

# WEST GREENWICH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## RESIDENTS ADVISED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST HURRICANE EARL

**Heavy rain and high winds from the storm could cause extensive damage**

West Greenwich Emergency Management Agency (WG EMA) Director Brooke A. Lawrence advises residents to take precautions against Hurricane Earl, which is projected to hit Rhode Island on Friday. Although the hurricane is expected to lessen in intensity as it approaches New England, the storm will bring heavy rain and high winds. WG EMA is advising residents to secure any lawn furniture, outdoor decorations, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that could become airborne in heavy winds. Mariners are advised to avoid any activity on the water; especially offshore rip currents and strong seas are expected.

Residents are encouraged to monitor news broadcasts for up-to-date storm information, and to take the following steps to ensure they are prepared for the first 72 hours:

### **Create an emergency kit**

- 72-hour supply of water (at least 3 gallons per person for drinking and sanitation) and non-perishable food
- First Aid kit
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Flashlight and plenty of batteries (avoid using candles)
- Warm blanket or sleeping bag for each person
- Extra clothing
- Pet food
- Books, puzzles, games or other activities for children

### **Create a family plan**

- Make sure everyone knows where to find the emergency supply kit
- Determine the best escape route for your home
- Plan where to meet if family members are separated or if your home becomes unsafe
- Designate an out-of-area person as the contact person for and family members
- Duplicate important documents like insurance information and social security cards and keep them off site

In the event of flooding, stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. Also, avoid downed power lines and immediately contact National Grid, (800) 322-3223. Report any fallen branches that pose a danger to Public Safety at 397-3388. **In the event of an emergency, call 911.**

Please follow WG EMA on TWITTER at [http://twitter.com/WGreenwich\\_EMA](http://twitter.com/WGreenwich_EMA) or search for us on FACEBOOK. This is a great way to stay informed on your smart phone, if we loose power. We will be posting storm and local information to both of these social media outlets as needed.

<http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/hurricanes.html>

Be Safe, Be Prepared

Brooke A. Lawrence, Director - West Greenwich Emergency Management Agency