

Hurricane Irene Resources

**Were you or someone you know affected by Hurricane Irene?
Following is a list of resources and services that are available to
Somerset County residents that were affected.**

County residents that were affected by the Hurricane are encouraged to call 211 or go to the website (www.nj211.org) for more detailed information about the programs and services that are listed below.

Clean Up- households and small businesses that need assistance with cleaning flood damage up should call and register with 211.

Counseling- trained counselors are available to speak with anyone who is dealing with stress that is a result of the Hurricane. Anyone who wants services can call Family and Community Services (732-356-1082) or the Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center (908-725-2800).

FEMA- individuals and business owners who sustained damage losses can begin applying for assistance by registering online at www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362). Affected households must apply within sixty days of the hurricane. FEMA staff have set up an Operations Center at 27 Warren Street, Somerville; the hours of operation are 8 am- 6 p.m., seven days a week.

Food- The Food Bank Network (732-560-1813) can also provide food and personal supplies. County residents who are not currently SNAP/Food Stamp recipients and suffered hurricane-related losses may apply for Disaster SNAP/Food Stamp benefits. This is a one-time payment on an ATM-like card that can be used at grocery stores for certain food purchases. For more information call the Board of Social Services (908-526-8800) or visit the SNAP website at www.njsnap.org.

Legal Assistance- Legal Services of Northwest Jersey (908-231-0840) can answer questions about tenancy and other legal issues.

Medical Services- Eye Care- SHIP (87 E. High Street) operates an eye clinic that provides complete eye exams on the first Thursday of each month. To schedule an appointment, call SHIP at (908)393-9545. SHIP also operates a medical clinic that

is open on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 12:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. Walk-ins are accepted. There is no fee for either of these services.

Rental Assistance- the Homelessness Trust Fund can provide up to twelve months of rental assistance and case management to families that are income eligible and meet the other program requirements. For more information call the Community Development Office at (908)-541-5756.

Seniors- the Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services (908-704-6346) can provide case management to seniors and disabled County residents.

Tax Relief- Filing and payment relief is available to residents and small business owners. Individuals can consult IRS Publication 2194 for information about how to claim casualty losses on property that was destroyed by a natural disaster; small business owners can consult IRS Publication 2194B.

Volunteer- Individuals that would like to volunteer should call the Governor's Office on volunteerism (609) 633-9627 or visit the website Volunteer NJ <http://www.volunteernewjersey.org/vnj/>

If you would like to add information, please call the County Community Development Office at 908-541-5756.