

NEWS:



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Orange County Urges Residents to Prepare for Hurricane Irene *Region expected to experience record-breaking flooding, hurricane force winds*

(Goshen, NY) – The Orange County Executive’s Office and the Department of Emergency Services were briefed at 2:30 p.m. today by the National Weather Service (NOAA) on the potential impacts of Hurricane Irene on our region, with forecast models showing the possibility of 9 -12 inches of rainfall within a 24 hour time period causing significant, widespread flooding in the County. This would be in addition to potential hurricane force winds.

“It’s important that every County resident have a family emergency plan in place that includes extra food and water, a battery powered radio, a full tank of gas, and a local map,” said Seamus K. Leary, Deputy Commissioner of Orange County’s Division of Emergency Management.

The Division of Emergency Management is closely monitoring the situation and is coordinating with local, state and federal partners, including local hospitals, airports, as well as the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

County municipalities were briefed at a 4:30 p.m. conference call this afternoon by Deputy County Executive James D. O’Donnell.

Deputy Commissioner Leary further stated, “Protect yourself and your family - please DO NOT drive through standing water or flooded areas, DO NOT approach downed wires, DO NOT run generators inside buildings, and DO NOT enter flooded basements.”

Orange County Emergency Management recommends that County residents stay informed during this emergency by registering at www.nyalert.gov to receive critical public safety information, and consider becoming a fan of Emergency Management’s Facebook page OrangeCounty EmergencyManagement.

For regular news updates, please visit Orange County’s website at www.orangecountygov.com, residents will also find a link titled **Hurricane/Flood Preparedness** with more detailed information regarding safety tips and preparedness.

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