



News from
SALEM COUNTY
Office of Public Information

Mr. Robin B. Weinstein, Public Information Officer
Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8202
After Hours: (856) 297-5433

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Salem County Prepares County for Tropical Storm Hanna

(SALEM, NJ)--Deputy Freeholder Director David Lindenmuth, Chair of the County Public Safety, and Freeholder Bruce Bobbitt, Chair of the County Works Committee, today announced that Salem County departments are preparing for the 2008 hurricane season. Currently, the County is making preparations for Tropical Storm Hanna which is expected to affect the region on Saturday.

“The Salem County Emergency Operations Center is notifying the emergency management coordinators, their deputies, and all Salem County Department Heads about preparing for the potential effects of Tropical Storm Hanna this weekend,” said Deputy Director Lindenmuth. “All community emergency management officials will be given daily briefings as to Tropical Storm Hanna’s status throughout the remainder of the week and will continue until the storm passes.”

The hurricane season usually runs from June 1 through November 30. The peak time for hurricane and tropical activity in New Jersey runs from mid-August through the end of October.

“With the approach of Tropical Storm Hanna, the Salem County Office of Emergency Management is monitoring all storm reports and predictions through the National Weather Service in Mt. Holly, NJ, as well as other state and federal partners,” said Deputy Director Lindenmuth. “To keep our emergency management officials informed of the latest developments, we will be utilizing our Weather Alert System/Program and the Salem County Reverse 911 system throughout the event.”

Each community emergency management office will decide what their preparations will be for the weekend. The Salem County Emergency Management Office will be partially staffed during Saturday with remaining staff on stand-by should they be needed. Members of the Salem County Road Department will be on hand to address flooding or debris removal concerns.

“The Salem County Public Works staff will be on call starting at midnight Friday evening,” said Freeholder Bobbitt. “We will deploy our resources to fight flooding, downed trees, clogged drains, and address road closures. We will be prepared for

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whatever track the storm takes. The County's personnel are highly trained and will handle this storm in a professional manner to insure the safety of the County residents."

Throughout the day on Friday, all employees in the Public Works department will prepare for the storm by cleaning all basins and culverts to allow for free flowing water.

"The Salem County Engineering Department will be maintaining a close eye on our roadways, bridges, lakes and dams throughout the storm," said Freeholder Bobbitt. "We will coordinate with all municipalities, surrounding counties and state officials to ensure that we have a coordinated and effective response to whatever may come our way this weekend."

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.

The NJOEM suggest the following readiness steps in preparation for Hurricane Season:

- "Get a Kit" of emergency supplies – the items that will help you stay self-sufficient for up to three days (72 hours), if needed.
- "Make a Plan" for what you and your family will do during an emergency – this includes knowing how to evacuate and how to Shelter-in-Place.
- "Stay Informed" of possible threats – especially during Hurricane Season. Tune into your local media outlets for the latest breaking weather news. In the event of an emergency a battery powered radio is a great tool.

The Salem County Office of Emergency Management suggests residents to monitor the weather service reports during late Friday night and throughout the day on Saturday. Electrical outages should also be considered during this time and plans need to be developed for those that need consistent electrical service.