

NJ Office of Emergency Management



Colonel Rick Fuentes
Superintendent, New Jersey State Police
State Director of Emergency Management

Major Dennis McNulty
Commanding Officer, Emergency Management

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Mary J. Goepfert, NJ OEM (609) 963-6818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 17, 2011

NJOEM Conducts Damage Surveys With County Partners Following Weekend Flooding

WEST TRENTON, N.J. – The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management has asked County Offices of Emergency Management to conduct visual surveys of damages incurred in their jurisdictions as a result of Sunday's flooding event. The purpose of the damage surveys is to determine the magnitude and severity of the event, and determine if more formal and comprehensive damage assessments are required.

"Over the weekend, we deployed State OEM Regional Representatives to the impacted areas, and they continue to work with local officials. Their observations, and State Emergency Operations Center disaster intelligence from impacted areas, point to the severe impact that the rain and flooding had on roads, bridges and homes - especially in southern New Jersey," said Colonel Rick Fuentes, State Police Superintendent and Director of the NJ Office of Emergency Management. "The damage survey process provides a basis for deciding the avenues that we can pursue to assist the communities and people who were affected."

During the damage assessment process, impacted facilities are located, identified and recorded. Officials will survey roads, bridges, public buildings, emergency facilities, utility plants, public property and critical infrastructure. They will also estimate the total number of damaged residential properties and indicate any other community impacts. The damage survey provides the initial extent and boundaries of the affected areas, and helps determine where the most critical needs are.

The NJOEM advises all residents and businesses that have experienced flood damage to their property to contact their insurance company and open a claim for damages. All municipal and county officials should continue to work with their respective offices of emergency management to compile the damage surveys. Those driving in the impacted areas should adhere to detours and alternative routes established by local public safety officials and avoiding driving through standing or ponded water.

For more information regarding flood recovery please follow these links:

NJOEM Flood Related Info: www.ready.nj.gov

NJ 211 Call Center: Call 2-1-1 or click www.nj211.org; Free 24-hour statewide service - putting people in need of assistance, in touch with people who can help.

NJ Division of Mental Health Services "Managing the Emotional Consequences of Storms and Flooding": <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/disaster/#4>

###

To stay informed about disasters and emergencies in New Jersey via social media, follow the NJOEM on [Twitter @ReadyNJ](#), "like" us on www.facebook.com/READYNEWJERSEY, or get email and text message alerts via www.Nixle.com or www.njalert.gov.