

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LEGISLATOR STERN URGES RESIDENTS TO BE PREPARED
FOR POTENTIAL IMPACT OF HURRICANE JOAQUIN**

Aftermath of Irene and Sandy Heightens Importance of Readiness

HUNTINGTON, NY – Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16th LD), Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, is urging residents to prepare for the potential impact of Hurricane Joaquin, which is expected to impact our area this weekend. Meteorologists are predicting heavy rain, strong winds, coastal flooding and erosion. Our recent experiences with Hurricane Irene and Super Storm Sandy demonstrate the importance of taking steps to protect our families and properties from potential storms. You should have the following in place to prepare your family for possible storm related needs:

- Have a plan to reach family members and have a meeting place.
- Plan an evacuation location.
- At least 1 gallon of water per day, per person, for 3-7 days.
- Food for at least 3-7 days, including non-perishable canned goods and a manual can opener.
- Formula for infants and needed nutritional supplements.
- Blankets and pillows packed in plastic bags.
- Prescription medications. It is advisable to have a separate list of all medications and names, phone numbers and addresses of physicians should you need additional medication.
- Flashlights & battery operated radios.
- Keep cell phone chargers dry & accessible
- First aid kit.
- Toiletries
- Cash.
- Important documents placed in water-proof sealed plastic bags.

- ☑ Tools.
- ☑ Make plans for your pets, have pet food and secure their medical information.
- ☑ Make sure to fill the gas tanks of your vehicles. In the event of an extended power failure, gas stations may not be able to pump gas.
- ☑ The Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (F.R.E.S.) has established an Emergency Preparedness Registry Plan for persons with special needs. Individuals are encouraged to obtain an application by calling F.R.E.S. at (631) 852-4900.
- ☑ If you or a family member is dependent upon life-support equipment, contact LIPA at 1-(800) 490-0025 to register for their Critical Care Program.
- ☑ **Don't** use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, garage or near a window.
- ☑ People with special dietary needs should have an adequate emergency food supply.
- ☑ If you have a service animal, make sure that it is registered for a service tag.
- ☑ The hearing impaired may need to make special arrangements to make sure they receive emergency warnings. You can sign up to receive Emergency Notifications of an actual or impending emergency at the **CODERED** link provided at the county's website listed above. Those without Internet access may call the **Office of Emergency Management's Customer Service Center** at **(631) 852-4900 Mon.-Fri., 9am to 5pm** to supply their information over the phone.
- ☑ People with special dietary needs should have an adequate emergency food supply.
- ☑ If you have a service animal, make sure that it is registered for a service tag.
- ☑ Individuals with cognitive and/or developmental disabilities can be voluntarily registered with the Suffolk County Police Department "**Silver Alert/Special Needs Alert**" program. This program enables residents caring for those with special needs or cognitive disorders to register their loved ones and provides vital information to law enforcement, the media and community in the event a person wanders or becomes separated during a storm. To register, please visit the SCPD website at www.suffolkpd.org and click on the Amber/Silver Alert Icon or call (631) 852-6983.

