

## **Press Release and Preparedness Tips**

### **NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISES NEW YORKERS TO BE PREPARED FOR HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS AND COASTAL FLOODING**

**December 22, 2022** - The New York City Emergency Management Department today issued a travel advisory for Thursday afternoon through Friday, December 23. New York City is also urging New Yorkers in coastal communities to prepare ahead of the winter storm.

#### **Coastal Flooding Preparations**

NYC residents living in coastal areas expected to experience moderate coastal flooding should take the following preparedness steps:

- Prepare a Go Bag that you can grab in case you need to leave your home in a hurry.
- Learn the safest route from your home or workplace to safe, high ground in case you have to evacuate. This should be part of your household emergency plan.
- If you live in a flood-susceptible area, keep materials, such as sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber, on hand to help protect your home.
- If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving or use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- When outside, avoid walking and driving through flooded areas. As few as six inches of moving water can knock a person over. Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control and possible stalling. One or two feet of water can carry away a vehicle.

#### **Understand Coastal Storms Dangers and Prepare: What can the COMMUNITY do?**

##### **Evacuation Zones**

- Use the Evacuation Zone Finder ([NYC.gov/knowyourzone](https://www.nyc.gov/knowyourzone)) to find out if your network is in a zone, and if so, which one? (Zones run from 1-6.)
- Make sure that all members within an evacuation zone have appropriate insurance and a business continuity plan in place.
- Consider posting your evacuation zone prominently in your organization so that staff and clients know that the area is in an evacuation zone.

## Provide information to your community about emergency shelters in NYC:

- The City coordinates transportation to evacuation centers for individuals with disabilities or others with access and functional needs who need assistance evacuating. People who live in an evacuation zone and need assistance evacuating to a center may call 311 to request assistance when an evacuation order is issued.
- Evacuation centers and emergency shelters are open to anyone, regardless of immigration status.
- Families will be able to shelter together. At shelters, households with children will be separated from households without children and single men and women.
- Information will be available in other languages and formats, such as American Sign Language. Anyone can request interpretation and translation services.
- Service animals are always allowed and will not be separated from their owners. Pets are also allowed, but will be kept in a separate area at the shelter. Owners should bring any relevant paperwork for their pets.

Notify NYC is the easiest and most up-to-date way for you and your community to get information on emergencies. Please encourage all New Yorkers to register at [www.nyc.gov/notifynyc](http://www.nyc.gov/notifynyc) or by calling 311, and follow Notify on Twitter [@NotifyNYC](https://twitter.com/NotifyNYC). You can also follow [@NYCEM](https://twitter.com/NYCEM) or like us at [www.facebook.com/nycemergencymanagement](https://www.facebook.com/nycemergencymanagement)

### Additional Resources

Community Emergency Planning [Toolkit](#)

For more information about flood zones, visit [www.floodhelpny.org](http://www.floodhelpny.org).

Visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) for more about the National Flood Insurance Program.

Coastal storm-related health and safety tips (NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene)

Visit the MTA's website at [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) or call 511 for the latest transit information.

Read OSHA's tips for [Evacuating High-Rise Buildings](#) (in PDF)

[Learn more about emergency preparedness for pets](#)

Take steps to prevent [carbon monoxide poisoning](#) if you use a generator

[Winter Weather Safety](#) from the National Weather Service

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