Gloucester City Office of Emergency Management

Volume I, Issue II July 2011

Gloucester City OEM:

- **Mayor:** Honorable William James
- **Coordinator:** Bob Saunders
- **VOAD Liaison:** Knights of Columbus #674 Ft. Nassau
- **CERT Liaison::** Jay Vilardo
- **RACES/ARES Liaison:** Jay Goheen
- **County Coordinator:** Sam Spino
- **State Coordinator:** Colonel Rick Fuentes
- **Commanding Officer:** Major Dennis McNulty

Important Sites:

Family/Business Emergency Planning:

www.ready.org

www.ready.nj.gov

Emergency Public Information:

www.camdencounty.com/public-safety/emergency-notification-form

www.njalert.gov

(Cut and Paste items and place in browser)

Monthly news letter

By popular demand we shall provide a monthly newsletter that will be posted to the City website that will contain relevant emergency preparedness information for families and businesses. No one can predict exactly when an emergency will happen but history and reality shows they do happen. Your best protection against unforeseen events is to have an effective family/business emergency plan that is known by all concerned. Part of your plan should be dedicated to emergency communication and supplies.

Swiftreach Notification System

Many of our residents no longer have or rely on hard-line telephones. They do have a great advantage as they work even when the power is out provided you are not using a cordless phone. In conjunction with Camden County we can provide Reverse 911 and text/email alert information to our citizens if they wish to avail themselves to this free service. One may go to http://www.camdencounty.com/public-safety/emergency-notification-form (Cut & paste and place in browser) and sign up to receive relevant emergency notifications as well as to have your residence geocoded into an emergency database to receive Reverse 911 calls. (If you use a landline phone, no worries as we use the Verizon database for Reverse 911

NJ Alert: www.njalert.gov

NJ Alert is a Statewide text message alert system that is also free of charge. If you wish to sign up for this service you will receive emergency notifications generated by NJSP, etc. One will also receive Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts and other important messages deemed relevant by NJSP/NJOEM.

Heat Alerts

Heat Alerts are declared by the County Health Officer when the Heat Index will be above hazardous levels for at least 3 consecutive days. Cooling Centers are then opened.

Primary Cooling Center

The Gloucester City Community Center located at the Gloucester Heights Fire Hall serves as our Primary Cooling Center and is available during the hottest times of the day. The only provisions provided are a cool environment, bathroom facilities and fountain water. Additional centers or extended hours of operation are based on demonstrated need

Protective Measures-Heat Alert

Your best protection against excessive heat is *you.* To avoid heat related illness some CDC recommendations are:

Avoid as much as possible the hot sun and hot areas

Use air-conditioners, fans and open some windows to release trapped hot air if AC is inadequate

Wear light clothing and shield head/eyes from the sun when outside

Drink plenty of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated beverages to avoid dehydration. Water is best.

Never leave anyone or pets alone in cars.

Shower/bath in water that is near skin temperature

Go to air conditioned places during the day

Emergency Actions-Heat Related Illness

Signs and symptoms of heat related illnesses include unconsciousness, rapid heartbeat, throbbing headache, muscle cramps, irritability, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, dry-hot-red skin, chest pain, trouble breathing, confusion, etc. The elderly and very young as well as those taking certain medications are more prone to heat related illness then others.

Heat related illnesses are life threatening emergencies. Anyone experiencing any of the above should have 911 activated immediately.

While waiting for help, move the person to a cool area, remove excess clothing, spray with water, fan and shade the person.

Website and Swiftreach

The Gloucester City Office of Emergency Management Website is currently located on www.cityofgloucester.org. Please take a moment to sign up for at least the Swiftreach Notification System to receive, text, email and if necessary Reverse 911 telephone calls so you may maintain situational awareness regarding emergency conditions that may require action on your part.