



Be Ready Newtown

Town of Newtown
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, CT

Volume 1, Issue 1

Take Important Steps to Be Prepared

An important part of being prepared to respond to an emergency is to understand the risks.

What types of emergencies are you likely to face?

Living in Newtown, Connecticut, common issues for us are the “natural disaster” type: severe thunderstorms, blizzard/severe snow storms, flooding, hurricanes/tropical storms, and even tornadoes.

Do you live near a water-course or low-lying area that is prone to flooding? Do you know when and how to evacuate if the water rises rapidly? Do you know what route to take and where you will go if you have to get out quickly?

OK—those are the types of emergencies Newtowners are likely to face, but what about you, specifically? Review the special circumstances that you and your family members personally face and consider them ahead of time, so you can mount the best response or so you clearly understand your

needs if you need additional assistance.

BE Informed

It is important to understand the difference between a watch and a warning.

A Watch indicates that a significant weather condition is expected, but not imminent, for the area and provides 12 to 36 hours of notice of the possibility of severe weather.

A Warning indicates that significant or hazardous weather is occurring, imminent, or likely and is a threat to life and property.

Keep checking local TV and radio stations and the internet for official instructions, including weather reports, shelter locations, distribution centers, etc.

Know the local sources for info and resources—see articles inside this newsletter.

BE Prepared.

+ Have a plan—identify safe places to go in the home, in

the neighborhood, and outside the neighborhood; update contact information for family and friends in state and out of state, write them down and make sure every family member has a copy.
+ Have a plan on what you will do to keep your pets safe if there is an emergency (if you stay at home or if you have to evacuate).

+ Have an emergency supply kit ready. See page 2 for details.

+ Stay home as long as it is safe and you have not been told to leave. Travel may be difficult or dangerous during and after an emergency.

+ Evacuate if you are told to do so, or even if you are not told to do so, if you believe you and your family may be in danger. If you are asked to evacuate you can go to: the home of a family member; a friend’s home; a motel, hotel or shelter. More info on shelters inside.

+ Know CPR and how to use an AED

Take Steps Now.

Getting Started—

Educate yourself and your family.

Sign up for Code Red (the town’s emergency notification system).

Identify potential hazards around your home & in your neighborhood.

Have a safe place to go in your home and away from it if you have to evacuate.

Learn what to do in case of an emergency where you work and at your child’s school or day care.

SEE INSIDE PAGES FOR MORE DETAILS ON

~*Make an Emergency Supply Kit*

~*Drinking Water Safety*

~*Food Safety*

~*Shelters and Support Services*

~*Wastewater Concerns*

~*Generator Issues*

~ *Carbon Monoxide*

HELPFUL WEBSITES

www.ready.gov

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

Sign up for CODE RED

Go to Newtown’s town website at www.newtown-ct.gov then scroll down the page, on the left hand side is the logo for CODE RED. It is an active link, Click on it and sign up for your **home phone and your cell phone and your e-mail**, so you can receive important information during an emergency. If you do not have internet access or if you think you need help doing this, call the Fire Marshal’s office at (203) 270-4370 to get assistance and be signed up.



The Town of Newtown has instituted the CodeRED Emergency Notification System. [Sign up for the CodeRED Early Warning System](#)

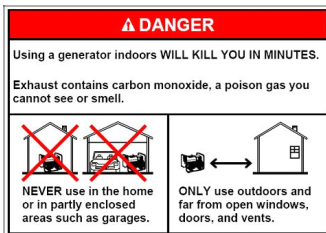
Generators

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electrical power is needed, but they can be hazardous. Primary hazards to avoid when using them are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire.

Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents; NEVER use in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces or partially enclosed spaces, even with ventilation. Keep generator dry. Dry your hands before touching the generator. Plug appliances directly into generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord (in good condition). NEVER plug generator into wall outlet.

Turn off & let generator cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot parts could ignite. Store fuel outside away from any fuel burning appliance, in properly labeled non-glass containers.

If necessary to connect generator to house wiring, have a qualified licensed electrician install appropriate equipment.



Carbon Monoxide

You cannot see it or smell it. It can kill very quickly. Never use a charcoal grill, camp stove (sterno or propane) or lantern inside the house, garage, fireplace or tent. Make sure fireplace and chimney are free of debris before using. Leave the house if anyone feels sick, weak or dizzy. Install battery operated or battery-backed up carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Test CO alarms often & replace batteries when needed. **If the CO alarm sounds, call 911**

Emergency Supply Kit

Emergency supplies kit - for your home, for a stay at home for at least three days. OR to take with you if you have to evacuate:

Water in jugs or bottles. At least one gallon for every person for each day. You will need more water if there are children, if someone is nursing a baby or if the weather is hot.

Food in cans or sealed packages like soup and tuna fish; food and juices that do not have to go in the refrigerator or be cooked; food for infants or the elderly.

A manual can opener, paper plates, plastic utensils & something to cook on like a small grill

with fuel - be sure to use grills outside to prevent carbon monoxide build up.

Paper towels, toilet paper, soap.

Battery-powered radio, flashlights, cell phone, with extra batteries. Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.

Blanket, sleeping bag, pillows for everyone in family

Extra clothing for everyone

Things for babies and children like diapers, games, toys & books

First Aid kit. Remember to include medicines (prescriptions, fever reducers, aspirin); eye

glasses and contact lens supplies; list of doctors you go to; medical supplies (colostomy supplies, insulin syringes, etc)

Garbage bags & cleaning supplies

Things your pets need: food, water, carrier or cage, medicine, muzzle, collar, leash, ID tags, immunization records.

Extra set of keys, credit cards, cash & important info like social security #s & birth certificates

Pictures of family members & pets in case you are separated.

Drinking Water Safety

Drinking water in Newtown is supplied by wells, which are either privately owned by the property owner where the well is located or as part of a public water supply.

There are eight community public water supply systems in Newtown. United Water Company is the largest public water supplier in town, followed by the Town of Newtown's system (serving Fairfield Hills, Reed School, Nunnawauk Meadows and Garner Prison), Masonicare on Toddy Hill, Olmstead which serves the Alpine Circle neighborhood, Chestnut Tree

Hill which serves a neighborhood on Toddy Hill, Meadowbrook Mobil Home Park, Newtown Village Mobil Home Park on South Main Street, and Cedarhurst Association which serves the Cedarhurst neighborhood.

These systems have DPH approved licensed operators who oversee the operation and maintenance of the systems. During and after an emergency (i.e. flood, hurricane, power outage) the water system operator is required to inform the customers of any important information regarding the system, especially if

the system has been impacted and a Boil Advisory is issued. A Boil Advisory is issued when it is known or is suspected that the water quality may be compromised. Sometimes the Advisory is precautionary, however any possibility of contaminated water has to be recognized, and the customer informed to take steps to protect themselves. A Boil Advisory means that the water should be boiled before using for any consumption, cooking, washing fruits & vegetables, brushing teeth or making baby formula.

Food Safety

When the power it out, it is important to prevent getting sick from food that has spoiled or water that has been contaminated. The following tips will help you to stay healthy in the aftermath of an emergency:

+ The refrigerator will keep food at proper temperature for about four hours if the doors are not opened. A full freezer will hold a safe temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full).

+ If the temperature in your refrigerator or freezer goes

above 40 degrees, throw away perishable foods such as beef, poultry, fish, eggs, dairy, and cut fruits and vegetables.

+ Food can be safely refrozen if it still has ice crystals on it or has stayed below 40 degrees.

+ Do not eat any food that may have come into contact with flood water. This includes packaged food items in plastic, paper, cardboard, cloth, and similar containers that may have been water damaged, as well as beverage containers with screw-

caps, snap lids, crimped caps (soda bottles), twist caps, flip tops, and home canned foods, as these tops cannot be disinfected appropriately. In addition, lids of commercially canned foods should be sanitized (bleach and water solution) prior to use.

+ As always, if there is any doubt as to the safety of the food, it is best to discard the food rather than take a chance of contracting a foodborne illness. **WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!**

Shelters and support services

The town of Newtown has identified our largest schools to serve as shelters, in case of an emergency. The town's emergency response plan identifies the Newtown High School on Berkshire Road in Sandy Hook as our primary shelter. The Newtown Middle School on Queen Street would be the second choice and the third would be Reed Intermediate School on Trades Lane.

These schools are pre-selected to serve as shelters because they are town assets and they have ample parking, handicap access, bathroom and shower facilities, cafeteria space and equipment and they are large buildings

which can accommodate many people if necessary.

The response to the timing and extent of the actual emergency will determine which school or schools will be opened as shelters. Residents should wait to be notified or call the Emergency Dispatch number at (203) 270-4200 to learn which shelter will be opened.

It is important that residents with medical or access and functional needs plan for their devices and equipment in the event they come to a shelter. Their needs and their time in the shelter can be best accommodated if they have their own materials to

which they are accustomed.

Support Services—the town may experience an event where the residents are able to safely stay in their homes but need access to showers, water for drinking and/or flushing toilets and to charge essential electrical equipment.

The town will open the schools or other buildings (Municipal Center at Fairfield Hills, the Senior Center, etc.) to allow the public access for these services. Again, notification will be made via Code Red and other methods to inform the residents where to find services.

During an emergency, we want to be sure that all folks that need assistance, of any kind, get it. No resident should be cold, isolated and without necessary assistance. Act now to prevent this.

Where to get your information:

Websites:

www.newtown-ct.gov

www.newtownbee.com

www.newtown.patch.com

Radio stations:

WDAQ (FM) Radio – 98.3
WLAD (AM) – 800 AM Radio
WPLR (FM) - 99.1
Star 99.9 (FM)

Local TV stations

Channel 3 WFBS
Channel 6 WNBC
Channel 8 WTNH

The Newtown Health District can help

The Newtown Health District is working with its community partners to determine who in the community may be medically fragile, infirm, or alone and may need help during an emergency. Many folks may identify themselves to the Health District, or other agencies, during the emergency, to get help. Others may not. During an emergency, we want to be sure that all folks that need assistance of any kind, get it. We may be able to provide it directly, or we may be able to connect the resident to the resource through another agency that provides it. New-

town residents are encouraged to contact the Newtown Health District at tel (203) 270-4291 or e-mail:

donna.culbert@newtown-ct.gov so the Health District can better understand the resident's needs, can obtain contact and location information and be able to help when help is needed.

The Health District can assure the resident that their information will remain confidential and will not be shared with any outside agency. Only partner agencies that may be necessary to help the resident (Fire, Police,

Ambulance) would be involved in any response for the resident.

In addition, any special needs or conditions that a resident has can be better taken care of if the health district, or their own service provider (social services, visiting nurse associations, meals on wheels, etc.) can know about it before an emergency takes place. Pre-identification will ensure a better response. The Health District is aware that conditions change and a resident should make contact whenever their situation warrants it.

Wastewater concerns (septic systems & sewers)


Properties in Newtown are served by septic systems or public sewers for their wastewater disposal. If the building that is served by the septic system/sewer is uphill from the system, then it is gravity fed and a power outage should not affect its operation. If there is a pump involved in delivering the sewage from the building to the system, then a power outage will render the system either limited in capacity or unusable. The limited capacity will be the volume that is available in the pump chamber.

If a building is connected to public water, water may be plentiful; however, if a pump is involved, the wastewater disposal may not be and the property owner must be careful and mindful of how much water they are using as it may not be getting to the septic system/sewer. The property owner should speak with the Water and Sewer Authority or their septic pumper to best understand the capacity of their system during a power failure.

Flooding conditions may cause

sewage back-ups. If you have a back-up, keep children & pets away from sewage; wear rubber gloves when handling anything contaminated with sewage; wash hands immediately after; you can hire a professional to clean up or you may do it yourself. Check to see if your insurance will cover the cost of a professional. If you do it, wear protective gear (eyewear, gloves, boots), avoid direct contact, never mix bleach with ammonia. Dry out the area, discard all contaminated materials & wash & disinfect.

- **Understand your and your loved ones very specific circumstances and needs; have a plan of care if medically dependent;**
- **Check on neighbors;**
- **Let someone know if there is a need that should be filled;**
- **We can take care of each other**



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06470**

Important Phone numbers

Selectman's office: 203-270-4201
Emergency Dispatch: 203-270-4200
Police Department: 203-270-4255
Fire Marshal 203-270-4370
Health District 203-270-4291
Public Works 203-270-4300
Social Services 203-270-4330
Building Department 203-270-4260
Senior Center 203-270-4310

**ALWAYS
with Life Safety Emergency
CALL 911**

BE READY Newtown

10 ESSENTIALS

1. BE Informed.
2. Have a Plan—to shelter in place AND to evacuate if necessary. Make it specific to your family's needs.
3. Have a Kit—for shelter in place or to evacuate.
4. Make necessary plans for health considerations: have a list of your medications; keep a cache of special food items to take with you if you must relocate and have special dietary needs. Remember to take any special devices/equipment.
5. If you are medically fragile or dependent, discuss your condition and care plan with your health care provider—and develop a back-up plan if your standard care plan is affected or interrupted due to weather or power outage. Understanding this before the emergency will allow the best response.
6. Plan for your pets: have ID and vaccination documents & tags readily available, leashes, carriers, crates, bowls, food.
7. Review your plan and kit after any incident, to see how your plan worked, what you might do differently, and to replenish any supplies that were used.
8. If there are not any emergencies or incidents, check and rotate your kit's supplies to make sure they will be ready for use when needed.
9. Update contact information, to be sure your family members and other important contacts are current. Have contacts out of the area in the event communication out of the area is possible/easier.
10. Once your plans and kit are in place, get to know your friends, relatives and neighbors better with regard to their needs and preparedness—it will allow us all to help each other during an emergency