



Precautionary Measures for Wastewater and Stormwater Systems before a Storm Event

Who is affected by this initiative?

This alert applies to New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permittees, who discharge wastewater or stormwater, as well as governmental or other agencies that maintain and operate sanitary and/or stormwater collection systems.

What is occurring?

Current weather forecasts predict that a Storm event may cause severe weather conditions throughout the state including snow, freezing temperatures, and severe localized flooding. The NJDEP is strongly advising NJPDES permittees to:

1. Update your emergency contact list for internal and external communications;
2. Test your remote access and communication systems and ensure they are in good working order;
3. Place operating/emergency response personnel on call and review emergency procedures;
4. Provide the NJ State Police with 24 hour contact information for your organization (operation center) in the event a travel restriction is imposed;
5. Provide a list of emergency response personnel on 24-hour call to the licensed operator on duty at the water or wastewater facility;
6. Ensure that all supplies, including water treatment chemicals and fuels, are fully stocked and secured to the maximum extent possible;
7. Test auxiliary power sources and generators to ensure they are in good working order;
8. If applicable, arrange for portable generators for key pumping stations;
9. Inspect infrastructure and back-ups to ensure they are functioning properly;
10. Inspect Combined Sewer Systems and ensure that the regulators, screening facilities, netting and tide gates are functioning properly;
11. Clear all road storm drains and storm inlets prior to the storm event; and
12. Inspect/assess critical infrastructure for damage after the storm, when you can do so safely.
13. Carry a fully charged cell phone and be sure everyone on the emergency list has the number, in case the land line is unavailable.

Any non-compliance with permit limitations, anticipated or unanticipated bypass, or violation as outlined in N.J.A.C. 7:14A-6.10, must be reported to the **DEP Hotline at 1-877-WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337)** within 2 hours of the event or knowledge of the event, or 24 hours depending on the nature of the violation (see N.J.A.C. 7:14A-6.10). The Department also urges any facility experiencing non-compliance or anticipating such non-compliance to contact downstream drinking water purveyors and their local department of health.

What is DEP doing?

For Emergency Repair Projects, the Department has developed a process to respond expeditiously when emergencies occur, obtain basic project information, make an eligibility determination and issue an approval so that owners/operators can expeditiously undertake the needed repairs and maintain eligibility for those expenditures through the Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program.

What should I do? Where can I get more information?

NJPDES permit holders should review items 1 through 13 on the first page of this document. In addition, the following documents are pertinent to Emergency Response preparation:

- Emergency Snow Removal and Disposal Policy <http://www.njstormwater.org>
- Emergency Response and Planning <http://www.nj.gov/dep/infofinder/topics/emergency.htm>
- Precautionary Measures for Wastewater and Stormwater Systems before, during and after a Major Hurricane:
 - http://www.state.nj.us/dep/special/hurricane-irene/docs/Hurricane_PM2.pdf
- Frequently Asked Questions Related to Water Quality:
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/special/hurricane-irene/docs/WaterQuality.pdf>
- For wastewater emergency repair projects:
http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/cwf_2013P_cwpl.pdf
- For drinking water emergency repair projects, visit
http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pdf/ffy2013_iup_proposed.pdf.
- Municipal Finance and Construction Element at 609-633-1170.
- Additional information can be found at the following links: <http://www.epa.gov/hurricanes/> and <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtml>
- To comment on this advisory: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html>

Who should I contact with questions?

During Business Hours:

Water Compliance & Enforcement Northern Field Office (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties)

7 Ridgedale Avenue

Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927

Phone: 973-656-4099 Fax: 973-656-4400

Water Compliance & Enforcement Central Field Office ((Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Union Counties)

Mail Code 44-03
22 S. Clinton Avenue
4 Station Plaza
PO Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
Phone: 609-292-3010 Fax: 609-292-6493

Water Compliance & Enforcement Southern Field Office (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties)

2 Riverside Drive
Suite 201
Camden, NJ 08103
Phone: 856-614-3655 Fax: 856-614-3608

Non Business Hours: 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337)

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the Enforcement number listed above.