

Planning Ahead for a Weather Emergency

**** In 2020, Covid-19 pandemic protocols apply, so if you are interacting with other people wear a mask and maintain your distance.***

Make A Family Plan: Create a plan with family members and remember to consider your pets/service animals. Put your plan in writing and share it with everyone in the family. Some things to think about are how you'll communicate with one another if the power/internet goes down, the supplies you might need, and how to keep cool/warm depending on the season. While it is highly unlikely you will need this, it's worth including where to meet if there is an evacuation. [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) are some suggestions on what to include in your family plan. [HERE](#) are suggestions for keeping your pets safe. If you have college kids who are away from home make sure they have a plan too!

Set Up A Neighborhood Helpline: Neighborhood helplines can range from emails chains, to facebook posts, to group texts. It's best to set one up prior to the disaster so you can quickly check in and share information in your hyper local neighborhood. Make a point of including people who are new to the Village and work out how to include neighbors who are less tech savvy than the majority.

Sign Up For "ARE YOU OK": The Village "[Are You OK](#)" registry is geared at our Village elders so we can check in on them during emergencies. If you are a senior, sign up yourself, or encourage loved ones, people with disabilities or elderly neighbors to sign up. Residents who participate will receive a phone call or visit to check on them.

Register Life Support Systems: If you or a loved one has life-support devices (e.g. home dialysis, breathing machines, or other medical equipment/supplies that depend on electricity), make sure you know how to use them during a power outage. Residents who use this type of medical equipment can register with Con Edison in case of power outages (including people who don't receive a bill directly from Con Edison). If you register, Con Edison will put you on a "priority reconnection service" list. For more information, or to fill out a Life-Support Equipment survey, click [HERE](#). For elderly, blind and disabled residents we recommend that you also register with Con Edison's Senior Direct representatives at 800-404-9097, Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 5PM. Also, let the Village Fire Department know you are dependent on life-support devices (email: firechief@hastingsgov.org).

Purchase/Rent A Generator: If you require life-saving equipment that can't operate without electricity, consider purchasing, renting or borrowing a generator to provide

power prior to a storm event (think about heating as well as cooling needs). Remember that generators can create fires and/or carbon monoxide poisoning and should not be used inside a home so don't run a generator in a basement, garage, porch or carport. Only operate a generator outdoors and away from open windows. Don't exceed the rated capacity of your generator—overloading it can damage the generator and any appliances connected to it. If your generator has a detachable fuel tank, remove it before refilling. If this is not possible, shut off the generator and let it cool before refilling.

Prepare Your Home: Prepare your home in advance to be as energy efficient as possible to keep the heat in and the cold out. Secure and clean out gutters. Put away items that might become destructive in high winds like patio furniture. Make sure you know how to shut off the utilities if needed. In the winter if you have a fireplace make sure you have an ample supply of firewood.

Trim Trees: Most of the damage in our area is caused by falling trees and/or tree limbs. Removing unhealthy trees and flagging trees that are already caught up in wires goes a long way to reducing storm damage. If you are hesitant to remove a tree (even if your arborist tells you it needs to go), remember you can replace it with 2 or 3 new ones. Planting new trees is a fantastic ritual for kids to participate in and arborists can help you trim a tree such that it flourishes.

Be Informed: Know the hazards our community is most vulnerable to in each season and take steps to mitigate damage to your property in advance. Learn how to access official information and instructions in an emergency, including the Village “[Emergency Preparedness](#)” button on the home page of our website as well as social media accounts that can keep you updated about issues in your neighborhood. Sign up for the **Mayor's Messages** [HERE](#) to learn how the Village is planning for the emergency and to keep abreast of local public announcements. Learn about how you can sign up for a range of other emergency alerts [HERE](#).

Document Your Assets And Insure Your Property: Make sure you know what your homeowners insurance policy covers and make a point of taking photos to document your possessions and the condition of your property before the weather event happens. Save copies of important documents and a photo record of your valuables on a flash drive and update it periodically. [HERE](#) is a list of documents you might include.

Build A Kit: Ensure your disaster supplies kit has all the items you might need if asked to evacuate or shelter-in-place. Think about the basic necessities—food, water and shelter—and make sure your plan contemplates an event that lasts multiple days. If you already have an emergency preparedness kit or go-bag, check expiration dates and re-stock as needed. Put together a first aid kit for your home and one for your car(s). Include the flash drive of important documents. Adjust your kit depending on the season

(e.g. include blankets and warm clothing in snow emergencies). Plan for entertainment in case the power goes (e.g. games, puzzles and books). HERE are some ideas of items you might consider including in your kit.

Stock Essential Supplies: Just prior to the emergency make sure you are stocked with a core set of important supplies including medications, batteries, powerpacks, solar lights/flashlights, candles/matches, a battery operated radio, nonperishable food that is easy to heat up and water (several gallon containers). Fully charge your cell phone, laptop, and other electronic devices. Make sure your vehicles are fully fueled. Fill up a bathtub or two with water. In the summer make sure you have lots of ice in the freezer and/or freeze packs. If you have medication that requires refrigeration, check with your pharmacist for guidance on proper storage during an extended outage.

Help Emergency Responders: Right before the storm remove your car from the street and park in your driveway—this is especially important in a snowstorm. Register your lifesaving devices.

Monitor The Weather: Watch your local news for advisories and alerts—look out for evacuations or stay home orders.

Update Your Emergency Contact List:

- **Emergency:** 911
- **Con Edison:** 1 (800) 75 - CONED (26633) / <https://www.coned.com/en/services-and-outages/report-track-service-issue/report-outage-status>
- **Verizon:** MyFios App / 800-verizon / www.verizon.com
- **Optimum:** (866) 950-3278/ optimum.net/support/outage/send Tweet to @Optimumhelp
- **Police Department:** 914.478.2344
- **Village Manager:** office: 914.478.3420 / villagemanager@hastingsgov.org
- **Mayor:** mayor@hastingsgov.org

Other Resources:

- HoH Fire Department Natural Disaster Preparation Video (2020)
- HoH Heat Emergency Plan (2020)
- Emergency Services Westchester County

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