



Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

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Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monroe Announces Second Emergency Shelter with Generator

MONROE – During this active and destructive hurricane season, Monroe officials have announced the addition of a second emergency shelter, expanding on the Township’s disaster readiness plan.

Over the summer, the Township completed the installation of a second full-service backup generator at its Monmouth Road Community Center, adding an auxiliary shelter to its primary shelter, located at the Monroe Township Senior Center on Halsey Reed Road.

The Township funded the generator project, in part, with \$284,000 from the Energy Allocation Initiative through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

“These facilities will be able to fully function as temporary shelters for those residents who might find themselves displaced during times of emergency,” said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. “Furthermore, they will provide residents with charging stations for their electronic devices and act as a point-of-contact for distribution of other resources. Emergency provisions, including cots, emergency meals, personal care kits and blankets are at the ready and a full-service shelter can be functional at either location in less than two hours.”

In the past decade, Monroe has endured two devastating storms. In 2011, flood waters from Hurricane Irene divided the Township and left over 100 homes damaged. More than a year later, Hurricane Sandy stripped the entire municipality of power, in some case for up to 10 days.

“Since then, we’ve been ramping up our disaster readiness and response by expanding our emergency shelters and our communication platforms and by keeping our emergency responders well trained and equipped,” said Monroe Councilman Michael Leibowitz. “After Irene, we decided we needed two large-scale emergency shelters in different geographical locations. With this latest project complete, we can house over 1,000 residents during an evacuation and more than 500 post impact.”

Beyond the additional shelter, Monroe has broadened its communication outlets to include Nixle text and email notifications, along with reverse dial phone service, which enables the Office of Emergency Management to connect with nearly 20,000 households within seconds.

“Monroe has invested in technology to provide a more efficient dissemination of information, which improves public readiness and our emergency response,” said OEM Coordinator Chief Michael Lloyd.

Information is also continuously streaming through the local Comcast cable station, Channel 28, the Monroe Township website, as well as its affiliated Facebook pages “The Township of Monroe” and “Monroe Township Office of Emergency Management.”

As for emergency personnel, three-fourths of Monroe’s EMS and firefighters belong to the New Jersey Task Force for Disaster Preparedness. That classification allows these staff members to complete advanced training in search and recovery, hazmat chemical exposure, tactical safety and other mock disaster scenarios.

Meanwhile, police officers and members of OEM remain the Township’s eyes and ears, constantly monitoring threats and forecasts, preparing for all emergency scenarios.

“While we’re prepared for emergencies, we also want our residents to be prepared,” said Monroe Councilwoman Miriam Cohen. “We’re recommending each household keep a disaster supply kit in a waterproof container, complete with food and water for three days, plus medicines, batteries, a flashlight, a can opener, a first-aid kit, electronic chargers and emergency contact numbers. We’re also asking our residents who might be physically challenged to sign up for our special needs registration through the Police Department. That way emergency personnel can respond to their specific needs, should a situation arise.”

Residents interested in signing up for Monroe’s Nixle alerts can text 08831 to 888777. Pertinent information on emergency preparedness can also be found on the Township’s website at www.monroetwp.com.

For further details, contact Monroe Township’s Public Information Officer Maria Prato at 732-521-4400 or mprato@monroetwp.com.