

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE



Steve Stern

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT
1842 E. Jericho Turnpike, Suite P
HUNTINGTON, NY 11743



November 2, 2012

Dear Neighbor:

The aftermath of Hurricane Sandy continues to have a serious impact on all residents of Suffolk County. Many remain without power and cell phone service and are impacted by gasoline shortages. Many of our neighbors have suffered damage to their homes from falling trees and flooding. At this time of need, our greatest resource is each other. Many of us have been assisting our neighbors, checking in on the elderly and assisting with clean-up. It is at times like these that we must come together to help each other.

Safety is our primary concern. NEVER go near any downed wire. ASSUME that any downed wire is live. Stay away and report it to LIPA immediately at 1-800-490-0075. NEVER operate a generator inside your home or garage. Operating a generator in an enclosed space can lead to FATAL carbon monoxide poisoning. Use caution with stored gasoline, kerosene and propane. When approaching inactive traffic lights, please come to a full stop before proceeding through the intersection. Many accidents have resulted from drivers proceeding through inactive traffic lights.

LIPA is working to restore power, with first priority assigned to hospitals, nursing homes, sewage treatment and water treatment plants, mass transit and schools. To report an outage, call 1-800-490-0075, text in OUT to 695472, or at lipower.org. Suffolk County is providing charging stations today, Friday, November 2nd, tomorrow Saturday, November 3rd and Sunday, November 4th at the H. Lee Dennison Building, 100 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, Media Room, from 9am-8pm. Please charge no more than 2 devices at a time, so that everyone can charge their phones and mobile devices.

If you have suffered damage to your home, file a claim with your insurance company. Hurricane deductibles have been waived. TAKE PICTURES of all damage to your home. Check licenses of all contractors and obtain written estimates to document your claim. Keep all receipts.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides financial or direct assistance to individuals and families whose property has been damaged or destroyed as a result for a federally-declared disaster and whose losses ARE NOT covered by insurance. FEMA can be contacted at 1-800-621-3362 or at www.DisasterAssistance.gov

The weather is getting colder and many who remain without power also have no heat or hot water. If you are in need of shelter, please contact the Red Cross at (631) 924-6911. This is especially critical for the elderly, the very young and those with medical conditions.

There have also been reports of price gouging, especially as gasoline shortages continue. If you experience price gouging, please call the Suffolk County Department of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-909-5423.

Suffolk County has established a number of hotlines for residents to use to obtain assistance. Please use 911 ONLY in case of EMERGENCY. Please call (631) 852-COPS for non-emergency calls. The Suffolk County Department of Emergency Management (OEM) is operating 24 hours a day and can be reached at (631) 852-4900. The Suffolk County Department of Health Services can be reached at (631) 853-3000. For emergencies after hours or on weekends, please call (631) 852-4820.

To receive 24 hour emergency assistance from the Town of Huntington, please call (631) 351-3234. For 24 hour emergency assistance from the Town of Babylon, please call (631) 422-7600.

As always, if you require further information or if I can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact me. Please stay safe as we continue our recovery from Hurricane Sandy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Stern". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "S" and "T".

Steve Stern