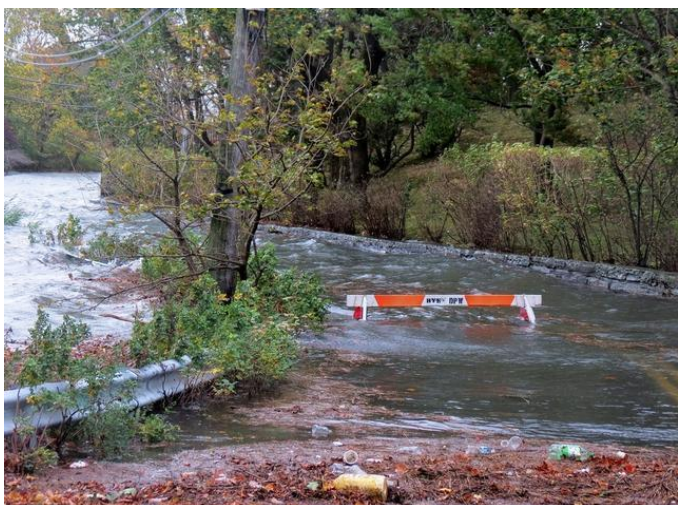


Emergency Preparedness Guide City of Rye



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Why Plan?

An emergency may or may not strike without warning, forcing you to go for days without basic necessities or to evacuate your home. First Responders will be on the scene following an emergency, but may not be able to reach you immediately.

It is better to be prepared. Knowing how to respond during an emergency will greatly reduce the damage to you and your family. This guide will help you create that program.



Creating a Basic Emergency Plan

Having a plan is one of the most important steps you can take in an emergency. Knowing what to do and how to do it can help your family manage an emergency with less worry, fear, and uncertainty.

- Choose a first, second, and third location where you and your family will meet.
- Decide what you and your family would do in each potential emergency situation
- Choose a place away from your neighborhood where family members can meet in case you are separated
- Know how to shut off the water, gas, and electricity at the main switches in your home
- Plan how to help elderly or disabled neighbors in an emergency



Preparing an emergency Supply Kit

Having an emergency supply kit handy is a great way to be prepared. Not all of these items will you be able to travel with, but they will be available should you have to stay in your home. In some emergency situations you may have to evacuate your home. In certain emergency situations, you may have to evacuate with little or no warning. As noted above, know where you will go. If possible and your safety is not jeopardized you should consider the following issues.

Water

- Pack at least one gallon per day for at least three days
- Store water in tightly sealed, non-breakable, plastic, fiberglass, or enamel-lined metal containers
- Change your water supply every six months

Food

- Pack enough food to last each family member at least three days
 - Include canned and boxed foods because they require little preparation and stay good for long periods of time. Remember to bring a can opener or to buy food in self-opening cans
 - Pack foods in sealed metal or plastic containers
 - Replace food every six months
-

Tools and Equipment

- Battery-powered radio
- Flashlights
- Spare Batteries
- Resealable plastic bags
- Washcloths and towels
- Paper cups and plates and plastic utensils
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and other toiletries
- Heavy-duty plastic garbage bags
- Change of clothing and an extra pair of shoes and socks for each person
- Blankets or a sleeping bag for each person

Personal items

- Personal identification
- Copy of birth certificates
- Extra car and house keys
- Prescription medications



In case of evacuation

In an emergency situation, it may be necessary to evacuate your home for several days or longer, because emergencies can strike with little or no warning, you should be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. Knowing beforehand the steps to take in case of an evacuation can make a big difference.

- Determine where you will go if your community is evacuated
- Bring your emergency supply kit
- Bring a change of clothes
- Unplug electronics
- Lock the doors and windows
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Watch for washed out bridges, flooded areas, and downed power lines



Managing an emergency at Home

Emergencies can create the potential need for residents to isolate themselves inside of their homes. This would make it necessary for you to care for yourself for days at a time. Your emergency supply kit will contain many tools and supplies you will need. Here are other ways to use and manage resources you have at your home.

Water

- If an emergency is Imminent, fill pitchers, jars, buckets, and water bottles, and your bathtub in case your community water supply is cut off
- If your drinking water supply is running low use water from ice cube trays, the water heater and toilet tanks (but not bowls). It is not safe to use the water from radiators, waterbeds, or swimming pools
- Each person should drink at least two quarts of water each day. Drink what you need each day, and look for more water for the next day

Food

- Ration food supplies for everyone except children and pregnant women. Most people can survive easily on half the normal amount
 - Avoid eating food from dented or swollen cans or food that looks or smells abnormal
 - Use pre-prepared formulas for babies
-

In Case the Power Goes Out

- Practice energy conservation to help your power company avoid rolling blackouts
 - Always keep your car's fuel tank at least half full- gas stations use electricity to operate the pumps
 - Know how to manually release your electric garage door
 - If the power goes out. Check your fuse box or circuit breaker, or contact neighbors to see if the outage is limited to your own house.
 - Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer doors. Food will remain fresh for up to four hours after the power goes off. If you know the power may go out, freeze plastic water bottles in the freezer to keep food cool longer.
 - If the outage is expected to last for several days or more, consider relocating to a shelter or friend's home.
-

Using a Generator

If you plan to use a generator, operate it outside only- not in the basement or garage. Do not hook it up directly to your home's wiring. Instead, connect the equipment and appliances you want to power directly to the outlets in the generator. You should always consult a licensed electrician when installing a generator to your home wiring. Only a licensed electrician should be setting up a generator to your home wiring.



Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms are most likely to occur in the spring and summer months, during the afternoon and evening typically. Thunderstorms can occur year round though and at all hours. Lightning in particular is a threat during these storms.

Before Thunderstorms Strike

- Secure loose outdoor objects such as patio furniture
- Shutter the windows and secure the doors

During a Thunderstorm

- Get or stay inside if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing 30
- Unplug electronics and turn off air conditioners

Terms to know per national weather service

- Severe Thunderstorm Watch- Severe Thunderstorms are likely to occur
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning- Severe Thunderstorms have been spotted, and people in the path of the storm are in danger.



Floods

Unfortunately floods can be a regular occurrence in the City of Rye. Areas of Rye that flood routinely are most at risk, but anyone can be affected. The threat floods can pose to the residents of Rye can be minimized with proper preparation.

Before a Flood

- Know how to get to higher ground from your home
- Learn your community's flood evacuation routes
- Have a licensed plumber install a check valve, or in a flood proof container

During a Flood

- Stay tuned to radio or television for updates
- Watch for flash flooding. This can occur without rain clouds or rain in the immediate area
- Avoid low-lying areas such as canyons and drainage channels
- Never walk through moving water more than 6 inches deep
- Do not drive through flooded areas
- If your vehicle stalls in water, exit it and move to higher ground
- Evacuate if instructed to by authorities, and return home only when they say it's safe

After a flood

- Be careful in areas where flood waters have receded
 - Watch for drowned electrical lines and weakened roads and bridges
 - Stay out of flooded buildings
 - Use caution when entering damaged structures. Their foundations may have weakened
 - Avoid coming into contact with flood water- it may be contaminated
 - Discard any food that has been in contact with flood water
-

Terms to know per national weather service

- Flood Watch- Flooding is possible within 12 to 36 hours
- Flash Flood Watch- Flash Flooding is possible and could occur without warning. Prepare to move to higher ground if you are at risk
- Flood Warning- Flooding is or soon will be occurring. Evacuate immediately if advised.
- Flash Flood Warning- Flash flooding is occurring. Move to higher ground at once if you are at risk

Protecting your property

- If your home is prone to flooding, move your furnace, water heater, and electrical panel to higher grounds
- Install “check valves” in sewer traps to prevent water from backing up into your home
- Waterproof your basement walls to stop seepage
- Build barriers such as flood walls or levees to keep out floodwater
- Store insurance policies, deeds, and other records in a safe-deposit box



Hurricanes

The City of Rye has had to deal with the dangers and damaging effects of Hurricanes on multiple occasions. Hurricane Ida, Sandy, and Irene are just a few examples of the damage these storms have wreaked on the City. Hurricanes can cause extensive damage due to the winds, flooding, and even tornadoes they produce. The Hurricane season extends from June to November, and peaks from mid-August to late October.

During a Hurricane Threat

- Stay tuned to radio or TV for updates
- Shutter or board the windows to your home\Secure outdoor objects or bring them inside
- Stock up on food and water in case you must shelter in your home
- Fuel up your care in case an evacuation is ordered
- Turn of utilities at the main valves and switches if instructed by authorities

During a Hurricane

- Take refuge on the ground floor in a small central room or hallway
- Get under a table or similar strong object
- Keep away from windows and glass doors
- Close all inside doors. Brace all outside doors

After a Hurricane

- Remain in a secure location until authorities say it's safe
 - Do not drive unless necessary
 - Do not drink tap water until authorities say it's safe
 - Stay away from waterways until potential flooding has passed
 - Report downed power lines and broken gas and sewer mains to officials
 - Inspect your home for damage
 - Report Damage to your insurance agent
-

Extreme Cold Temperatures

Extreme cold temperatures can pose serious and dangerous threats to the residents of Rye. You can best ready yourself for this weather with proper preparation and knowledge.

Preparing for a Winter Storm

- Stock up on food, water, medicines, and heating fuel
- Buy bags of rock salt and sand for use on icy walkways
- Seal windows and doors to help keep the cold out

During and After a Winter Storm

- Conserve heating fuel by shutting off unused rooms
- Wear several layers of clothing and a hat outdoors
- Don't overexert yourself while shoveling snow
- Watch for signs of frostbite: loss of feeling along with paleness in tip of nose, fingers, toes, and ear lobes
- Beware of Hypothermia, signs include uncontrollable shivering, slurred speech, drowsiness, memory loss and disorientation
- Avoid driving at night or alone. Notify others of your schedule and route

If your vehicle is stranded in a Blizzard

- Pull off road and turn on your hazard lights
- Do not start walking unless you can see a building where you can take shelter
- If you're unable to find a building, stay in your vehicle where rescuers are more likely to find you
- Wrap yourself in blankets, or use seat covers, floor mats, and maps
- Run your engine for 10 minutes each hour to keep warm. Open a window slightly for ventilation.
- Balance use of heater and lights to conserve the battery
- If stuck in a remote location, spell out "HELP" or "SOS" with rocks or branches

Winterize your Vehicle

- Check the wipers, battery, heater, and defroster, ignition system, lights, oil, and tire pressure
 - Consider purchasing snow tires or chains
 - Pack a winter emergency kit with a window scraper, blankets, battery powered radio, flashlight, water, snack food, tow chain or rope, shovel, and flares
-

Winter Weather Terms to Know per national weather service

Freezing rain- Rain that freezes on contact with roads, trees, and sidewalks etc.

Sleet- Rain that freezes before hitting the ground

Winter Storm Watch- A winter storm is possible in the area

Blizzard Warning- Winds or gusts 35 mph or greater, along with snow, are expected to last 3 hours or more

Frost/Freeze Warning- Temperatures are expected to drop below freezing



Family Communication Plan

Meeting Places

Neighborhood: _____

Community: _____

Family/Friends in Town

Name: _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____ Work # _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____ Work # _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____ Work # _____

Email: _____

Neighborhood Contact

Name: _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____ Work # _____

Email: _____

Out-of-Town Contact

Name: _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____ Work # _____

Email: _____

Important Phone Numbers

Fill in these numbers so they will be readily available when you need them

City of Rye Fire Department- (914) 967-4530

City of Rye Police- (914) 967-1234

Ambulance- (914) 939-4700

Public Works- (914) 967-7464

Doctor: _____

Hospital: _____

Utilities

Water _____

Electricity _____

Gas _____

Telephone/Cable _____

Other _____
