

**Terms you should know.....**

Hurricane/Tropical Storm **Watch**: Hurricane or Tropical Storm conditions are possible in the specified watch area. This is usually issued 48 hours in advance of the onset of tropical storm force conditions in order to give citizens plenty of time to prepare.

Hurricane/Tropical Storm **Warning**: Hurricane or Tropical Storm conditions are expected in the specified warning area. This is the signal to finalize emergency preparation as the full impact of the storm is expected within 36 hours.

**During the storm.....**

Under a **storm Watch**.....

- \* Listen frequently to local radio and TV or your NOAA weather radio for official forecasts and bulletins of a storm's progress. Web resources and social media contacts can also be very valuable for those with access to the Internet.
  - \* Listen for emergency shelter location and activation details and confirm your evacuation routes to your pre-arranged shelter location.
  - \* Ensure that evacuation plans are made for pets. The Red Cross shelter does not allow animals. The Potter Shelter is the primary shelter for animals.
  - \* Fill up and service all family vehicles. Remember fuel for your generator, if you plan to use one.
  - \* Check and replenish your stock of batteries, non-perishable food and drinking water, medications and first aid supplies. A minimum 3-day supply is recommended.
  - \* Ensure you have extra cash on hand in case the power goes out and ATMs don't work.
  - \* Bring in lawn furniture and all other loose, light-weight objects such as garbage cans, garden tools, potted plants, and outdoor toys.
  - \* Prepare to cover all window and door openings with protective materials. If you do not have pre-cut plywood, do it now.
  - \* Set up a cooler with ice or frozen jell packs to store refrigerated foods in case of a power outage. Helpful Hint: Just before the storm begins, you may want to turn the fridge to the coldest setting and seldom open it in case of power outage. Don't forget to switch it back later!
  - \* Inspect and secure all mobile home tie-downs.
  - \* If you own a boat, make final arrangements for its safety and security.
- Under a **storm Warning**.....
- \* Stay informed. Closely monitor radio, TV and Internet sources for the latest information.
  - \* Finish your storm preparations. There is no time to lose.
  - \* For your own safety, follow instructions of local officials.
  - \* Evacuate to a safe location if instructed to do so.
  - \* Make sure friends and family members outside the **Watch** area are informed of your evacuation plans.
  - \* Make sure your pets are safe and well cared for.
  - \* In the event of a power outage, make sure all electric appliances are turned off in case the power comes back on unexpectedly.
  - \* Stay indoors, stay calm and stay safe.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**PHONE(all area code 401 unless otherwise noted):**

**EMERGENCY ..... 911**

**Fire Department**

Emergency.....683-1155

Non-emergency .....683-1200

**Police Department**

Emergency.....683-2422

Non-emergency .....683-0300

Harbormaster.....643-0137

**Town Administrator** .....683-3255

**Public Works Department** .....683-0362

**Emergency Management**.....683-1200

**School Department** .....683-1039

**Building Official** .....683-3611

**Local Red Cross** .....846-8100

**Potter League for Animals** .....846-8276

**RI Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA)**

24 hr emergency number .....946-9996

**US Coast Guard - Newport** .....846-3675

**Rhode Island State Police** .....444-1064

**National Grid**

To report power outages .....1-800-909-1212

Customer Service & Emergencies .....1-800-322-3223

**Prudence Island Ferry** .....253-9808

**INTERNET:**

Town Web Site ..... <http://www.portsmouthri.com>

Town EMA Web Site ..... <http://portsmouthemergency.com/>

RIEMA Web Site ..... <http://www.riema.ri.gov>

Potter League for Animals ..... <http://www.potterleague.org>

Prudence Island Ferry ..... <http://www.prudenceferry.com>

Portsmouth Patch ..... <http://www.portsmouth.patch.com>

NOAA - National Hurricane Center .... <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

Local Weather ..... <http://www.wunderground.com/>

Portsmouth Police ..... <http://www.portsmouthpolicerl.com>

facebook ..... Portsmouth Emergency

**TELEVISION AND RADIO:**

WLNE-TV ..... Channel 6

WJAR-TV ..... Channel 10

WNAC-TV ..... Channels 11 & 64

WPRI-TV ..... Channel 12

WPRO ..... AM 630

WSAR ..... AM 1480

WADK ..... AM1540



John King — Emergency Management Director



**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH**

**HURRICANE Preparedness & Evacuation Information**



**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH**

2200 East Main Road

Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871

Phone: (401) 683-3255

[www.portsmouthri.com](http://www.portsmouthri.com)

## HURRICANE SEASON STORM THREATS

Tropical cyclones are among nature's most powerful and destructive forces. The Atlantic hurricane season (June 1 to November 30) is a time for all Portsmouth residents to pay special attention to these intense storms impacting our community. Tropical storm and/or hurricane landfall can bring severe property damage from high winds, storm surge, torrential rain, lightning, and even tornados. After the storm, basic services may be cut off for days and rescue personnel may not be able to reach everyone right away. Knowing what to do **before, during and after** a severe storm is essential for the protection and well-being of Portsmouth's citizens.

### Before the Storm.....

- \* Determine safe evacuation routes from your home to safe inland locations.
- \* Maintain a list of emergency contact information. (See the back of this pamphlet.)
- \* Learn the location of the Red Cross Emergency Shelter and/or pre-arrange plans with friends and family to shelter in their home.
- \* **Make emergency plans for your pets!** Pets are not allowed at the Red Cross shelter. The Potter Shelter is the approved shelter for animals or make plans to bring them with you to stay with friends or family.
- \* Create a family emergency plan so all family members can stay in touch and know what to do in the event of a severe storm.
- \* Check all emergency equipment such as flashlights, generators, battery-powered radios, weather radio and cell phones. Stock up on batteries and extra fuel.
- \* Stock up on at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food, drinking water, and medications.
- \* Have on hand a basic first aid kit.
- \* Ensure that you have a supply of plywood and other materials to protect your home.
- \* Keep all rain gutters and downspouts unclogged and free-running.
- \* Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed to lessen the danger of flying debris.
- \* Review your insurance policy and assemble all important documents in one place for safe keeping.
- \* If you own a boat, have a pre-arranged plan for its safety and security.
- \* **Residents requiring special assistance or life-support systems in an emergency should contact the Portsmouth Fire Department at 401-683-1200.**



## EVACUATION

### **You should plan to evacuate if.....**

- \* You do not feel safe weathering a severe storm where you are.
- \* You live in a mobile or manufactured home.
- \* You live in **Island Park, The Hummocks or Common Fence Point.** (See map below right.)
- \* You live **on the shoreline or in any low-lying area** of town. Ask the Portsmouth Fire Department if you are unsure.

### **When to evacuate - How you will be notified.....**

A Voluntary or Mandatory Evacuation issued by local authorities should be taken seriously and followed immediately. **You will be notified by:**

- \* **Local TV and radio news media.**
- \* **CodeRed telephone notification.**
- \* **The Town EMA facebook—Portsmouth Emergency or website – <http://www.portsmouthemergency.com>.**
- \* **Temporary signage placed at strategic locations throughout Town.**

The primary **Red Cross Emergency Shelter for Portsmouth** is the **Gaudet Middle School in Middletown, RI.** (See map at right.) A secondary shelter may be opened at the Portsmouth Middle School, 125 Jepson Ln, Portsmouth, if necessary.

**Evacuation routes include all main roads in town.** Be aware that evacuation signage is placed in order to lead citizens away from coastal areas and towards safe inland locations and not necessarily toward the Red Cross Emergency Shelter.

### After the Storm.....

- \* Keep listening to local radio and TV or your NOAA weather radio for current information. Web resources and social media contacts are also a great way to stay informed.
- \* **If you must travel, do not enter an area or return home until it is declared safe to do so.**
- \* **Watch for flooded or closed roads.** Barricades and warning signs are there for your protection.
- \* **Avoid all damaged or downed power lines.** Report downed lines to the Portsmouth Police Department.
- \* Report downed trees and limbs in the public right-of-way to the Portsmouth DPW.
- \* Once home, check gas, water and electrical service and all appliances for damage.
- \* If the power is off, make sure all electrical appliances are turned off in case the power comes back on unexpectedly.
- \* Take care in cleaning up downed trees and other storm debris. **Check with Town Hall on current transfer station and tree and limb removal policies.**

## RED CROSS EMERGENCY SHELTER GAUDET MIDDLE SCHOOL 1113 AQUIDNECK AVE., MIDDLETOWN, RI



## EVACUATION AREA

