



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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DEPUTY MAYOR HOLLOWAY AND COMMISSIONER BRUNO ADVISE NEW YORKERS TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF HURRICANE IRENE

City's Emergency Operations Center Opened at 2 PM

Deputy Mayor for Operations Cas Holloway joined OEM Commissioner Joseph Bruno at the City's Emergency Operations Center at OEM headquarters to advise New Yorkers the City is closely monitoring Hurricane Irene and beginning to plan for possible impacts from the storm. Current National Weather Service forecasts indicate New York City may experience tropical storm or hurricane conditions from Hurricane Irene this weekend. New Yorkers are encouraged to take steps to prepare and pay close attention to local weather reports.

The City's Emergency Operations Center opened at 2 PM, where more than 40 agencies are gathered to monitor and plan for Hurricane Irene.

As of 2 PM, Hurricane Irene was moving toward the northwest near 12 miles per hour and was located 65 miles southeast of Long Island, Bahamas.

The City urges residents to find out if they live in a hurricane evacuation zone by using the **Hurricane Evacuation Zone Finder** at www.NYC.gov or calling **311 (TTY: 212-504-4115)**. Areas of the city subject to storm surge flooding are divided into three zones based on how storms of various strengths will affect them. Residents in some or all of these zones may need to evacuate depending on the size of the approaching storm.

OEM also encourages New Yorkers to take the following actions to ensure they are prepared:

- Make sure your **Emergency Supply Kit** – three days of supplies, including gallons of water, non-perishable food, a first-aid kit, and a flashlight – is stocked. Have a **Go Bag** with items you may need if you have to evacuate your home – including copies of important documents, bottled water, non-perishable food like granola bars, flashlight, and extra batteries – ready to go.
- Help friends, relatives, and neighbors prepare – especially those with disabilities or special needs.
- Clear debris from catch basins to prevent street flooding.

- Stay tuned to local radio and TV broadcasts for the latest information about Hurricane Irene. Make sure you have a battery-operated radio with extra batteries handy in case you lose power during the storm.
- Make use of OEM's **Ready New York: Hurricanes and New York City** brochure, which offers general tips on how to prepare for hurricanes and a map of New York City hurricane evacuation zones. Access the brochure online at www.NYC.gov.
- Sign up for Notify NYC at www.NYC.gov/notifynyc to receive the latest emergency information, including updates on Hurricane Irene.

The City continues to monitor Hurricane Irene and will issue further guidance for New Yorkers as forecasts change.