

**TOWN OF COHASSET
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

COHASSET EMERGENCY PLANNING GUIDE:

The following publication from the Federal Emergency Management Agency “**Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness**” is available through FEMA. To obtain a copy of this book you should call **1-800-480-2520**. The guide is also available at the following Web Site. <http://fema.gov/areyouready/>

This book answers questions you may have on **Why Prepare for a Disaster, General Preparedness Information, Natural Hazards, Technological & man-Made Hazards, Disaster Public Education Websites and Independent Study Courses**. The soft cover book contains 102 pages of information your family needs to prepare for emergencies. FEMA will mail **only one copy per family**. There is no charge for this important publication. We highly recommend that each family in Cohasset obtain a copy. Please feel free to call us at 781-383-0666 if you have any further questions about emergency planning.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Life Threatening Emergencies 911

Fire Dept. Business 1-781-383-0260

Police Dept. Business 1-781-383-1212

Fallen Trees, Limbs, etc. (call in order)

1. 1-781-783-0273 (Dept. of Public Works)

2. 1-781-383-1212 (Police Dept.)

3. 1-781-383-0260 (Fire Dept.)

Electrical Power Problems

1-800-322-3223 (National Grid)

1-781-383-0057 (**Cohasset Water Department**)

1-671-469-2300 (**Gas – National Grid**)

1-781-740-6635 (**Aquarian Water**) (No. Cohasset)

Telephone Company

1-781-555-1511 (Businesses)

1-781-555-1611 (Residences)

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1-781-383-0388

Arthur L. Lehr, Jr., Director

Emergency Management

1-781-383-1212

James Hussey, Police Chief

1-617-835-3890

Glenn A. Pratt, Deputy Director

Emergency Management

1-781-383-0260

Robert Silvia, Fire Chief

1-781-383-4116

Joseph Godzick, Health Agent

Emergency Management Inquiries or General Information call – 1-781-383-1212.

COHASSET FAMILY EMERGENCY PLANNING GUIDELINES

During hurricanes, blizzards, or other disasters, you should be prepared to be self-sustaining for 24-36 hours.

To help keep you as safe as possible, check the following and be prepared.

- Working flashlight (extra batteries)
- Portable radio (extra batteries)
- WATD, 95.9 FM, Marshfield, MA or Cable Channel 10 for local news.
- Change any batteries you may need
- Three (3) day supply of food and water
- Necessary Prescription Drugs
- Car gas tank full
- Supply of canned foods
- First aid supplies
- Fresh water in containers
- Charge any batteries you may need
- Propane or charcoal for cooking

Do's

- Stay calm
- Take in or down outside furniture
- Bring small loose items inside
- Tape extra large windows
- Be prepared to leave if living in a low area
- Listen to radio and TV
- Use water sparingly until all services are restored

If you are evacuating your home during a hurricane:

1. Turn off oil and gas burners and furnace
2. Cut off water service at meter
3. Turn off electrical power at main switch
4. Secure the house when leaving

Do Not's

- Do not panic
- Do not use charcoal or propane for indoor cooking
- Do not touch **ANY** downed wires
- Do not run generators indoors or near buildings
- Do not go outdoors unless necessary during emergencies

One of the greatest hindrances in restoring services is people sight-seeing on foot or in vehicles in problem areas. Remember that under certain circumstances persons interfering with emergency services to a stricken area are subject to arrest.

Things to Consider:

- If family member will need electricity for life support, contact the Fire Dept. in advance, whenever possible
- Report downed wires to Light Dept.
- Drive cautiously and only in emergency
- If trees are blocking your street, report it to Department of Public Works
- Report broken gas or water mains to the respective companies
- Make arrangements for salvaging frozen food if power is estimated to be off over 24 hours

Electrical Services: National Grid is not staffed for major outages. In emergencies, they depend on other municipal utilities and local contractors for additional help. Because of constantly changing situations during an emergency, it is homeowners' responsibility to safeguard against frozen food spoilage or other inconveniences as the result of power loss. When power is lost, turn off or disconnect all major appliances, pumps, etc. until power is restored. Power will be restored on a priority basis in the following order:

1. Health Care Facilities, Designated Shelters, Sewer Pumping Stations, Utilities and Town Facilities
2. Individual Homes and Businesses

Police and Fire Departments: Call 911 only in emergencies involving fire, health or life threatening situations. **Emergency Management:** Call Emergency Management (1-781-383-0666) for matters relating to shelters, evacuation, food, etc.

Department of Public Works and RTF (Recycle, Transfer Facility)

The clearing of fallen trees, limbs, snow, water, etc. which obstruct vehicular traffic is the Department of Public Work's top priority. Downed trees on town land will be removed by the town. Disposal of downed trees and other debris on private property is the responsibility of the homeowner and *will not* be picked up by the Town. Remember that depositing private debris on town land and streets is subject to fines. The RTF is open for operation Wednesday, Friday – Sunday 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The RTF is closed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Holidays. During emergencies, RTF hours may be extended.

SCHOOLS

The decision whether or not schools will be in session will be made by 5:30 AM by the School Department. The School Department's CONNECT-ED Calling Program will notify all students' home numbers by 6:00 AM. If classes are canceled, the cancellation notice will be broadcast periodically by radio stations WBZ (1030 AM), WATD (95.9 FM), WBUR (90.9 FM), WJDA (1300 AM), WRKO (680 AM) and TV Channels 4, 5, 7 and 56.

DO NOT CALL POLICE OR FIRE DEPTS., OR 911 TO INQUIRE ABOUT SCHOOL CLOSINGS

GENERAL

- MAKE ONLY ESSENTIAL PHONE CALLS
- DO NOT KEEP CALLING A DEPARTMENT IF YOU HAVE REPORTED A SITUATION, UNLESS THERE IS A LIFE OR DEATH PROBLEM
- PLEASE BE PATIENT AND REALIZE THAT TIME ESTIMATES FOR RESTORING ANY SERVICE ARE ONLY APPROXIMATE AND BASED ON CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF THE ESTIMATE. IN A DEVELOPING SITUATION ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN
- RESTRICT WATER AND ELECTRICITY USEAGE TO ESSENTIALS.
REMEMBER: CAPACITIES ARE LIMITED UNTIL ALL TOWN SERVICES ARE RESTORED