

Weather Alert

August 24, 2011

MetroWest

Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Hurricane Predicted

With tornadoes and an earthquake behind us, and a hurricane on the way, we all need to review and implement our Emergency Preparedness plans. Here is the National Hurricane Center's link to [Hurricane Irene](#). As of Wednesday, *models predict* that Irene will still have hurricane force winds (wind speed between 74 MPH and 110 MPH) at 2 a.m. on Monday when it hits MetroWest! We all know how quickly weather conditions can change - the message is get ready, don't panic, and stay informed.



Hurricane Irene hits Puerto Rico on August 22

Sincerely,
Paul W. Spooner,
Executive Director



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Emergency Preparedness

- The Disability Policy Consortium has developed a Personal Emergency Plan checklist geared towards people with disabilities. [Download DPC's checklist](#) and see what you have left to do before Sunday night.
- MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) provided their own recommendations for Hurricanes. Download the [MEMA document](#) for some additional readiness ideas.
- MWCIL has an [Emergency Preparedness page](#) with many informational links.
- The [White House blog](#) also has readiness recommendations and national resource information.

Make sure that you have extra food and water on hand, that you have back-up plans for services and medical needs, and that your friends and family can easily get in touch with you. Track down emergency numbers and put them in a visible, easily found location. Prepare!

Anyone who has life-dependent power needs or other daily requirements for medical care or services should register at their Town Hall with the Civil Defense Emergency Preparedness staff. Emergency responders should be starting with the people on this list.



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New England Hurricanes

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has some advice for New Englanders. Check out their [Hurricane Preparedness](#) page!. It can happen here.

Fortunately, in 2011, we get advance warnings of hurricanes and we can prepare. But, as with the Winsted disaster below and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, we don't know if our protective infrastructures will withstand the storms. Be prepared.



New Bedford, MA after NE's first named hurricane, Carol, hit and Edna arrived 10 days later.



Winsted, CT in 1955 after hurricanes Connie and Diane caused a dam to fail. Waterlines on the 3rd floor of old mill buildings could still be seen many years later.

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