

# **FLOOD EMERGENCY INFORMATION FOR CHATHAM**

Damaging storms are a fact of life along the coast because of Chatham's close proximity to the ocean. Large portions of the town are susceptible to coastal flooding and erosion, especially those areas located along the eastern shoreline facing Chatham Harbor, as well as areas along the southern shoreline facing Nantucket Sound. Storm surge caused by high winds can also pose significant threats to interior shorelines such as Oyster Pond, Mill Pond, Taylor's Pond and Sulphur Springs. Being prepared for a flood can help prevent property damage and prevent personal injury. The following information has been compiled to assist Chatham residents in their flood emergency preparations.

**WHEN TO EVACUATE:** Emergency personnel will circulate in your neighborhood to announce an evacuation order. Evacuation and emergency information will also be provided via local radio as well as Chatham SMART911 telephone notification system. The Chatham Police Department also maintains a Twitter page. Please comply with advisories or orders to evacuate. If your evacuation route is cutoff, it will be difficult for emergency personnel to reach you in the event of a flood. Please observe the following safety tips:

- **DO NOT WALK-THROUGH FLOWING WATER:** Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive – as little as 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you must cross through standing water look before you step and use a pole or stick to ensure the ground is solid.
- **DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED AREAS:** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else.
- **STAY AWAY FROM POWER LINES AND ELECTRICAL WIRES:** The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution when live wires are down in flood waters. Report downed power lines to the power company or local emergency management agency.
- **BE ALERT FOR GAS LEAKS:** Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke, use candles, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area is well ventilated.

## **EMERGENCY PREPARATION:**

Once a flood watch is issued, you should start gathering the following items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>WATER:</u></b> 1 gallon per day per person. 2 quarts for drinking, 2 quarts for food prep and sanitation. Don't forget water for your pets.</li><li>• Nonperishable packaged or canned foods that require little or no preparation or cooking</li><li>• Special foods for infants, the elderly, or persons with allergies</li><li>• First aid kit</li><li>• Flashlight</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Batteries</li><li>• Portable radio</li><li>• Manual can opener</li><li>• Blankets and sleeping bags</li><li>• Medication (One week supply)</li><li>• Games, books with which to keep occupied, toys for children</li><li>• Important documents, insurance policy, property inventory etc. Valid ID. Small amount of cash.</li></ul>
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Develop a family communication emergency plan in case family members are separated during storm. Ask an out of state friend or family member to serve as a family contact. After a disaster, it is often easier to call someone far away from the impacted area. Make sure everyone knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

## **WHERE TO GO:**

**CAPE COD REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL:** Regional Shelter – 351 Pleasant Lake Ave., Harwich, Ma (Pets Welcome)

**CHATHAM COMMUNITY CENTER:** Local Personal Care Site -702 Main Street, Chatham (PETS WELCOME)

*Certain items cannot be brought to shelter/care site: Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, Firearms, or other weapons*

## **QUICK REFERENCE:**

Chatham Emergency Operation Center – 135 Depot Road

- 508-945-2625 (Emergency Dial 911)
- [chathameoc@chatham-ma.gov](mailto:chathameoc@chatham-ma.gov)
- Sign up for SWIFT911 on the Town's website or by calling the Fire Department at 508-945-2324
- Weather/Emergency News: WQRC 99.9 FM RADIO

Town of Chatham  
261 George Ryder Road  
Chatham, Ma 02633

Or Current Resident

## **ARE YOU PREPARED?**

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## **PREPARE IN ADVANCE**

**FIND OUT IF YOU ARE IN A FLOOD HAZARD AREA:** Call 508-945-5168 and speak with the Community Development Department to determine whether your home is located within a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area. Flood maps are available at the Town Hall Annex at 261 George Ryder Road and online at the following web addresses:

**PDF Format:** <https://www.chatham-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/87>

**Web GIS:** <https://mapsonline.net/chathamma>

### **OBTAIN FLOOD INSURANCE:**

Many homeowner policies do not cover flood damage. Flood insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and some private companies. Chatham's participation in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) entitles Chatham property owners to a 10% discount on NFIP flood insurance rates. Ask your Insurance Agent for more information or contact the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition's flood insurance experts at <https://knowflood.org/services/know-flood-insurance-information> *Note: Do not wait until the next flood to buy flood insurance. There is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect.*

### **IMPROVE YOUR PROPERTY TO REDUCE FUTURE FLOOD DAMAGE:**

FEMA publications on measures to protect your property are available at the Department of Community Development and the Eldredge Public Library. Property-specific assistance is also available from the Building Commissioner by calling 508-945-5160 and also available on the town of Chatham's website at [www.chatham-ma.gov](http://www.chatham-ma.gov). Remember that a building permit is required before any construction.