

WARREN/WEST BROOKFIELD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

As we have seen in recent years New England weather can affect our normal way of life during any of the four seasons. Your local Emergency Management office has some reminders for everyone regarding severe weather incidents.

Be sure to stay informed of weather forecasts through local media if a potential storm is evident. Local cable channels, weather channel, NOAA reports and internet weather forecasts and apps are the most reliable. A little preparation beforehand will make any situation much safer and more bearable for you and your family.

The best and safest place to stay during a severe storm is in your residence. Preparing your home and putting an emergency kit together ahead of time are key factors. Some things to consider would be:

- > Alternate heating sources such as wood stoves & fireplaces if available are properly serviced and cleaned prior to fall/winter heating season.
- > Extra wood or other fuel for alternate heat source is available.
- > Generators are properly serviced and test run regularly
- > Extra fuel for generator is available but stored away from unit and outside of dwelling.
- > Any prescriptions that may be running low should be filled ahead of time.
- > Flashlights and extra batteries are available for all household members.
- > Bottled water and non-perishable foods should be stored and rotated at least twice per year.
- > A battery powered or crank radio is suggested.
- > A back up battery or car charger for cell phone, or land line phone could be only means of outside communication.

****Remember, never run any gasoline powered equipment, charcoal or gas grills within your residence and if a car charger is used for cell phones, the car should be run outside not in an enclosed garage.**

In the event that a decision is made to open the towns' Emergency Shelter, notification will be made through the reverse 911 system , notices posted on local cable access channels and messages given out by local media outlets. Please refrain from calling 911 for information as our dispatchers will be busy handling more immediate emergencies.

The primary shelter for Warren and West Brookfield is located at:

**QUABOAG REGIONAL MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL
OLD WEST BROOKFIELD ROAD, WARREN,MA**

If you decide to go to the shelter, please know that there are a group of volunteers from our towns that have been trained and have given of their time to insure that your stay is made as safe and comfortable as possible. In doing so, some rules have to be put in place and enforced to maintain order and allow the staff to service the needs of everyone in an equitable manner.

Prior to going to the shelter, properly secure your residence and care for your animals and pets.

Parking for the shelter will be at the rear of the school with entry through the rear cafeteria doorway. Signs and/or volunteers should be present to direct anyone not sure of location. Everyone will be required to register and will receive further instructions.

Following is a list of items you may want to bring with you:

- <Personal Identification
- <Prescription medication
- <Blanket & Pillow
- <Personal Hygiene items
- <Small toys or games for children(non electric)
- <Items necessary for Infant care
- <Reading material
- <Change of clothes

A backpack or duffel bag containing these items per couple or small family is suggested. Space could be limited depending on number of residents needing shelter so please use your discretion when packing.

As previously mentioned, once at the shelter there are some basic rules:

- >Registration and check in/check out is required
- >Full cooperation of each resident is expected during your stay
- >No pets are allowed inside the Shelter except for service animals* we are working with local vet. clinics to assist us in housing a limited number of pets.
- >There will be no tobacco products, alcohol or drugs on school grounds
- >Shelter residents will respect each others rights
- > Parents are responsible for their children

- >Due to limited electrical outlets, there will be no personal use of any outlet
- >All residents will be expected to observe the shelter's established quiet time.
- >Use of cell phones will be permitted in designated areas
- >Shelter staff is not responsible for lost or missing personal items
- >Residents are asked to report any incidents to a staff member immediately
- > The shelter is housed in a town building using town equipment for the most part - please respect and care for it to the best of your ability.

Please be assured that your community's Emergency Management Agency and the volunteers assisting are ready to provide whatever services are deemed necessary.