

Dear Friends,

As you may have heard, Hurricane Irene is making its way up the East Coast and is expected to affect Long Island this weekend. The storm may create potentially dangerous conditions, including heavy rains and high wind speeds. To stay safe, FEMA offers the following tips on what to do during a hurricane:

If a hurricane is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or TV for information.

- Secure your home, close storm shutters, and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.

- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.

- Turn off propane tanks.

- Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.

- Moor your boat if time permits.

- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.

You should evacuate under the following conditions:

- If you are directed by local authorities to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.

Preparing for Hurricane Irene

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- If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure—such shelters are particularly hazardous during hurricanes no matter how well-fastened to the ground.
- If you live in a high-rise building—hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an inland waterway.
- If you feel you are in danger.

If you are unable to evacuate, go to your safe room. If you do not have one, follow these guidelines:

- Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors—secure and brace external doors.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm - winds will pick up again.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.

For information on tracking the storm as well as emergency management resources, please visit the hurricane preparedness page on my website at <http://israel.house.gov> .

Sincerely,

Preparing for Hurricane Irene

Friday, August 26, 2011

Steve Israel

Member of Congress