

# JB MDL Office of Emergency Management (OEM)



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY

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### Natural Disaster Terms

- **Tornadoes** - Nature's most violent storms that appear as a rotating funnel-shaped cloud. It usually extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with winds capable of 300 mph.
- **Hurricanes** - A cyclone formed in the gulf or tropics with winds of 74 miles per hour or greater. Usually accompanied by rain, thunder, and lightning.
- **Earthquakes** - A sudden, rapid shaking of the Earth.
- **Wild Land Fires** - Uncontrolled fire in vegetation that occurs in a wilderness/grassy area.
- **Floods** - Most common natural disaster that can develop within minutes or build slowly.
- **Winter Storm** - A storm that drops four+ inches of snow during 12-hrs, or six+ inches during a 24-hr period.
- **Lightning** - Can strike and kill from a thunderstorm up to 10 miles away.

### Severe Weather Preparedness

**How familiar are you with the appropriate actions to take during a tornado, hurricane or other severe weather event?**

Some tornadoes strike rapidly, without time for a tornado warning and sometimes without a thunderstorm in the vicinity. When you are watching for rapidly emerging tornadoes, it is important to know that you cannot depend upon seeing a funnel: clouds or rain may block your view. The following weather signs may mean a tornado is approaching: a dark or green-colored sky, a large, dark, low-lying cloud, large hail, or a loud roar that sounds like a freight train. If you notice any of these conditions, take cover immediately and keep tuned to local radio, JB MDL AM radio 1650, TV stations or to a NOAA Weather Radio. <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>

**Should a tornado warning be issued for JB MDL, the base will sound a 3 to 5 minute steady tone siren over the Giant Voice speakers to warn personnel.** If you have a smart phone (Android or iPhone) you can also download the free "My Base Guide" app. The JB MDL Public Affairs Office posts the information as an alert message (this is not a text so there is no receiving cost). **Hurricane season runs June 1st through November 30th.** Hurricanes are categorized in five different groups, from a Category 1 to a Category 5 with a Category 5 being the worst with winds greater than 157 mph. A hurricane watch indicates the hurricane is within 72 hours of landfall in your area, whereas a hurricane warning is within 24 hours. Hurricanes hit NJ in 2011 & 2012. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

**"When thunder roars, go indoors"** during lightning, find a safe enclosed shelter when you hear thunder. Check the weather forecast before participating in outdoor activities. If the forecast calls for thunderstorms, postpone your trip or activity or make sure adequate safe shelter is readily available. If you are caught in an open area, crouch down in a ball-like position (feet and knees together) with your head tucked and hands over your ears so that you are down low with minimal contact to the ground. Do NOT lie down.



Lightning causes electric currents along the top of the ground that can be deadly over 100 feet away. Crouching down is the best combination of being low and touching the ground as little as possible.

**After a storm, roads may be flooded.** FEMA tells us as little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle and as little as two feet of water can carry most cars away. Avoid driving through these areas, especially when the water is moving fast. Should heavy rains or flooding be expected, move valuables from lower floors to higher ground. When roads are blocked, don't drive around the barricades. As the National Weather Service says: **Turn Around, Don't Drown.**

**Earthquakes can happen on the east coast.** On 23 Aug 2011, a 5.8 earthquake was felt in NJ, PA and NY. As recent as 13 Dec a 1.9 magnitude quake hit central NJ. JB MDL earned a "Storm Ready" certification from the National Weather Service by ensuring the installation is prepared for any natural disaster. If you need information on how to prepare for these or any other event, please contact OEM at the numbers to the right.

### Emergency Kit Supplies

A basic emergency supply kit could include any of the following.

- Water, one gallon per person per day for at least three days.
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic for shelter-in-place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Manual can opener for food.
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger.

<http://www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit>

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