



OEM Fall & Winter Preparedness Outreach

Floods and Hurricanes

- Know your flood risk and pay attention to weather forecasts and warnings issued by the National Weather Service or the Township. Evacuate if you are so advised.
- During a Flood, Flash Flood, or Tropical Storm watch, be prepared to evacuate; make a plan and include your pets, transportation route, and possible destinations (friends, relatives, etc). Keep your car's gas tank at least $\frac{3}{4}$ filled, bring in outside furniture, unplug electrical appliances and bring valuables to high points in your home.
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well-trimmed and clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Prepare a "Go Kit" – Gather supplies you will need, keeping in mind each person's specific needs. Don't forget the needs of your pets. Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.
- If you have a sump pump, ensure it is in good working order before the storm season.
- NEVER drive around barricades or caution tape and don't walk or drive through flood waters. Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- Avoid wading in floodwater, which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.
- Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery ONLY outdoors and away from windows.

Snowstorms and Extreme Cold

- Prepare your home before winter to help keep out the cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing and replace snow shovels and ice melt in advance of the storm season.
- Pay attention to weather reports and ensure you have enough supplies in to stay home for several days. Preparing now will allow you to avoid the rush before the storm.
- During extreme cold, limit your time outside. Dress in layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- If under a Winter Storm Warning, stay off roads and ensure your vehicle is parked off the road whenever possible.
- When shoveling snow, take your time and take frequent breaks. Avoid overexertion and make sure to hydrate.
- Ensure that fire hydrants and furnace/boiler vents on your home are cleared of snow and ice.

Visit [Ready.NJ.gov](https://www.ready.nj.gov) for more on how to Plan and Prepare!