



BOROUGH OF AVALON

FLOOD & HURRICANE GUIDE

The Borough of Avalon is pleased to present our flood and hurricane guide for 2010. We have prepared this guide to help you plan for a flood, hurricane, or any other type of coastal storm that puts Avalon in harm's way. Early preparation is the key for the safety of you, your family, and your property. Please read through this guide; you'll find tips, important contact numbers, places to find vital information, and how to evacuate, if necessary. You can also find a copy online, all the time, at avalonboro.org. Thank you for taking time to read this guide. Safety always comes first in Avalon. – Mayor Martin L. Pagliughi

FLOOD AND HURRICANE VULNERABILITIES

Avalon is in a flood plain zone that is subject to serious flooding conditions from the ocean and bay waters from northeast storms and hurricanes. Storms and hurricanes can cause tidal flooding. The back bays present a problem during prolonged periods of onshore flow (north east winds). In a winter storm or a hurricane, a north east wind will prevent the high tide from draining out of the back bays. For each successive tide cycle that the back bays are not allowed to drain, the water levels increase. Once the tides rise near or above the elevation of the bulkhead, flooding will occur. The worst-case scenario is a hurricane which has a significant "storm surge."

STORM SURGE

Storm surge is water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the mean water level 15 feet or more. In addition, wind driven waves are superimposed on the storm tide. This rise in water level can cause severe flooding particularly when the storm tide coincides with the normal high tides.

FLOOD SAFETY

The safety of your family is of the utmost importance. To be well informed about an approaching storm, keep a battery powered radio tuned to 1630AM and follow all emergency instructions. If evacuation is ordered, do so immediately DO NOT WAIT! Be careful to stay out of water if possible and away from downed power lines. If time permits, turn off the main power switch and shut off the main gas valve. Follow the evacuation plan that you and your family have previously discussed. Be sure that everyone in you family is aware of a predetermined meeting point off the island. In the event of tidal flooding, if you are instructed to move your vehicles to higher ground off the island, do so. If you are in a low area you may want to bring outdoor furniture and other possessions inside. You may also want to elevate your first floor furniture high enough so that it is not damaged.

FLOOD WARNING

Storm and flood warnings will be given by the Office of Emergency Management for any weather event that may cause possible damage. The primary method for the Borough of Avalon to disseminate a storm warning will be given through the Reverse 9-1-1 telephone system. In an extended power outage, we will constantly transmit emergency messages over the Emergency radio station, 1630AM. We can also announce over the fire sirens throughout the Borough with a public address function. **You can add your out of town and your cell phone numbers to the reverse 9-1-1 system at avalonboro.org/911.**

WATCH VS. WARNING - KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

- A **HURRICANE WATCH** issued for Avalon indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat.
- A **HURRICANE WARNING** issued for Avalon indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours or less. Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.



26th Street & Dune Drive
Mothers Day Storm 2008

HURRICANE DANGERS

Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure, and damage potential. Hurricanes can produce widespread torrential rains. Floods are the deadly and destructive result. Slow moving storms and tropical storms moving into inland regions tend to produce especially heavy rain. Flash flooding can occur due to intense rainfall. Flooding may persist for several days or more after the storm. Heavy rain may contribute to tidal flooding by reducing the capacity of the drainage systems.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

WHO TO CALL...

EMERGENCY:

To Report A Fire or Request an Ambulance **9-1-1**
 Other problems, damage to property, etc.
 Avalon Police Dept. (Non-Emergency) 609-967-3411

Avalon Emergency Management 609-967-8229
 Avalon Borough Hall..... 609-967-8200
 Website avalonboro.org
 Avalon Reverse 9-1-1 website avalonboro.org/911
 New Jersey Dept. of Community Affairs (Fraud Hotline) 1-973-504-6200
 American Red Cross (redcross.org) 1-866-438-4636
 Cape May County Chapter Red Cross 609-465-7382
 Salvation Army - Administrative Office 1-908-851-9300

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Avalon sources (primary sources of contact):

1630AM Avalon's own emergency radio station
 avalonboro.org Avalon's official website with updated information
 New Jersey Emergency Information state.nj.us/njoem/
 (For state & county emergency management specifics)

Radio:

WCZT 98.7FM—Local news updated all the time 987thecoast.com
 NJ101.5FM & 97.3FM—State wide local news coverage nj1015.com
 KYW1060AM—Philadelphia's 24 hour news station kyw1060.com

Television:

NBC40 (Channel 4) nbc40.net
 NBC10 (Channel 10)..... nbc10.com
 6ABC (Channel 6) wpvi.com
 CBS3 (Channel 3)..... cbs3.com

Internet:

County of Cape May co.cape-may.nj.us
 Press of Atlantic City pressofatlanticcity.com
 Cape May County Herald capemaycountyherald.com
 National Weather Service weather.gov
 FEMA Website fema.gov
 Emergency Preparedness Website ready.gov

STREET FLOODING

Avoid driving through flood waters. If your vehicle stalls, you may be stuck where you are. Refer to the map on the back page to get to higher ground, or leave Avalon altogether. The most direct route out of Avalon to the mainland is on Avalon Boulevard, known also as County Road 601. First Avenue north of 40th Street, or Dune Drive from 40th to 80th Streets typically remain the highest points to drive in Avalon. Ocean Drive is usually the first street to flood, and the deepest. If you live west of the 21st Street Bridge, proceed north along Ocean Drive to 18th Street, then east to First Avenue. To access Avalon Boulevard from First Avenue, take 31st Street to Dune Drive to get to 30th Street, then proceed to Avalon Boulevard. Avoid any street that appears to be flooded, and always drive on the middle of the street as the crest of the street is the highest point.



EVACUATING? PLAN AHEAD!

When an evacuation is ordered by the NJ State Police Emergency Management Office public shelters will be designated and made available to provide food and a safe place to stay.

However, you should be aware that these shelters may not be able to meet all dietary needs. They may not be able to provide the medical care you may need. They cannot take in pets, except ADA assistance animals.

During a major emergency, the most comfortable place to be is with family and friends. If possible, make plans now to shelter with a relative or friend who lives out-of-state in the event of a major emergency.

EVACUATION KIT

SOME SUGGESTED ITEMS:

- Prescription medicines & first aid kit
- Important documents and records
- Battery radio & flashlight
- Bedding & clothing
- Non-perishable food for at least 3 days
- Water (1 gal. per person per day) for at least 3 days



Borough of Avalon
 3100 Dune Drive
 Avalon, NJ 08202
 609-967-8200
 www.avalonboro.org

Mayor
 Martin L. Pagliughi
Borough Council
 Nancy M. Hudanich, Ed. D., Council President
 Joseph Tipping, Council Vice President
 Charles P. Covington
 Richard E. Dean
 David Ellenberg



DON'T FORGET

IMPORTANT NOTE: SPECIAL NEEDS

The Borough of Avalon has a Special Needs Program to provide for citizens with certain limitations during a hurricane, evacuation, or other emergency. For information, call Sgt. George Vogeley at 609-967-5901.

BEFORE A HURRICANE OR FLOOD THREATENS

- ❑ Stay tuned to Avalon's Emergency Radio Station 1630AM
- ❑ Check insurance policies
- ❑ Protect important papers & valuable items
- ❑ Prepare an inventory of all personal property with descriptions, take before and after pictures
- ❑ Secure your property – bring outdoor items inside or tie them down, moor boat securely, etc.
- ❑ Have an evacuation plan with a flood-free evacuation route
- ❑ Move vehicles to higher ground
- ❑ Relocate furniture to upper stories or off the floor

BEFORE A HURRICANE STRIKES

- ❑ Make shelter arrangements
- ❑ Make pet arrangements
- ❑ Install shutters
- ❑ Fill vehicle fuel tanks
- ❑ Lower pool water levels
- ❑ Review your family plan
- ❑ Check your supplies
- ❑ Set refrigerator to coldest settings
- ❑ Freeze extra ice
- ❑ Fill the bathtubs with water
- ❑ Prepare your safe room



LEAVING? PREPARE YOUR HOME

- ❑ Use sandbags to slow seeping flood water
- ❑ Cover all of your home's windows with pre-cut ply wood or hurricane shutters to protect your windows from high winds
- ❑ Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down
- ❑ Keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed so they are more wind resistant
- ❑ Secure your home by closing shutters, and securing outdoor objects or bringing them inside
- ❑ Turn off utilities
- ❑ Turn off propane tanks
- ❑ Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets, fill the bathtub and other large containers with water



IF YOU HAVE EVACUATED:

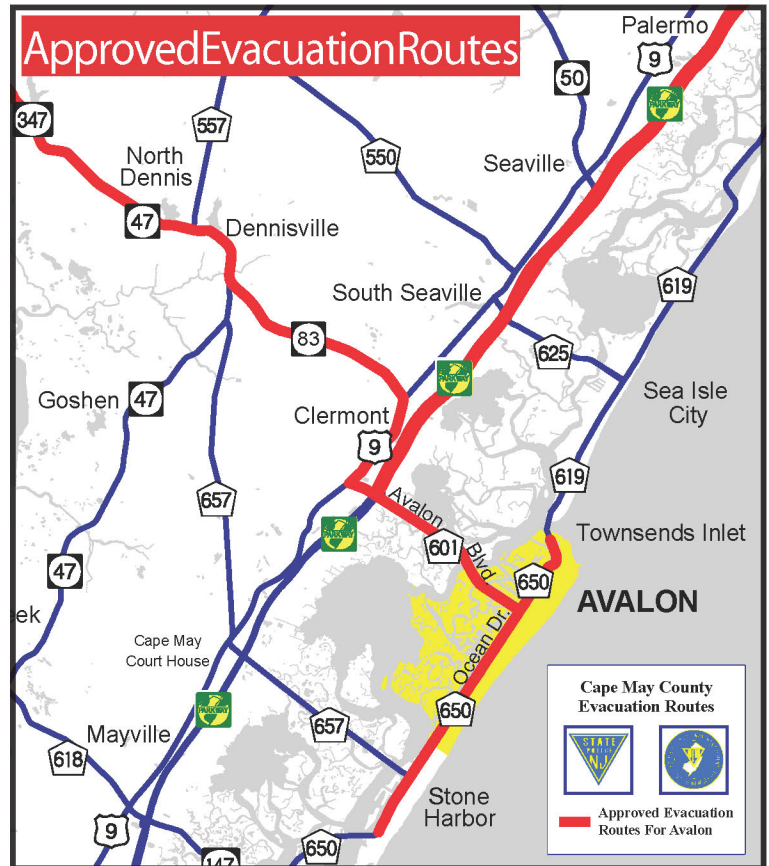
After a hurricane threat has passed and officials have deemed that the area is safe for people to return to their properties, they will issue an "ALL-CLEAR" to return. **Return home only after authorities advise it is safe to do so.** Avalon will notify residents via the reverse 9-1-1 system and will update the borough's website with the "ALL-CLEAR" information. Tune in to major TV & radio stations for information.

AFTER A STORM

- ❑ Make temporary repairs to protect your home
- ❑ Contact your insurance carrier & FEMA regarding damages
- ❑ Before hiring any contractor, verify all licenses and insurances with the Borough of Avalon Construction Office at 609-967-4220
- ❑ Report price gouging to the NJ DCA at 1-973-504-6200

SAFETY DURING A FLOOD

- ❑ Don't walk through flowing water. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Use a pole to check depth when walking in water.
- ❑ Don't drive through a flooded area or around barriers, the road or bridge may be washed out. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else.
- ❑ Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Electrocutation is the second most frequent cause of flood related deaths. Drowning is number one. Remember that electricity travels through water. Report downed power lines to Atlantic City Electric at **1-800-642-3780**.
- ❑ Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including glass and nails, and mud can be slippery.
- ❑ If you can safely turn electricity off, do so. Some appliances, such as televisions, keep electrical charges after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that are wet until taken apart, cleaned and dried.
- ❑ Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect damage. Don't smoke or use open flames unless you know the gas is off and the area is ventilated. If you smell or suspect a gas leak, call South Jersey Gas at **1-800-582-7060**.



TAKE YOUR PETS

During an evacuation, American Red Cross disaster shelters cannot accept pets. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are the only animals allowed in Red Cross shelters. Plan NOW, before an emergency, to find out whether friends, relatives or pet-friendly hotels can shelter your animals in the event of a disaster. Keep a list of pet-friendly places, including phone numbers, with your other disaster supplies.

Information for Pet Owners

fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm

To Stone Harbor

AVALON FLOOD GUIDE

ATLANTIC OCEAN

HIGH WATER LINE NOV. 1982

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- Lesser Risk of Street Flooding
- Moderate Risk of Street Flooding
- Higher Risk of Street Flooding
- Evacuation Route

Avalon Boulevard

PRINCETON HARBOR

PENNSYLVANIA HARBOR

"CEDAR ISLAND"

CORNELL HARBOR

DRIVE

14TH AVE

15TH AVE

16TH AVE

17TH AVE

18TH AVE

19TH AVE

TOWNSEND'S

INLET

To Sea Isle City

DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE

To reduce flooding, it is important to maintain the water carrying capacity of the Borough's drainage system. This maintenance program is managed by New Jersey American Water Co. When there is flooding and it is possible a drainage system is not functioning properly, please call New Jersey American Water at **1-866-317-3389**.

Also, it is important to always remember...

- It is illegal to dump or throw debris in gutters - even grass clippings. If you see anyone dumping trash or vegetation in gutters, contact Code Enforcement at **609-967-5922**.
- Keep the gutters in front of your property clear of brush and debris.
- Check with the Construction Office at **609-967-4220** before you build on, alter, re-grade, or bring fill on to your property to see if a permit is needed.

The Avalon Construction Office has information readily available to residents regarding flood and wind protection methods. Special pamphlets provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are available at Borough Hall. Planning ahead in the event of a flood or a storm is the best way to minimize property damage. Call the Avalon Construction Office at 609-967-4220.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Avalon has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since its inception. Flood insurance is available for almost any enclosed building and its contents. Maximum insurance on a one family dwelling is \$250,000, and household contents \$100,000. Nonresidential and business properties also are eligible for insurance in various amounts depending on your lowest floor elevation above mean sea level and a variety of deductible amounts. Homeowner's insurance does NOT cover losses due to flooding.

Avalon has received a Class 6 designation from the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As a result, Avalon residents can save 20 percent each year on their flood insurance bills, or about \$114 off the average insurance premium. Avalon is the only coastal town north of Nags Head, North Carolina to receive this designation.



VOLUNTEER TO HELP

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) PROGRAM

Learn about disaster preparedness and receive basic disaster response training in fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT members can assist in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. Members are also encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

THE AVALON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Avalon Volunteer Fire Department is always seeking motivated volunteers.

Please contact Kevin Scarpa if you are interested in learning more about the CERT Program or the Avalon Volunteer Fire Department at 609-967-5915.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Following a disaster, the Red Cross manages a mass care operation which includes sheltering and feeding residents of Cape May County. If you would like to volunteer, disaster training courses are available throughout the year. Call the Red Cross, **609-465-7382** or **1-800-RED-CROSS**, for information.