



TOWNSHIP OF ROCHELLE PARK

151 WEST PASSAIC STREET, ROCHELLE PARK, N.J. 07662 TEL (201) 587-7730 FAX (201) 556-0581

MUNICIPAL CLERK
Virginia De Maria

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Joseph Scarpa - **Mayor**
Robert Davidson
K. J. Kovalcik
Jayme Ouellette
Frank Valenzuela

POST IRENE NOTICE #1

August 29, 2011

Dear Residents:

On behalf of Township Committee, I am writing to give you an update on Hurricane Irene and its aftermath.

I would like to first extend to you my well wishes and prayers as you recover from this disaster. Having your home and personal belongings damaged in such a way is never an easy thing to deal with. Rochelle Park will do all it can to help you during the recovery period.

Secondly, I would like to thank Rochelle Park's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) team, under the leadership of Coordinator Pete Donatello, for its preparedness and professionalism in responding to this disaster. Rochelle Park's experience from prior disasters has provided our team with valuable insights in handling anything that comes our way. Having served as Mayor during both Floyd and Irene, I can tell you our OEM team is second to none in Bergen County.

As with Floyd, fortunately and importantly, there was no loss of life or any serious injuries to report in our township during Irene. Hurricane Irene was determined by the National Weather Service and the Bergen County OEM to be an event of historic proportions – surpassing Floyd in 1999. Approximately 800-1,000 Rochelle Park homes were adversely affected by flooding.

Other points to note:

- Special garbage collections will begin today and continue daily in flooded areas until further notice. All damaged items will be taken. Put them at curbside.
- Home inspections will also begin today to ensure the safety of your residence. The Township Committee has waived permit fees associated with any flood-related repairs you have to make.

continued

- FEMA has yet to establish a Disaster Recovery Center to help you with questions and paperwork. We will update you as soon as they update us.
- Extra police are on duty to patrol flood-affected areas. Feel free to stop the officer should you need any assistance as they drive in your neighborhood.
- Fire Department and Ambulance volunteers will continue to be on duty for rescues or responding to medical emergencies. The Fire Department will not be able to pump out basements; please make your own arrangements for this.
- The DPW has begun street sweeping, fallen branch chipping and other clean-up efforts, as well as continuing to monitor the operations of the sewer pumping stations.
- For those who have come into contact with flood waters, be aware this water may have contained fecal matter. Contact your medical provider or go to www.rochelleparknj.gov for more information. Check the website for proper home disinfecting methods as well.
- The mitigation work done on our Municipal Complex after Floyd worked successfully. Flood waters didn't enter any township offices and didn't cause any damage.

I will provide you with more of these updates as information is forthcoming. Stay safe. We will all get through this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Scarpa', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joseph Scarpa
Mayor

Rochelle Park Building Department Hurricane Irene Response

Dear Resident,

A Building Inspector has or will be visiting your home to access damages from Hurricane Irene. You can also contact the Building Department to arrange for an inspection at 201-556-0520 extension 100 or 102.

Please take note of the following;

1. Flood waters may contain some amounts of sewerage and you should disinfect the affected areas after water removal.
2. Electrical Circuits which were affected by flood waters should not be energized until after they have been inspected and repaired by a licensed Electrician.
3. Electrical equipment subject to flood waters should be left disconnected until they have been checked by an Electrician licensed in the State of New Jersey.
4. Gas fired water heaters, furnaces or other gas appliances should not be restarted until after they have been inspected by a Plumber licensed in the State of New Jersey.
5. Demolition work to restore interior finishes or removing wet insulation can begin immediately. Make sure that you document all damages for your insurance company and FEMA.
6. Although Building Permits are required for replacement of interior finishes, replacing water heaters, furnaces, air conditioning equipment and other restoration work *you do not have to wait until you have received permits to start work. Make sure that you notify the Building Department before you begin work however.* While permits will need to be taken out there will be no fees collected for any flood related repair. The Building Department will however do inspections for you to insure proper installations.
7. Make sure that you are dealing with licensed contractors and registered home improvement contractors. Be careful of unlicensed or unqualified contractors attempting to do work in your house. Be aware that some unlicensed or unqualified contractors may attempt to install equipment or materials salvaged from flood areas. Make sure you are getting new equipment.

The Police Department has asked that you also be advised of the following:

1. The water is safe to drink.
2. Do not place trash in the street as it may hamper or block emergency responses. All trash should be stacked on the lawn.
3. Trash pickup will be taking place 24 hours a day.
4. Report all gas leaks to the Police department at 201-843-1515.

Signed,



Richard Bolan
Construction Official