster strikes. Please use this Special Issue of the Journal as a resource to boost your own emergency preparedness and encourage those around you.

You can do your part by making an evacuation plan for your family, gathering all of the supplies you might need in case of an emergency, and finding out if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone by calling 311 or visiting nyc.gov/oem and checking the Hurricane Evacuation Zone Finder.

Red Hook Houses residents Leonora Tucker (left) and daughter Augustine Tucker (center, in hat), along with Augustine’s niece Heaven Jackson and her son Caleb Reed evacuated during Hurricane Sandy. Hear their reflections and emergency plans plus other preparedness info by searching for “NYCHANNEL” on YouTube, or visit on.nyc.gov/1pxmaDU.

“I’d move my car to a safer spot before a storm. I’d pack comfortable shoes, a warm jacket and snack.”

“I’m with my aunt a lot and am part of her family plan. I know where to find things in the dark in her house.”

“I’ve shopped for canned food, water. My son’s medicine is in my Go Bag.”

“If we evacuate it’s serious. I’d move faster and take my iPad and wrestling movie.”
Go to
www.nyc.gov/oem
for more details,
including what
should be in
your “Go Bag”
and Emergency
Supply Kit.

Six Things You Should Know for Hurricane Season

1. Discuss and prepare a disaster plan with household members that outlines clear action steps. Be sure to include information on the best way to communicate and where to meet in case of an emergency.

2. Identify family or friends living outside evacuation zone boundaries that you can stay with. If this is not an option, identify in advance the nearest evacuation center that you can go to by calling 311 or logging onto www.nyc.gov/oem.

3. Make a “Go Bag” that you can bring with you if you ever have to evacuate, which will allow you to leave sooner and not worry about forgetting anything.

4. Put together an Emergency Supply Kit in case you have to shelter in place.

5. If you are asked to evacuate, do so immediately!

6. If you are going to an evacuation center, pack lightly, and bring your Go Bag, a sleeping bag or bedding, and medical supplies and equipment. Always let friends or relatives know where you are going.

NYCHA, Red Cross Team Up for Disaster Preparedness Training

In a first-ever partnership between the Greater NY Red Cross and the New York City Housing Authority, more than 1000 public housing residents will receive free emergency preparedness training. Through the Red Cross program, these NYCHA residents will learn about the first steps to take in an emergency, how to reunite with family and friends, proper supplies to stock up on and how to decide whether to shelter in place or evacuate.

NYCHA and the Red Cross have teamed up to encourage public housing residents to be knowledgeable volunteers when any type of disaster may strike. At Jackie Robinson Houses in Manhattan, Melvera Simmons, the Resident Association Secretary, trained as a Red Cross volunteer after Hurricane Sandy hit two years ago so she could share lessons learned. “We know the neighborhood,” Simmons said, “And learning how to volunteer is something that would help other residents and the Red Cross.” For information visit www.redcross.org/support/volunteer.

With these Red Cross Apps you’ll also get:

+ Pre-loaded content ensuring that Red Cross guidance is available anytime, anywhere – even if no Internet connection is available
+ A practical and effective way to let family and friends quickly know they are safe with a customizable “I’m Safe” alert that can arrive by e-mail or text or link to your Facebook or Twitter
+ A chance to show what you know: interactive quizzes enable users to earn badges to be shared with friends on social networks, and that will especially encourage young people to be disaster-ready
NYCHA is able to set up a second Emergency Operations Center to ensure uninterrupted operations. Of course, NYCHA is not doing this alone. Collaboration with other City agencies, community-based organizations and various local partners is integral to current disaster planning for the Housing Authority.

In addition to preparing people for adverse events, NYCHA is making its properties more resilient since Sandy. Elevating boilers and installing flood barriers are just some of the ways construction and repairs will not just fix past problems, but will improve developments for the future. “We’re looking ahead, not just back at damage,” said NYCHA’s General Manager Cecil House. “Next time, people will be better informed about what to do, properties will be better protected against bad weather, and community partners will be ready to support each other.” To learn more about emergency preparedness, visit Ready.gov and look inside for info graphics that will help you BE READY.

NYCHA’s new Director of Emergency Preparedness Sadie Bynum (above) leads residents and staff in a tabletop drill. Training includes floor by floor check-ins like this one (left) at Meltzer Houses in October where staff knocked on doors to reach residents with disaster-related news.

Make a Commuter Emergency Plan

Make a Commuter Emergency Plan – keep a printed list of different ways you can get home or to a safe area, by subway, bus, driving, etc.

Important transportation information links

MTA
www.mta.info
311
www1.nyc.gov/311/index.page
NY Waterway
www.nywaterway.com

NYC DOT
Ferry Information

Notify NYC
https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifynyc
RESOURCES YOU CAN TRUST

Reliable information is key in an emergency

Ready New York
nyc.gov/readyny
Your primary source of emergency preparedness info.

FEMA’s Ready.gov
Traveling? FEMA’s Ready.gov prepares you for nearly any disaster. Comprehensive materials include children’s info too.

American Red Cross
redcross.org/prepare
An online preparedness module, plus info on how to register "safe and well" family members when a disaster hits.

National Weather Service
weather.gov/nyc
Governments depend on NWS to make their emergency preparedness decisions. You should too.

Good Sources on Important Topics

nyc.gov/readyny
New York City’s primary source of emergency preparedness info.

ready.gov
The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) disaster preparation site.

weather.gov/nyc
The National Weather Service’s website.

nyc.gov/notifynyc
Sign up to receive alerts from Notify NYC, the City’s official source for information about emergency events and important City services.

Info about evacuations during an emergency.

redcross.org/prepare
Preparedness guides from the Red Cross about not just hurricanes and floods, but also winter storms, fires, power outages, etc.

on.nyc.gov/emergencynychaca
NYCHA’s emergency preparedness page.

nyc.gov/nychaalerts
Sign up to receive NYCHA Alerts on service outages and restorations and NYCHA’s online Emergency Assistance Registration Form to let NYCHA know if you have a condition such as limited mobility, vision impairment, or one that requires daily medication or life-sustaining equipment.

nyc.gov/service
Volunteer for the City during an emergency.

redcross.org/support/volunteer
Volunteer for the Red Cross to help during emergencies.

nyc.gov/severeweather
Get info when weather emergencies are issued, such as flash flooding, extreme heat, or snow storms.

nyc.gov/hurricanezones
Find out if you live in a Hurricane Evacuation Zone and also find the closest shelter.

Info about evacuating during a hurricane.

on.nyc.gov/flooding
Get forecast updates during flash flooding.

on.nyc.gov/flashflood
Get info about flooding in the city.

Track snow plows and salt spreaders during a snow alert.

Brochure with information about how to handle stress during a disaster.

Continue to check our website and social media channels for the latest information:
on.nyc.gov/emergencynychaca
PREPARING FOR EMERGENCY
Here are important things you should do in case disaster strikes.

Are you prepared for an emergency?
- Nearly 3 million New Yorkers live in Hurricane Evacuation Zones.
- More than half of NYCHA’s developments are in Hurricane Evacuation Zones.
- 4 out of 5 NYCHA residents are “very or somewhat prepared” for a major storm similar to Hurricane Sandy.
- 56% of NYCHA households have a family evacuation plan.

Tips on communicating in a disaster
- Limit non-emergency phone calls.
- Keep all calls brief and text message if possible.
- Adjust device settings (e.g., brightness) to maximize battery life.
- Wait 10 seconds before redialing to decrease network congestion.
- Maintain a list of emergency numbers on your phone.
- Keep your devices fully charged and have extra batteries, chargers, and adapters on hand.

Shelter in Place
During an emergency, you may be asked to remain where you are. You’ll need more than just supplies.

Be informed before an emergency
- Hurricane Evacuation Zones are NOT the same as flood zones. Learn more about Hurricane Evacuation Zones at nyc.gov/knowyourzone.
- General information on flooding in NYC: on.nyc.gov/flooding and on.nyc.gov/floodrisk.

Stay informed during any emergency
- Sign up for NYCHA Alerts and NOTIFY NYCHA by visiting nyc.gov/nychaalerts.
- 36.3% of NYCHA residents know how to access official sources of information during an emergency, such as NYC Office of Emergency Management.
- Sign up for Notify NYC by visiting nyc.gov/notifynyc or by calling 311.
- Visit nyc.gov/severeweather, a site for residents to learn more information about how severe weather emergencies are affecting New York City.
- Do you know what would happen to your pets in a disaster? Learn how to prepare your pets for an emergency at nyc.gov/readynym.

Every household should pack a Go Bag
- It has a collection of items you may need in the event of an evacuation. A Go Bag should be packed in a sturdy, easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or suitcase on wheels.
- A Go Bag should be easily accessible if you have to leave your home in a hurry. Make sure it is ready to go at all times of the year.

Items you should pack
- Flashlight
- Radio
- Batteries
- Cash and ID
- Child’s toy
- Water

For more information go to:
- on.nyc.gov/emergency nycha and on.nyc.gov/oem/

Sources:
- NYC Mayor’s Office, http://on.nyc.gov/2HfHbB4

MAKE SURE YOUR PLAN INCLUDES YOUR PET
Pack for pets in your Go Bag!

Different pets may require different items
- Include current photos and descriptions.
- Bring information on:
  - Medical conditions
  - Behavior problems
  - Vet name/number

YOU MAY NEED:
- Toys
- Harness or carrier
- Grooming supplies
- 2 days of water (per pet) + 1 day
- Medications
- First Aid Kit
- Paper towels
- Food + manual can opener
- Plastic bags
- Lookout

POWER BLACKOUTS
If the electricity goes out, stay calm and follow these tips
- Avoid candles. Use flashlights during a blackout.
- Check radio news to see if the water is safe to drink.
- Cook any perishable food and eat it before it goes bad. Food left after the blackout may have to be thrown away.
- Have fresh batteries and battery-powered chargers for devices like radios and cell phones.
- Do you have things to pass the time? Games, books, and toys can help people of all ages stay occupied.