



*News from*  
**SALEM COUNTY**  
Office of Public Information

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**SALEM COUNTY PREPARES FOR HEAVY RAIN AND WINDS FROM HANNA**

(SALEM, NJ)—Freeholder Deputy Director David Lindenmuth, Chair of the County Public Safety Committee, and Freeholder Bruce Bobbitt, Chair of the County Public Works Committee, today announced that the County is prepared for the effects of Tropical Storm Hanna that is expected to impact New Jersey on Saturday.

“The Salem County Emergency Operations Centers will be opened at 8:00 AM on Saturday morning and will be maintaining close contact with the municipal emergency management coordinators,” said Deputy Director Lindenmuth. “Additionally, we will be coordinating our response with the State Emergency Operations Center. We want to encourage everyone to stay indoors throughout the storm and keep safe.”

The Salem County Department of Emergency Services and the Salem County Public Works Department have spent much of the day Friday preparing for the effects of the Tropical Storm. Public Works crews spent the day cleaning ditches, as well as retaining basins and pipes anticipating high water flow and preparing for optimum drainage.

Prior to the storm, residents are urged to make sure that they do not have anything along their curb lines and catch basins that could clog up the storm water drainage systems, such as plastic bottles and cut brush. This will reduce the chances of areas flooding.

“We are preparing for the worst and hoping for the best,” said Freeholder Bruce Bobbitt. “We are not expecting issues with our waterways since the levels are extremely low. However, depending upon the track of the storm we could receive more than what is being predicted. We will be monitoring the waterways, bridges, and roads to ensure that the public is as safe as possible throughout the storm. Our public works crews and emergency management officials are skilled, dedicated, and ready to respond to whatever situation may occur.”

The approaching tropical storm could result in elevated water levels, flash flooding and heavy winds. Residents are urged to use caution when venturing out on Saturday.

The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management has suggested the following if you are out in the storm:

(MORE)

### WHEN DRIVING

- NEVER ignore barriers that warn of flooded or dangerous roads!
- AVOID areas that are already flooded, and areas that are subject to flooding. Seek higher ground.
- NEVER try to drive through swift water. The depth of the water is not always obvious. The roadbed may be washed out, leaving a deep pit.
- If your vehicle stalls or is suddenly caught in rising water, LEAVE IT IMMEDIATELY! And seek higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempting to move a stalled vehicle during a flood.
- DO NOT park or camp your vehicle along streams and washes, especially during threatening conditions.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

### WHEN ON FOOT

- If you come upon a flowing stream where the water is **higher than your ankles**, stop, turn around and go another way.
- Seek higher ground. NEVER try to walk or swim through swift water.
- **Children must NEVER play in floodwater!** Keep them away from drainage outlets and storm water retention basins.
- Remember that floodwaters may also cause health hazards due to **contamination or electricity**.

The Salem County Public Works Department (856-769-0453) will be open at 7:00 AM on Saturday to respond to Salem County residents concerning debris in County roads. Should residents require non emergency assistance during the storm they are to contact their local emergency management coordinator or police department. If it is an emergency they are to call 911 and report their emergency.