

The Township of Cranford, with the Rahway River traversing its center, has in the past been subjected to flooding and high water levels after heavy rains.

Persons living in areas subject to flooding should:

1. Have a flashlight and a battery powered radio available in good working condition.
2. Learn and mark the locations of water supply pipeline valves, master electrical switches, & gas line shut-off valves.
3. Maintain a list of items which should be removed to a higher level in the event of a Storm Emergency.
4. Maintain your car’s gas tank with a reasonable quantity of gas.

STORM EMERGENCY

In the event of a storm emergency tune your radio to 680 AM or your television to T.V. 35 for up to the minute information. The Township’s Emergency Notification system will be activated with instructions for your area if necessary.

1. Move your motor vehicles to a safe location that does not flood.
2. If you are standing in water on the floor, do not touch electric panel - water may be electrified.
3. Keep children and adults out of flood waters - the water may be contaminated and electrified.
4. Keep in contact with your neighbors.
5. Secure all loose lumber, toys, picnic tables, lawn chairs, boats, etc. which could float away in rising waters.
6. Move everything possible above high water mark, particularly from cellars.
7. Put your valuable papers, etc. in a metal box that you can take with you.
8. Comply with all conditions for coverage specified in flood insurance policies.
9. Pay no attention to rumors - verify all information with Police Headquarters - 272-2222.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

If Your Area Is Ordered Evacuated, You Should:

1. Listen to the authorities and follow their directions.
2. If there is no water visible in utility area, shut off gas and electric power. Make provisions for water to enter cellar, either through open windows or cellar doors - the presence of water in a basement helps support the foundation walls against pressure from outside and often prevents collapse. Then leave immediately. **DO NOT RISK BEING MAROONED.** Remember when water begins to enter areas where electrical outlets and appliances are involved make immediate disconnections.
3. Obey instructions and go to evacuation points and shelters, indicated on TV-35, 680 AM, or the Township’s Emergency Notification System.
4. When arriving at shelters you will have to register. **THIS IS IMPORTANT.** It is the only way of establishing your whereabouts in case of inquiries from friends and relatives, or to inform you that the emergency is over.
5. After registering, you will be allowed to leave if you so desire. Inform the person in charge at the shelter.
6. If you bring pets, keep them on a leash or in a cage. Care of them is your responsibility.
7. Municipal water will be safe to use **UNLESS** otherwise announced.
8. In the event assistance is needed in evacuating, wait for emergency service personnel. Go to high ground in the house until they arrive. Every residence will be monitored by emergency service personnel.

*****EVERY INDIVIDUAL EVACUATING WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL SHOULD CONTACT FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND INFORM THEM OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS.*****

After The Emergency You Should:

1. If house is structurally damaged, it must be inspected by public health officials and building inspectors or the engineer before you may reenter. After inspection, a placard will be placed in front of the house.
2. If your basement is flooded and you require a pump from the fire department, call 272-2222. The basement should not be pumped until water is not visible on your property.
3. Unless you are qualified to render aid, stay away from disaster areas where you may hamper rescue/first aid work.

Upon Return To Your Home You Should:

1. Not touch loose or dangling wires. Do not attempt to restore utilities until inspected by a qualified licensed technician, inspector, or contractor.
2. Guard against spoiled food in refrigerators and freezers.
3. Drive cautiously. Watch for debris; pavement may be undermined by water.
4. All living spaces, including cellars, which have been inundated, should be scrubbed down with a strong disinfecting solution or household bleach. It is important to ventilate the area. Clothing must also be washed thoroughly.
5. ***Permits must be obtained from the Building Department at 709-7213 before new work starts on your house.***

CLEAN UP

WATER

In some cases drinking water may not be safe. Call the Health Department at 709-7240 to ensure that there is no contamination of the water and that it is safe to drink.

FOOD

If in Doubt - Throw it Out! Call the Health Department at 709-7240 for specific instructions.

UTENSILS AND WORK SURFACES

All utensils and food contact surfaces should be thoroughly washed with clean, safe water and sanitized with a chlorine solution as per manufacturer’s instructions.

CELLARS AND ROUGH FLOORS

Clean mud and debris, hose down floor, sprinkle with Chloride solution. Allow to dry, sweep up, and thoroughly scrub. Upon re-entering house, be alert for loose boards, holes in floor, etc. All bedding, furniture, and household items to be discarded should be placed at the curb. Keep garbage separate from rubbish in containers with tight covers.