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## NEW YORK CITY **OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

### Office of Public Information

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### **NYC OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT URGES NEW YORKERS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AS HURRICANE ISABEL MOVES NORTH**

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is currently tracking Hurricane Isabel. OEM Commissioner John T. Odermatt urges all New Yorkers to take the necessary precautions to safeguard their families and property from the storm. "OEM is monitoring Isabel as we do all hurricanes and tropical storms," he said. "If the storm's track turns sharply from its projected path to the north and east, we will implement the City's hurricane plans, should they become necessary. As with any emergency, being prepared is essential."

Hurricane Isabel is currently moving north-northwestward near eight miles per hour and is positioned 600 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C. OEM advises New Yorkers to stay tuned to television and radio news broadcasts for further information and updates as the storm progresses.

OEM also urges New Yorkers to take reasonable precautions to prepare for the possibility of Hurricane Isabel making landfall in the New York City area. Residents should secure loose objects to reduce hazards in the event of high winds. Now is also a good time for New Yorkers to familiarize themselves with their hurricane risk by calling 311 or accessing OEM's website at [NYC.gov/oem](http://NYC.gov/oem).

Residents should ensure their "Go Bag," Emergency Supply Kit and Household Disaster Plan are ready to go. See the attached checklists for further details regarding these kits' contents.

In addition to these tips, residents may want consider filling the gas tanks on their cars, as gas stations may lose the ability to pump gas in the event of a severe storm.

OEM will continue to closely monitor the situation and advise residents of any further safety measures. For more information, or to receive a copy of "Ready New York," New Yorkers can log on to OEM's website at [NYC.gov/oem](http://NYC.gov/oem) or call 311.



## NEW YORK CITY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVICE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

**E**mergency preparedness is as simple as planning ahead. It's easy and inexpensive for anyone. Go over the checklists below with your household to determine how you can take control of an emergency. Check and update your kits when you change your clocks during daylight-saving times. Make sure they are complete and ready to go.

#### Household Disaster Plan Checklist

##### What to Have in Your Head

Consider developing a disaster plan with your household members to prepare for what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in an emergency. We've provided two wallet-sized cards for this purpose on the EMERGENCY REFERENCE CARD on page 15. Make photocopies if necessary. Also see EVACUATION on page 4.

- ☐ Decide where your household will reunite after a disaster. Identify two places to meet: one right outside your home and another outside your neighborhood, such as a library, community center or place of worship.
- ☐ Make sure everyone knows the address and phone number of your second meeting place.
- ☐ Know and practice all possible exit routes from your home and neighborhood.
- ☐ Designate an out-of-state friend or relative that household members can call if separated during a disaster. If New York City phone circuits are busy, this out-of-state contact can be an important way of communicating between household members. When local phone circuits are busy, long-distance calls may be easier to make.
- ☐ Account for everybody's needs, especially seniors, people with disabilities and non-English speakers.
- ☐ Practice your plan with all household members.
- ☐ Ensure that household members have a copy of your household disaster plan to keep in their wallets and backpacks.

#### Go Bag Checklist

##### What to Have in Your Hand

Every household should consider assembling a Go Bag – a collection of items you may need in the event of an evacuation. Each household member's Go Bag should be packed in a sturdy, easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or suitcase on wheels. A Go Bag should be easily accessible if you have to leave your home in a hurry. Make sure it is ready to go at all times of the year. Also see EVACUATION on page 4.

- ☐ Copies of your important documents in a waterproof and portable container (insurance cards, birth certificates, deeds, photo IDs, etc.)
- ☐ Extra set of car and house keys
- ☐ Credit and ATM cards and cash, especially in small denominations. We recommend you keep at least \$50-\$100 on hand.
- ☐ Bottled water and non-perishable food such as energy or granola bars
- ☐ Flashlight, battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries. You can also buy wind-up radios that do not require batteries at retail stores.
- ☐ Medication for at least one week and other essential personal items. Be sure to change medications before they expire. Keep a list of the medications each member of your household takes and their dosages, or copies of all your prescription slips.
- ☐ First-aid kit
- ☐ Sturdy, comfortable shoes, lightweight raingear and a mylar blanket
- ☐ Contact and meeting place information for your household, and a small regional map
- ☐ Child care supplies or other special care items

#### Emergency Supply Kit Checklist

##### What to Have in Your Home

Keep enough supplies in your home to survive on your own for at least three days. If possible, keep these materials in an easily accessible, separate container or special cupboard. You should indicate to your household members that these supplies are for emergencies only. Also see SHELTER IN PLACE on page 4.

- ☐ One gallon of drinking water per person per day
- ☐ Non-perishable, ready-to-eat canned foods and manual can opener
- ☐ First-aid kit, medications and prescriptions
- ☐ Flashlight, battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ One quart of unscented bleach or iodine tablets (for disinfecting water ONLY if directed to do so by health officials) and eyedropper (for adding bleach to water)
- ☐ Personal hygiene items: soap, feminine hygiene products, toothbrush and toothpaste, etc.
- ☐ Sturdy shoes, heavy gloves, warm clothes, a mylar blanket and lightweight raingear
- ☐ Extra fire extinguisher, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors
- ☐ Child care supplies or other special care items
- ☐ Other supplies and tools