



Borough of Pompton Lakes

Office of Emergency Management

Albert Evangelista, Coordinator

William Baig, Deputy Coordinator



Today's presentation:

- Creating a disaster ready community!
- ***Storm Ready*** Awareness
- Emergency Preparedness
- Family Planning!



Elected Officials

- Mayor Michael Serra
- Council President Terri Reicher
- Councilman William Baig
- Councilman Ek Venin
- Councilman Eric DeLine
- Councilman Jennifer Polidori
- Councilman Frank Jaconetta



Communications

Bill Baig, Deputy Coordinator

Sharon Sonne, Secretary

- R.A.C.E.S. Radio Communication C
- ***Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service***
- Borough Phone Numbers, ext. 707
- All Borough, County, and State radio frequencies as well as HAM radio



Four phases of Emergency Management

- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery



Mitigation Activities

- Grant applications and monies for snagging and de-silting our rivers
- Storm Water Management- clearing storm drains and grate maintenance
- Advising the public to “batten down hatches” for wind and rain events
- Elevation and/or removal of SRL h



Community Notification

- Phone Notification System- Civic P
- Email, Texts, Twitter and Facebook
- Block Captains
- Channel 77
- Signboards and OEM warning sign
- School notification systems
- Vehicle sound systems



Emergency Communication

- Police, Fire and EMS communication must be and are power independent and redundant in case of damage failure
- Must have a level of interoperability use Field Communications truck to relieve 9-1-1 PSAP when necessary
- Spare batteries must be available



Preparedness

- LEPC meetings- held twice a year before any predicted major event
- Emergency plans are exercised!!
- CERT team readies shelter supplies materials such as cots, bedding, food purveyors and other incidentals
- All Emergency responders are scheduled and put on standby



Preparedness Continued

- All generators and vehicles are topped off with fuel and portable generators and water pumps are tested
- Food supplies are readied at PD, F, EMS and DPW
- Crews sleep in on standby
- EOC is staffed and activated as necessary



Community Education

- Borough Calendar, Website & handouts
- Channel 77 and signboards
- Annual Emergency Awareness Seminar
- Senior Club meetings, Senior House
- School and CERT programs
- Summer Camp and Jr. Police Academy
- Pompton Day and Holiday Stroll
- National Night Out

The logo graphic consists of a vertical black line on the left, a horizontal black line below the text, and three overlapping squares: a yellow one at the top left, a red one at the middle left, and a blue one at the bottom left. The text "NOAA.gov" is in a blue, sans-serif font.

NOAA.gov

- Access NOAA website for river levels and storm and flood predictions at water.weather.gov
- Monitor NOAA weather radio and TV and radio broadcasts
- Northern NJ counties covered by Mount Pleasant, NY in Upton, New York and the rest of the area covered by Mount Holly, NJ



FEMA.gov

- Website has a plethora of information pertaining to any type of storm or disaster event
- Information is available on what to do before, during and after a storm or disaster event- PLOEM Booklet
- Down side: no power =`s no internet



Approved Borough Shelters

- Deborah Ross, CERT/Shelter Coordinator
- Shelter: Carnevale Center, 10 Lenox Av
- Secondary Shelter: Lakeside School
- Colleen Moyle, School and Shelter Liaison
- Third Shelter if needed: St. Mary's Church Hall
- No Pets, American Red Cross approved
- Bring supplies, e.g. prescriptions, bedding, toys for children and comfort needs



Shelter requirements

- Must have police presence
- Must have EMS personnel on duty
- Board of Health compliant- food
- Must be secure and in control of p and personal items.
- Must turn over medications for pro storage and disbursement



Floodplain Manager

- Sal Poli , Construction Official
- Certified Floodplain Manager
- Is available to assist residents with floodplain delineation and information and/or mapping in accordance with FEMA and/or state DEP guidelines
- Maintains an office in Borough Hall



Police Department

- Chief Moises Agosto
- Captain Derek Clark, Communicati
- Lt. Michael Klepacky, Operations
- Responsible for law enforcement functions as well as river readings, notification, evacuations and secur flood plain areas.



Response

- Emergency services will respond to 9-1-1 calls for service. Non-emergency calls may be stacked or delayed.
- Boats, wave-runner and our 5-ton water vehicles are readied for response.
- All emergency personnel wear the proper safety gear for the situation.



Fire Department

- Fire Chief Jason Ekkers
- Ass't. Fire Chief Dennis Dakake
- Responsible for routine fire and re response duties as well as assisting residents in any manner including basement pump outs
- Many volunteer firefighters are residents also affected by flooding



First Aid Squad

- EMS Chief Shaun Phillippe
- Ass't. EMS Chief Ken Irrizary
- Maintain 2 ambulances, first-response vehicle, and Task Force truck and trailer serve our 2 communities of PL and River
- Squad Building can serve as a "temporary hospital" if the need should arise.
- Supply E.M.T.'s at the shelter.
- Continue to respond to routine emergency calls and rehab as necessary



Recovery

- Windshield surveys are conducted immediately after the storm subsides
- Additional personnel may be needed for public infrastructure and private damage assessment
- Damaged buildings are tagged accordingly and utilities shut-off
- Photos and videos must be taken of damaged areas, homes, and items



Department of Public Work

- Dan O'Rourke, Superintendent
- Tim Duffy, Supervisor
- Responsible for "Windshield Survey" data assessment as well as supplying any other borough-owned equipment and supplies to assist in the handling of the incident
- Responsible for the huge task of debris removal during and after the flood event



Tilcon Corp./ N.G.O.

- Safety Supervisor
- Tilcon continually provides much needed support to our borough residents by sitting on our Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and offering manpower and equipment for any purpose, specifically evacuation with heavy equipment.



Health Department

- Maryann Orapello, Health Officer
- Responsible for any and all health related issues and inspections as a result of any emergency event
- Maintains an office in Borough Hall is available to answer questions on health-related code or issue.



Municipal Utilities Authority

- John Wegele, Operations Manager
- Supplies drinking water to our town as sanitary sewer services.
- Will check our potable water supply for drinking water throughout and after the event.
- Works closely with OEM to notify residents of any impending problems with water or system.



Flood Zone Security

- Police provide security
- Boats available for patrol and evacuation
- Wave runner available for security medical emergencies
- Police roadblocks provide limited access- have your ID with you to r access to your homes



Flood Watch

- Means a flood event is possible
- Yellow “watch” signs will be posted
- River markers are checked by police every hour and then half-hour as the need progresses
- People should *prepare to evacuate* their homes and raise everything to a higher level



Passaic Valley River Bas

- The Borough of Pompton Lakes lies between the Pequannock and Ramapo Rivers, contains the Wanaque River within its borders and is periodically subject to flooding.



Flooding

- High water levels can occur at any time of the year, but are more likely to occur during the Spring due to rain in combination with snow runoff and during the late summer and fall which is the peak season for tropical storms and hurricanes in northern New Jersey.



Under Government- Emergency Management

- **River Gauges**

Ramapo River at Pompton Lakes

Pequannock River at Riverdale

Wanaque River at Wanaque

Pompton River at Pompton Plains



Under Community- Flood Advisory Board

- **River Gauges**

Ramapo River at Pompton Lakes

Pequannock River at Riverdale

Wanaque River at Wanaque

Pompton River at Pompton Plains



Flood “Warning”

- Means a flood is definite and residents prepare to evacuate. Emergency phone messages, texts, and emails will be sent to cell and land-line phones.
- Red “warning” signs will be posted
- Sound trucks will broadcast throughout
- Door-to-door notification will take place. Police, Block Captains or CERT team members



Reverse Phone Notification

- The Borough contracts the services of C Ready and can broadcast emergency and informational messages to our entire or sections of our community.
- Residents can sign up for the service on Borough website homepage, *pomptonlandnj.gov* and enter any phone numbers they want called.
- Sign-up forms are also available at Police Headquarters, Borough Hall and Library



Wanaque Reservoir

- Check **Facebook** page at Pompton Lakes OEM for weekly Wanaque Reservoir levels. (100.9% this week)
- There are no “Flood Gates” at the Wanaque Reservoir
- Rivers and reservoir are usually “up” the spring and presently are.



Pompton Dam Floodgates

- React to the rising level of the lake
- Relieve water to maintain and control the level of the lake and upstream communities
- Open in 6 inch increments controlled by computer programs
- Siren sounds to warn citizens downstream of increased water flow



Pompton Dam Floodgates

- Our Borough and downstream communities are notified of the gate openings by NJDEP
- Gate operations are backed up by emergency generator in the event power failure.
- Our town does not control the gates



Pompton Dam Floodgates

- Together with the mitigation effort conducted by our Borough in cooperation with our Flood Advisory Board and OEM, the threat of repeated flooding has been diminished.
- The gate operation seems to be working as designed for the rainfall events that we have seen recently



Rainfall?

- 2018 was the wettest year on record since records have been kept.
- Pompton Lakes received 80 inches of rain in 2018 and our mitigation efforts such as desnagging and desilting and removing shoals has proven to relieve flooding.



Drones?

- We have begin using drones to survey our rivers for fallen trees and other debris that could cause a restriction or diversion in the water flow in the 3 rivers that flow through our borough.
- The program has paid dividends in allowing for mapping of restriction and the immediate removal of same.



Block Captains

- We have block captains who have volunteered to serve their neighborhoods. In the event of a flood, the block captains will be notified by O.E.M. and in turn will notify their neighbors in person or by phone.



CERT Team

- The 2006 Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) is trained to assist in emergencies and at our shelter.
- They may be deployed via phone or self-deploy in a catastrophe.
- CERT members operate in teams and carry special equipment and radios.



Under Community- CERT Team

- Please check out this site for information about our very successful and active Community Emergency Response Team. The training provided is great for you to have even if you do not want to be an active member of the team. The team meets monthly and has continued training and drills



Mutual Aid Resources

- Passaic County Sheriff's Department
- Passaic/ Bergen/ Morris Fire Dept.
- Passaic County EMS Mobilization
- UASI and EMS Task Forces
- Private Contractors/ N.G.O.'s
- Specialized Teams such as USAR,
- Utility Companies, e.g. PSEG and J



Siren warning signals

- An **evacuation warning** is a series of short intermittent blasts for 3 minutes
- The **signal to evacuate** is a steady 1-minute blast
- Sirens are not used for fire notification during a “declared flood emergency” to eliminate confusion



Well before evacuating-

- Secure all loose objects indoors if possible
- Maintain battery-operated equipment such as portable radios, cell phones, and flashlights
- Fuel your vehicle gas tanks
- Move your vehicles to higher ground
- **Relocate pets** to relatives or the Pompton Lakes Animal Hospital for no-fee in advance
- Move important items/papers to a higher



Before evacuation, continue

- Keep tuned to Channel 77 (PLTV) or Channel News 12 for local information.
- Store 3-days worth of drinking water in the event that the water supply is affected.
- Keep MRE's in the event of store closures.
- Notify relatives and Borough OEM of where you will be going if evacuated.
- Check the Borough Do's and Don'ts list for information on web and in calendar.



If a Flood Disaster is declared

- Evacuate immediately. If you unwisely to stay home, stay indoors
- *Make sure any infirm are evacuated well before flooding begins* as access via ambulance may or will be impossible
- Make certain your children are cared for, for example, picked up from school by someone
- Keep children away from floodwaters!!!



Bring important items to the shelter

such as:

Medication and eyeglasses

Personal blankets and pillows

Games and toys for tots and kids!

Favorite snacks or beverages (No alcohol)

Special Dietary food or drink

Money (cash)!! ATM's may not be working



When evacuating-

- Shutoff water supply to home.
- Shutoff gas line coming into home.
- Shutoff electrical breakers except for sump pump if you have one.
- Secure doors. Open basement windows to stabilize walls and floor.
- Move any remaining cars to high ground ***in advance of flooding***



Roadways

- DO NOT DRIVE OR WALK through flooded roadways- the road may be undermined/water may be contaminated.
- DO NOT DRIVE OR WALK around barricades- the area is secured for protection and security.
- CARRY ID to allow you access back to your home after the event.



After the flood-

- Police will notify the shelter when it is safe for residents to return home.
- Cleanup kits will be distributed by the American Red Cross.
- Information regarding FEMA will be available.
- Disinfect all areas affected with solution of soap and bleach. NEVER MIX bleach and ammonia together!!!!
- Lime should be spread over lawn areas.



D.A.C.

- A Disaster Assistance Center may be set up. If it is, it will likely be in the Lenox School purpose room. Agencies would be available for residents to file claims.
- After Tropical Storm Floyd in March 2004, FEMA representatives actually went door to door to do damage assessment inventories and in some cases, provided checks on spot.



River Crest

- Remember that the rivers in Pompton Lakes crest approximately 12 hours after the end of the rainfall. They will continue to rise 1 to 1.5 feet during this time.
- If you need your basement pumped out, call the fire department at 973-835-0072 and you will be placed on a list.



Pumping

- The fire department will not pump the water stops rising and water table begins to recede.
- Be patient with the process.
- Limited equipment and manpower available.
- Help yourself by helping each other.



Flood Insurance

- Homeowners insurance **does not** cover flood damage
- Don't wait until a flood to purchase flood insurance- most policies don't take effect until 30 days after purchase
- Be familiar with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and flood maps



Flood Advisory Board

- Meets 4th Thursday of each month
Borough Council Chambers
- Can address your personal concerns and questions regarding flood information and mapping.
- Make recommendations to the Town Council regarding mitigation efforts to relieve flooding



Inspecting Utilities-

- Check for gas leaks- if you smell rotten eggs or hear hissing noises, open windows, call 9-1-1 and leave building.
- Look for electrical system damage- seeing sparks or if breakers keep tripping call 9-1-1 and an electrician.
- Check for sewer and water line damage.
- “Bubbles” indicate leaks.



Be Prepared!!!!

- The best protection for you and your family is to prepare **in advance** and be knowledgeable of what to do
- Check the FEMA website www.fema.gov and ready.nj.gov
- Print the information and review it with your family- review our booklet!
- Be safe!



Benjamin Franklin once said

**“If you fail to plan,
plan to fail!”**



Storm Ready

- Is a community preparedness program in the U.S. that encourages government entities to prepare for severe storms.
- The program is sponsored by the FEMA, which issues recognition to communities that demonstrate severe weather preparedness.



The U.S. has on average:

- 10,000 thunderstorms
- 5,000 floods
- 1,000 tornadoes
- And 2 deadly hurricanes each year.



Weather-related disasters

- 90 percent of all presidentially-declared disasters are weather related.
- Around 500 deaths per year
- Nearly 14 billion dollars in damage



Storm Ready

- Was initiated in 1999 in Tulsa, Oklahoma as a result of severe tornadoes.
- There has been at least one tornado each year in the Tulsa area since 1
- Storm Ready is a way to increase cooperation amongst agencies.



Storm Ready name and logo

- Became officially registered trademark of the National Weather Service in 2002.
- Walt Disney World received its recognition in 2006 and now there
- 874 counties, 721 communities, 72 universities, 10 tribal nations, 37 commercial sites, and 36 military s



To become *Storm Ready* community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point Emergency Operations Center
- Have redundant communications systems to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert public
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions



Storm Ready requires-

- Promoting the importance of public readiness through community seminars
- Developing a formal Hazardous Weather Plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises



At minimum:

- NOAA weather radios with tone alert and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) must be located at four sites within Storm Ready communities including EOC's, 24 hour warning points, city hall, and all school Superintendent offices
- We have them in all 6 schools



Skywarn Spotters

- Are trained emergency managers, dispatchers, other first responders, CERT team members and the general public.
- They are trained to observe and report hazardous weather conditions and report them to their NWS offices.
- Amateur radio operators are key!



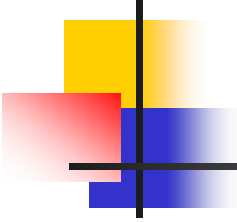
National Weather Service

- Reviews applications for Storm Ready and visits sites to verify compliance with all of the requirements to receive the designation.
- Designation is only good for three years and municipality must stay current to maintain the standards. We're good for 2020.



Next:

- <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>

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- The Community Rating System (CRS) recognizes and encourages communities to exceed the minimum NFIP standards for floodplain management activities. Depending upon the level of participation, flood insurance premium rates for policyholders can be reduced up to 45%. Go to www.fema.gov and type "Community Rating System" in the search box to learn more.



Thank you!

- For helping yourself by being here tonight
- For helping your family and friends need
- For being an informed citizen
- By volunteering to fulfill some need our community