



## HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

The 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season started June 1 and lasts until November 30, peaking in August, September, and October. Now is the time to make preparations should a storm head towards New Jersey. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts an above average Hurricane Season with a 70 percent likelihood of 13 to 20 named storms (39 mph winds or higher), of which 7 to 11 could become hurricanes (74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; 111 mph or higher).

[NOAA 2013 Hurricane Season Outlook](#)  
[Colorado State University 2013 Atlantic Seasonal Forecast](#)

It is important to note that the NOAA's seasonal hurricane outlook is not a hurricane landfall forecast; it does not predict how many storms will hit land or where a storm will strike. The NOAA's National Hurricane Center will provide forecasts for individual storms and their impacts throughout the season.

### How OHSP & NJOEM Prepare

Ensuring that New Jersey residents, businesses and local communities are ready to respond to and recover from any type of emergency, especially a hurricane, is a top priority for both New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) and New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM).

OHSP continues to work with public and private sector partners throughout New Jersey to ensure that the state's critical infrastructure and key resources, the majority of which are owned or operated by the private sector, are ready to return to service as quickly as possible after any type of emergency. The private sector has been and will continue to be a strategic partner in many of our homeland security and emergency preparedness initiatives.

“The start of hurricane season is a reminder that our families, businesses and communities need to be ready for the next big storm,” said Joe Nimmich, FEMA associate administrator for Response and Recovery. “Preparedness today can make a big difference down the line, so update your family emergency plan and make sure your emergency kit is stocked. Learn more about how you can prepare for hurricane season at [www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes).”

NOAA acting administrator Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D., notes, “As we saw first-hand with Sandy, it's important to remember that tropical storm and hurricane impacts are not limited to the coastline. Strong winds, torrential rain, flooding, and tornadoes often threaten inland areas far from where the storm first makes landfall.”





## How You Can Prepare

Encourage the members of your organizations to take the following preparedness steps:

### **Make an Emergency Go-Bag**

- Include items such as bottled water, battery-powered radios, flashlights, extra batteries, non-perishable foods, prescription drugs, and cash.

### **Make a Family Emergency Plan**

- Ensure your family members know where to go, whom to contact, and how to remain in contact should family members become separated. Maintain at least a half tank of gas in your vehicle at all times.

### **Stay Informed**

- Know critical information such as evacuation routes, the location of nearby shelters, and other safety tips to withstand the first few hours of a hurricane or any other emergency.

Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Offices of Emergency Management and Elected Officials should review and ensure the following items are up to date and ready to support them during this hurricane season:

### **Emergency Operations Plans**

- Review and update the parts of the plans that deal with hurricane preparedness, response and recovery operations.

### **SOPs, MOUs and Mutual Aid Agreements**

- Review and update to reflect any new policies, personnel or other items. This will ensure that those tools are in place and ready to be used in case of a disaster.

### **Training**

- Ensure personnel are prepared to perform their duties and tasks at the highest level during disaster response.

More safety tips and additional information can be found at [www.state.nj.us/njoem](http://www.state.nj.us/njoem) or at [www.ready.nj.gov](http://www.ready.nj.gov)

