

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 26, 2012  
1:00 PM**

Pledge of Allegiance

On Roll Call, the following Freeholders were present: Deputy Director Laury, Freeholders, Vanderslice, Ware, and Director Acton and Freeholder Cross and Timberman via conference call.

**OPEN DISCUSSION ON STORM & PREPAREDNESS**

Deputy Director Laury "We already have a news release what we need to do or what we're doing what other people need to do we need to get that out and I'm sure the press will be helping us with that. Jeff will be carrying on the conversation from here. One of the good things that we having going for us is last year we had two of the whether to worst or better we've had two of them and we certainly are prepared we know what we did wrong we know what we can do better we are more prepared this year than the last two years so we're look forward to working with everybody. I see Jim McKelvie here (at this point Freeholder Cross joined via conference call) so you know the last two storms we had saturated ground this year our ground is not as saturated we're hoping that helps out a little bit we have some emergency things we need to do today to authorize lowering of lakes and being prepared for that situation you will see more of that in the press release at this.

R. 2012-

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION CALLING A MEETING OF THE SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
UNDER N.J.S.A. 10:4-9 EMERGENCY SITUATIONS WITHOUT ADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE

Deputy Director Laury made a motion authorizing the meeting with Freeholder Ware seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried by a voice vote of 6/0.

Jeff Pompper "Thanks to everyone for coming out. Obviously I'm sure everyone is well aware of the potential storm and the likelihood of major impact on Salem County in particular is increasing with each update. We've been receiving conference calls as well as packages from the National Weather Service our state and our federal partners. The vary last briefing package came out at about 10:30 this morning from the National Weather Service basically it is worse than the previous briefing package in many areas number 1 the track of the storm is becoming more defined although it still has an unreasonable uncertainty to it as with any weather forecasting but right now the track stands directly up the Delaware Bay into the Delaware River which has always been one of our worst case scenarios for planning on emergency management side. Even with that I had a one on one conversation with the National Weather Service Mount Holly this morning trying to get a handle on what they expect as far as the tidal flooding let alone all the other issues we are going to talk about in a minute. They are predicting about a 10 foot tide that is going to stay through multiple cycles meaning normally two cycles a day they are not looking for that tide to subside to a low water mark for several days. A ten foot tide puts it about a foot higher than what we had in the flooding event two weeks prior to Irene when we had some major flooding in the county. My hope is that the National Weather Service is wrong or that the storm veers off but as of right now I can only go by the information that we have and that is why I requested this meeting. The other concern associated with the storm right now they are saying it could enter the Delaware Bay as a hurricane not even a tropical storm. Generally we do not see hurricanes reach New Jersey usually they are all tropical storms and when you referred to Hurricane Irene throughout this past year as we did recovery efforts but truly that was a tropical storm. By all indications right now and again anything could change but they are predicting this to enter the Delaware Bay as a hurricane with hurricane force winds. Sustained winds are forecast right now to affect Salem County sometime between 2 and 4 am Monday morning. So Sunday night into Monday morning is when they are expecting the hurricane force winds to start to affect Salem County or at least storm force winds. They have estimated winds sustained between 30 and 50 miles per hour for approximately 24 hours straight and again this is a

National Weather Service brief as of this morning anything subject to change. They are also calling for anywhere between 3 and 10 inches of rain in New Jersey. I put National Weather Service on the spot this morning and asked them Salem County in particular they are guessing somewhere around 7 inches or more of rain accumulative over the period of this storm which is going to be drug out for a few days. As freeholder mentioned we do have dry ground conditions which is a plus and a minus the plus is it does allow for some absorption minus is it causes a whole lot more runoff if we get a torrential rain so areas that might have flood previously might flood a whole lot more because there's going to be potential of more significant runoff verses water soaking in. Previous two events that the freeholder spoke of were flooding events isolated to certain sections of the county. One event was our river front event one event was a more easterly event for the county unfortunately this is looking at the whole county at this time so although we've had the practice a little on each side I think this is going to challenge all of us across the board because it's going to be spread across the whole county. River front is a concern and we've taken some protective actions or are in the process of taking some protective actions there obviously if we get that 10 foot tide and in particular if it does not go out for several tide cycles there's going to be considerable flooding between the Pennsville, Carneys Point, Penns Grove, Salem City, Elsinboro and Lower Alloway Creek areas in particular. So we will be meeting with our Emergency Management municipal partners this evening at 7:00 I have also asked them to invite any of their key personnel and for their emergency operating centers as well as any of their elected officials so we will do a very similar briefing today for them tonight. I should have an updated briefing package no later 6:30 this evening from the National Weather Service so we're going to keep our fingers crossed that that news is much better than the news that I have from this morning's briefing package. Questions on the weather even itself? On anything I covered there? I wish I had better news.

Prosecutor Lenahan "That's subject to change going into Sunday afternoon right weather it hooks back in or not?"

Mr. Pompper "Absolutely Mr. Prosecutor the path of the storm is still subject to change. We did have a conference call a little bit earlier with all of the 21 county OEM coordinators and the state office of emergency management, National Weather Service was brought in and there was a lot of discussion about well what if it veers off like Hurricane Irene did and we were very fortunate in that because when we looked at the forecast and I brought all you folks together for that one it was kind of a dooms day event and we wound up receiving about half of what they forecasted. So we kind of pressed the National Weather Service today and said although the track is still somewhat uncertain even if it veered off by a few hundred miles north or south we are still on the wrong side of this storm and we are still going to have a significant impact. Obviously it may lessen if it's not as direct up the Delaware Bay but it's still predicted to be a significant impact to our county and South Jersey as a whole."

Director Acton "Atlantic City Electric, have they contacted you?"

Mr. Pompper "They have we've spoken with our regional representative from Atlantic City Electric we will be requesting them to send a representative to our EOC which I'll talk about in a few minutes."

Clerk of the Board Gage, "I also just got an email from them they are having a call in informational conference at 3:00 today which it just came so I'll send that out to you."

Freeholder Ware "Jeff when will you make the decision about evacuations from low lying areas."

Mr. Pompper "That needs to be made very soon Freeholder. Couple things that are on my list here once I finish the weather briefing I want to talk about state of emergency and I know I did email the administration and freeholder board with my intent to declare a state of emergency pre storm. Main reason for that determination is we need to take those protective actions that you're asking about freeholder and to protect our county and our interest they would be best done under a state of emergency. The State of New Jersey, the Governor's office is in discussions with the State Police, OEM command staff as far as the Governor declaring a state of emergency and whether the Governor does or does not I would still like to see the county have its own state of emergency."

Clerk of the Board Gage, "What time do you want that effective?"

Mr. Pompper "I would ask that immediately after this meeting if we could make that effective then we can start with some protective measures."

Clerk of the Board Gage "2:00?"

Director Acton "2:00"

Clerk of the Board Gage "We'll set it at 2:00."

Mr. Pompper "That will be fine."

Freeholder Vanderslice "Jeff memories of the last storm are pretty clear in most of our minds and I've seen in some areas and maybe they were done the last time and maybe they weren't and maybe they're not our jurisdiction but sign that reads a road may be flooded fast moving water do we have things like that available and do we know where those places are that we can put them up ahead of time to prevent something from happening to people?"

Mr. Pompper "freeholder I'll defer some to the Public Works Director. Director I know we have signs and one of the concerns and obviously pre deploying some of these signs if we're looking at wind gust of 74 miles per hour and sustain winds I don't know that we will be able to maintain those signs on the roadways so things such as part of the state of emergency not initially that we're declaring now what things that I may add at a later date to that state of emergency may be a travel ban on the county side. To help with that Jeff I refer to you sign wise I know that we have some supplies I'll let you speak to that."

Jeff Ridgeway "Freeholder Vanderslice we have trucks already loaded with blockades, barricades, barrels, cones things like that but to put up signs ahead of time as Jeff elaborated they become projectiles that becomes a safety factor for the resident of Salem County. We are well versed now in all these different events that seems to be hitting the county and we'll be ready for it as it comes."

Mr. Pompper "One key thing to address and the press was a great help to us during the last couple of events is getting the word out to the public. Please stay off the roadways once the storm event starts unless you absolutely need to get out there please stay off the roadways and never drive through the standing water. We had the one tragic event during the previous storm I hope we never see a repeat of that but if the press could do one big favor for me if would be to get that word out to have the residents stay off the roadways."

Director Acton "I know if Pittsgrove somebody moved a barrel and went around the barrel."

Mr. Ridgeway "We've had barrels moved we've had blockades moved we had people after the Burlington Road Bridge collapsed we had an individual who went around all the cones and barricades and drove right into the stream bed and into the wall and had a child in the car."

Director Acton "And she had a child in the car."

Clerk of the Board Gage "Let's for clarification purposes when you declare a state of emergency at 2:00 today that does not mean that everybody has to stay in their home at this point?"

Mr. Pompper "Correct"

Clerk of the Board Gage "Okay so there's a difference between the state of emergency that you're declaring now"

Mr. Pompper "Correct"

Clerk of the Board Gage "And the official state of emergency or not official but a different form of state of emergency or whatever your verbiage is you'll tell me which will take place like later Sunday night?"

Mr. Pompper "Correct a state of emergency just so everybody's on the same page a state of emergency just grants raw powers and authorities to us as the governmental officials to protect public safety. Within that state of emergency we have the right enter and act additional regulations and or requirements for the public such as traffic bans,

easements to properties and things like that. Currently none of that will be in the initial state of emergency. The initial state of emergency will be done simply to allow us to begin the process of taking these protective actions and announcing them out to the public. There will not be a travel ban associated with this state of emergency that will occur at 2:00 pm today.”

Freeholder Cross “A quick question also for clarification purposes so does that also allow us to at this point and time when we declare that at 2:00 get FEMA reimbursement come into play or does it start from the time that we declare it at 2:00 or the official one later Sunday evening.”

Mr. Pompper “Freeholder Cross the FEMA reimbursement process is based on a window a hour window period around when the storm actually hits and the highest impact of the storm. So regardless of what time we declare the state of emergency we’re still going to be eligible for FEMA funds should they become available and that hasn’t even been talked about at this point.”

Freeholder Cross “That 48 hour window correct?”

Mr. Pompper “Correct it is a 48 hour window and generally it’s set around the occurrence of the agencies directly impacted the Emergency Management’s directly impacted they generally pick the height of the storm and center that 48 hour window around that.”

Clerk of the Board Gage “Let me just hit one more time the travel ban. We’re having this state of emergency declared at 2:00 I assume as events unfold you will have another press release Sunday including all of us as Freeholders and Administration in on that as far as the decision to go forward with more extreme measures as we know how the storm is developing.”

Mr. Pompper “Yes if necessary you know we’re certainly going to continue to monitor the storm and forecasting is just that it’s forecasting and anything can change hopefully we don’t need things such as travel bans but if we do they will be announced through the proper channels and through a press release if certain protective measures are required such as mandatory evacuations which right now are not being considered we’re simply going to request people voluntarily evacuate. Those will be announced both through the press as well as reverse 911 messaging.”

Freeholder Cross “Jeff I don’t need to tell you I heard you say something earlier I can’t get clear on all of it but we at Salem County have a tendency to historically think that it’s not going to happen to us mentality and with that fatality last year I meant that was tragic and we certainly don’t want events to repeat themselves I know you’ll stress that.”

Mr. Pompper “Absolutely freeholder I totally agree and that’s why we want to take these steps you know we can’t stress enough we need the public to follow directions. When we are giving out some sort of directions or restriction on travel or whatever it may be it is vitally important it’s being done for a specific reason and we certainly need the public to follow those instructions.”

Freeholder Cross “Okay very good. Something else and I’m not sure who’s on the phone is the Sheriff or somebody from law enforcement there?”

Clerk of the Board Gage “We have the Prosecutor, we have Warren Maybe Deputy Director I don’t know all the titles but yes we have various.”

Freeholder Cross “I just want to see if we can coordinate guys and get approval for having folks in there to take care of the facilities while these folks are in the OEM facility I mean we’re going to be on the weekend I know staffing is minimal and supplies are limited we’ve already had that addressed and brought to our attention so I just to make sure and see if we can get any kind of staffing to cover that and the approval for such.”

Clerk of the Board Gage “We’re going to have a motion in a little bit authorizing overtime you know and a couple of other things and I think that will allow the department head Freeholder Cross to go forward with that.”

Freeholder Cross “Very good thanks.”

Jeff Pompper "We will be opening our EOC while we have the press here I know they often have questions as far as what are our plans for emergency management so I'll go through a brief rundown of that and then I know that I believe you want to discuss some things in closed session at some point. Real quick we will be opening and staffing our ERC at least partially by 9 pm Sunday evening. Reason being and I know a lot of folks are wanting to enjoy their weekend but looking at the storm force winds and the projected time of that I want to make sure our staff is not out driving in those winds and severe storm so by 9 pm Sunday evening we'd like the initial staffing and again it's partial it's not the entire staff and I can run through that list later on in the meeting. We'll intend on running 12 hours shifts as we generally do which will take the next shift change into 9 am the next morning. Concern being what's going to be the weather at 9 am and I do not have that answer as of right now I'm hoping that tonight's weather briefing at 6:30 will contain better information and we can certainly relay that to you. One of the things that we discussed this morning out at OEM was previously we had cots and supplies available so staffing can stay right in the facility versus traveling in the bad weather. We are making those arrangements and we will have those preparations there should your relieve staff want to come and stay or should you want to stay at 9 am in the morning instead of driving home if it's bad and again we'll wait for that forecast tonight to make some of those decisions. Couple other things that have been done and I want to give credit to BJ she's worked very hard over the past 24 hours in getting the departmental website update so it is all centered around Hurricane Sandy at this point. There is a lot of good information on that site not only for the general public but for our own staff here. I know the Health Department updated their website yesterday which was a tremendous help and I thank you folks for doing that. The key thing is and Freeholder Cross hit the nail on the head earlier making sure the public is able to get the information and stressing to them that they need to follow that information that's being providing. So whether it is our new website which is [readysalem.org](http://readysalem.org) or whether it's the Health Department website or whether they go to the County website which will have a link back to the [readysalem.org](http://readysalem.org) as long as they get to that site that's where we intend on putting the most up to date information and it's just one tool box, reverse 911 is another tool the press has certainly been very beneficial to us during previous storms so again I hope we can rely on Bill and staff to get those messages out both electronically and in print format."

Director Acton "Thanks Bill thanks Michael."

CFO Wright "I'm sorry Jeff tower company do we have any oversight with them?"

Jeff Pompper "No sir."

Director Acton "American Water Towers is one right?"

Jeff Pompper "American Tower yeah that's the only one American Tower."

BJ Ayars "I want to elaborate very quickly on the [readysalem.org](http://readysalem.org) is actually an entirely new site geared toward not only just to Hurricane Sandy but that's where the focus is right now but on emergency preparedness in general all about how the public can protect themselves so we want to coordinate all the communications that go out through that site so we can have it consistent every update we do we'll put there. So if you have your own department sites if you could put a link on your departments site please that directs them back to [readysalem.org](http://readysalem.org) or utilize that along with our Face book and our twitter page and our reverse 911 messaging and I think that's going to me a need that we identified last year with people saying they didn't know where to go to get the information and the one other positive thing about that website is that it's hosted someplace in the Midwest so even if the situation gets very bad here and we lose our server as long as I've got my I phone and I can get out somehow to the internet I could get to the server and I can still update them if our county servers go down in regardless to what the impact the storm has on us right here that sights not local so we should be able to continue to provide updates."

Jeff Pompper "In addition to the website which we really want the public to go to for the information we will use reverse 911 messaging we intend on sending a couple of messages out. We will be working with both the Health Department and Social Services to address our functional needs population within the county and we will be sending a message out or that as well as we will be sending a reverse 911 message out to the general population which is spread across the entire county advising those folks in low lying areas to voluntarily relocate hopefully with family and friends outside the area or other arrangements outside the area which leads us up to sheltering options. Over the past 48 hours I've been in contact almost continually with Red Cross which is our primary support agency for

sheltering. Right now the intent is if it is need and that determination has not been made yet but if a shelter is needed the primary one will be Salem Community College at this point as the updated weather forecast come in we'll fine tune this and we'll have some definite information by tomorrow midday as to whether we intend on opening a shelter or using other facilities. The main thing to stress is everybody's preparedness and part of that preparedness is having plans outside the area so the shelters are really a last resort option. We would strongly suggest to the public make arrangements with friends, family that live outside of the area or go and travel stay in a hotel or whatever outside of the area. They should be your primary objectives not relying on waiting till the last minute and securing space in a shelter."

Unknown female voice "Where is outside the area?"

Jeff Pompper "Outside the area, my preference would be head inland out of the State of New Jersey because we all know the State of New Jersey being a peninsula the southern end extremely low I would hate to see them relocate to into a Cumberland County. Cumberland County my partners in Cumberland County are doing the same thing right now that we're doing here so head west. Head west, head inland, head up hill and west."

Director Acton "Nursing homes?"

Jeff Pompper "I've been in contact the Carneys Point Care facility which is our nursing home that generally experiences flooding. The Administrator has called me several times today they are in the process of relocating all of their residents so over 100 residents will be relocated from the Carneys Point Care facility to other in kind facilities throughout the state and we have some contacts in some other states well also so they are handling the. We have very robust agreements with our long term care facilities we are one of the few counties that's made it that far to have these agreements. They effectively handle their own evacuation before during Hurricane Irene and all indicators are they are going to be able to do that again."

Clerk of the Board Gage "How about the facility and I don't remember where it was last year but Elmer area or that type of thing that we had..."

Jeff Pompper "Lakeside Manor"

Clerk of the Board Gage "Have they been talked to at this point?"

Unknown female voice "They will be"

Clerk of the Board Gage "I know that caught us unaware last time and in the middle of the storm we had to evacuate those folks."

Debbie Behnke "They had their call two days out like they're going to get know they chose not to leave."

Clerk of the Board Gage "Well that's what I'm saying I think we need to deal with it because last time it was a problem."

Jeff Pompper "Absolutely"

Director Acton "It was the generator, wasn't it a generator that they needed?"

Jeff Pompper "No they were actually flooding there at that point and that's going to be the universal message this time if you flooded before you probably will flood at least that much this time if not more unless the forecast rate changes."

Director Acton "That's why it's so important that you have those monthly meetings so kudos to you to get them all together in times like this."

Jeff Pompper "I guess at that point the rest of the items I think we could handle later on..."

Clerk of the Board Gage "I guess the only other question open session would be the dams. Are you going to lowering the dams?"

Jeff Pompper "We have I've been in contact with the municipal coordinators who ultimately in the State of New Jersey being a home rule state I have 15 municipal coordinators coordinate the activities in their municipalities I've been in contact with those who have significant dams. Most of them have begun the lowering process or have already lowered their lakes so I can tell you for instance I know our Public Works Department addressed Elmer Lake this morning."

Jeff Ridgway "And Avis Mill, West Branch and Locust Island have all been dewatered also."

Jeff Pompper "I do know that Palatine Lake their lake association has already lowered the level at that lake. I will be reaching out to the boy scouts reference Camp Brice, Camp Roosevelt and Alloway Township reference Alloway Townships Lake."

Director Acton "And how about DuPont will you reach out to them?"

Jeff Pompper "DuPont is going to be contacted we actually have a phone change so Woodstown Borough lake will be open and I left that one out. Woodstown Borough lake will be open they will make the contact to both the Sportsman's Club and DuPont."

Clerk of the Board Gage "I think that's a key thing here to remember that these lakes tie into each other and when you open one it could have a negative impact on the one down the line so there's a process on how they're opened it's not just everybody opening their dams at the same time."

Jeff Pompper "You know I know we hear a lot of debate about opening dams and not opening dams and we can debate that all day. I think previously drawing these lakes down during previous events greatly lessened the amount of damage that we had and we had significant damages from previous storms but I think they would have been a lot worse had we not drawn these lakes down ahead of time and controlled the flow going downhill. There's going to be flooding associated with it I'd rather it be a controlled flooding over a few day period of time verses an abrupt dam failure that may be successive like Earl said it may be successive through multiple lakes and then we're going to have a rapid rush of flooding which creates much more of a hazard to the public."

Prosecutor Lenahan "Which is what led to that fatality on Route 40 because that water it might as well been the Mississippi River crossing Route 40 there by Richmond's."

Jeff Pompper "There was just so much water Mr. Prosecutor it just literally had no place to go it's got to run downhill and it's going to flow cross roads and bridges and I will assure you we will have flooded roads and bridges this time if this forecast holds true. Key point there is again stress to the public do not drive in any waters."

Clerk of the Board Gage "One more point I saw Salem today is getting additional pumps at their pumping station down here. Are we coordinating that here at all or is that basically municipal?"

Jeff Pompper "That is being done at the municipal level LAC has also informed me that they are putting their request in for some pumps in their township also. Generally the way it works is the municipalities will handle it if they have any issues or any gaps that they can't fill they generally will put the request to the county if we can't fill then I will forward their request to the state."

Administrator Ford "Madam Director I have a countywide public information conference call I need to take on the storm."

Undersheriff Maybe "I just wanted to say I don't know if you touched on it before about the correctional facility we're working know on a contingency plan you know if we have to move the 300 and some inmates so our number one priority on our law enforcement side with our officers is going to be you know the correctional facility if we have to move those people so that's what we're working on right now."

Clerk of the Board Gage "Who do you have an agreement with as far as where they're going."

Jeff Pompper "I don't know that we should..."

Clerk of the Board Gage "We shouldn't say that?"

Jeff Pompper "Yes. Sorry I didn't mean to speak for you Undersheriff. We do have plans and agreements in place and we have practiced those plans and agreements between the Sheriff's Department, OEM and multiple agencies."

Director Acton "And Dennis you'll help BJ link do some of the linking for her website and how about you Ms Behnke anything with Disability."

Debbie Behnke "For later."

Director Acton "Prosecutor you have anything? Jeff?"

Jeff Ridgway "With Mr. Pompper Jeff if you have any problems with outages at the communication center you know where your antenna's are please let us know like a couple hours in advance if your generators are running so that we can fill the tanks but other than that we work hand and hand with all the departments and we'll make it through this."

Director Acton "Jim do you have anything?"

Jim McKelive "The work that the Engineers Office mostly does is to access the damage if there is any to county roads, bridges, dams and we're prepared to do that. We scope the work for repairs contacting DEP for emergency authorization to do the repair and working on emergency contracts to see that the work gets down."

Director Acton "Lou Mr. Joyce back there."

Lou Joyce "I'll be working with Jim on anything that needs repair."

Director Acton "Health Department"

Nancy Gerrity "We are repaired to staff the shelter with Debbie we'll be setting it up on Saturday tomorrow afternoon."

Stacy Pennington "BJ's going to have the CERT Team help and I will be out at the OEC."

Director Acton "Sherri anything on the Office on Aging? All your elderly people going to be good?"

Sherri Hinchman "They are just all together."

Clerk of the Board Gage "A couple motions if that's alright with you."

Director Acton "Just one second I don't know if Doug has an update for us on the towers this is on a whole different subject but."

Clerk of the Board Gage "You didn't advertise for that."

Director Acton "We didn't put any other business."

Clerk of the Board Gage "It's not part of the emergency."

Director Acton "So we can't have a resolution for that?"

Clerk of the Board Gage "It's not allowable under the emergency that you called the meeting."

Doris Isaacs "Is everything in place if you need to schools for evacuation centers?"

Jeff Pompper "Yes and if I could request that all department heads stay behind for the closed session I have a few topics that I'd like to discuss and then you can put together a uniform press release for the press."

Clerk of the Board "Let's with your permission let's do this we have three motions that we have to do and then maybe accept any questions from Bill or Mike since everybody's here there we'll go into closed session with the department heads if that's alright."

Director Acton "Sounds good."

Clerk of the Board Gage "And Jeff really doesn't need this but it's nice just to give him a little support a motion confirming the state of emergency that is going to be declared at 2:00 pm."

Motion made by Freeholder Vanderslice and second by Freeholder Ware. As there was no discussion, motion carried 7/0.

Clerk of the Board Gage "Little support again for the lowering of the levels of the dams across the county."

Motion made by Deputy Director Laury and second by Freeholder Vanderslice. As there was no discussion motion carried 7/0.

Clerk of the Board Gage "And last and not least motion authorizing necessary overtime for the staffing needs of the county during this emergency."

Freeholder Ware and second by Freeholder Vanderslice. As there was no discussion motion carried 7/0.

Director Acton "If you guys want to stay on we're going to have questions from Bill or if he has questions and then we're going to go into closed session with Department Heads."

Freeholder Timberman signed off.

Mike is your main reporter but I have a couple things real quickly. The state of emergency goes into effect at 2 pm we describe that as a measure to allow the county to set everything in motion so to be prepared is that correct?

Jeff Pompper "Correct. The reason I'm requesting the state of emergency is to allow us to start to take the protective actions to obviously protect the public during this event by declaring it pre storm event and not waiting until the storm is here that allows us to start things such as sending out the reverse 911 messages for the voluntary relocation of residents. The health care facilities Carney's Point Care has been very cooperative and I didn't need to get into the situation where we were enforcing an evacuation of that but if that were not the case or if another facility comes to our attention that we absolutely feel need to evacuate under the state of emergency we would have that authority to order that. So we're asking for it upfront without any of the protective measures or restrictions just too simply begin the process."

Unknown speaker "When will you say the first reverse 911 will go out to ask people to voluntarily leave if they live in a low lying area do you have an idea on that?"

Jeff Pompper "The first 911 message to the general public will probably go out this evening after folks get off from work."

Unknown speaker "And that will ask per say that you should be...?"

Jeff Pompper "If you live in a low lying or flood prone area we are asking you to voluntarily relocate to a safe location whether it be friends or family outside the area or any other arrangements they may have to make."

Unknown speaker "At what point would it become mandatory would it be actually after the storm and the flooding begin."

Jeff Pompper "If conditions warrant it if we have an updated forecast that is not as good as this one let me put it that way we would certainly continue to monitor that and maybe make those decisions at any point between now and the point the storm hits. The last thing we would want to do is wait until the storm is on top of us to order a mandatory evacuation and when we talk mandatory evacuation I have to through the precaution out there if we talk about it with the state coordinators meeting and things okay it's mandatory evacuation we're asking the public to do something at the voluntary level even if we make it mandatory we don't have the resources to enforce this on every home so again we are asking people to be reasonable if we say it's a voluntary evacuation you know please follow that voluntary evacuation. If we make it mandatory it's the same request of the people is what I'm trying to say."

Unknown speaker "You say a mandatory evacuation you know in these low lying areas and if people stay they're at their own risk."

Jeff Pompper "Yes once we order an evacuation if the folks choose to stay behind we will try to make it very clear to them that we can't assure an emergency response to them if conditions worsen at their location."

Unknown speaker "What are the main areas low lying areas that you are most concerned about and now also real quickly the ten foot tide you say is that one of the highest we would ever see here in the county?"

Jeff Pompper "That will be a record tide per the National Weather Services Center."

Unknown speaker "Is that ten foot above normal high tide is that what we're talking about?"

Jeff Pompper "It is a total tide from the low water mark which is how the national weather service marks tide from low water mark it's ten foot of elevation of tide. I can tell you we were right around nine foot a couple of weeks prior to the Hurricane Irene event and there was significant flooding in Carneys Point this is almost a foot more than that if that's any benchmark to you and the reason being we have a couple of factors that come and go they are all obviously the hurricane push up the river which is going to hold the tide in and actually push water back as well as full moon is Monday."

Unknown speaker "The county is going to put out some more press releases or advisories some more information some things for people to look at and consider as we go into the weekend it sounds like Sunday maybe Sunday night early Monday is when we are really going to start things are going to start to pop here so that's when we're probably going to be hearing a lot more I mean we'll be in touch all weekend of course but that's when things are really going to start to get critical probably early Monday morning?"

Jeff Pompper "According to the timeframe of the National Weather Service right now they're predicting the initial storm force winds to affect the area between 2 and 4 am Monday morning. Now again, that's a forecast anything could change with that so I'll put that word across and out there again."

BJ Ayars "They are estimating that the landfall would be 11 Tuesday morning."

Jeff Pompper "Correct it's a fairly slow moving storm so it's going to be drug out over many hours not to say there won't be bands of wind and rain Sunday during the day but they are saying the tropical storm force winds will probably be felt by South Jersey between 2 and 4 am Monday Morning."

Unknown speaker "Have you ever is this one of the worst things you ever faced you think?"

Jeff Pompper "This is certainly a more devastating forecast then the forecast for Hurricane Irene again I am happy that we were wrong and able to say we were wrong with Hurricane Irene the forecast we received about half of what was predicted. I hope in a few days we will be sitting here and we will say that same thing about this."

Director Acton "Michael do you have questions?"

Michael "You will be sending out an initial press release after this meeting and then a follow up later this evening also."

Clerk of the Board Gage "We have it right here we'll hand it to you if you want."

Jeff Pompper "We will as conditions change or we need to get information out to the public we will get additional press releases or work with you over the phone or however. Again I thank you guys for helping with previous storms and we'll get through this one equally as well."

Director Acton "Thank you very much Bill and Mike for coming I think it was necessary."

At this point in time the Director excused the press to discuss additional matters involving property rights and various other contractual agreements effected by the declared State of Emergency. Mrs. Isaacs discussed the fact that at this time it looks like all county schools will be closed Monday, and most likely Tuesday as well. Prosecutor Lenahan discussed the security arrangements for the shelters and the 911 center stating that he and the Sheriff would be handling that coverage. Additional resources may be deployed if any of the shore communities are sending sheltered folks to our shelters. Warren maybe noted that our correctional facility was not taking any out of county inmates at this time. It was also decided to re locate the transit busses to the Road and Bridge facility for safe keeping and to possibly use for evacuations if necessary. Mr. Pompper further discussed the mandatory evacuations of the Carneys Point Care facility. He noted that both the Friends Village and Memorial Hospital were taking the critical patients for care.

Mr. Pompper again emphasized the points that after the winds reached a certain level emergency responders were not going to be dispatched due to the limitations of most of the response vehicles to handle high water and winds safely for the responders.

There will be a public informational meeting held at the 911 Center on Sunday evening at 5:00 PM. Mandatory for all department heads. The County Emergency Management Center will be activated at 9:00 Sunday evening.

Freeholder Vanderslice motioned for adjournment at 2:00 PM, second by Freeholder Ware, carried.

Respectively submitted,

Earl R. Gage  
Clerk of the Board