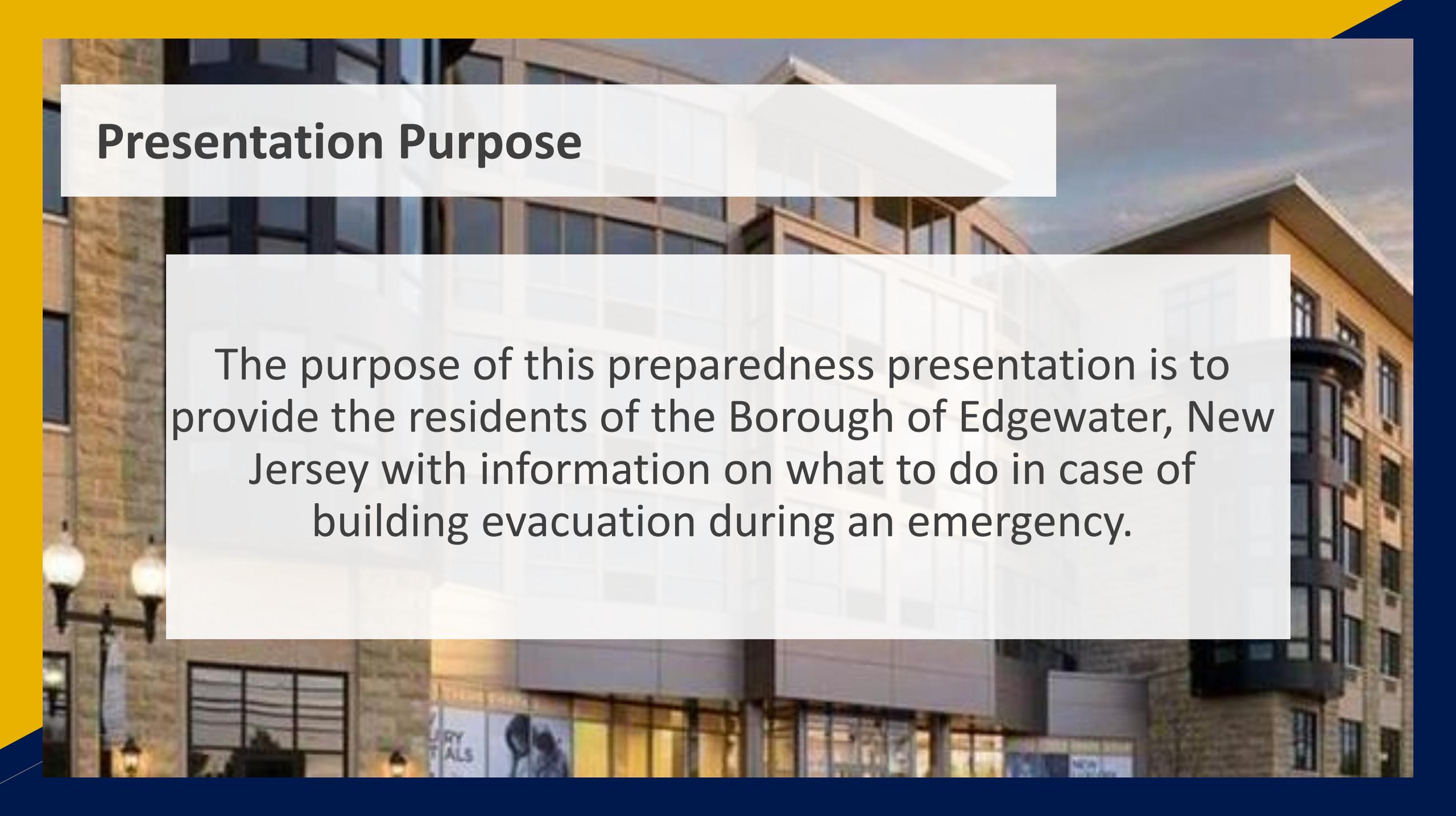


Michael McPartland  
Mayor

# Borough of Edgewater

Building Evacuation Presentation



## Presentation Purpose

The purpose of this preparedness presentation is to provide the residents of the Borough of Edgewater, New Jersey with information on what to do in case of building evacuation during an emergency.



# What is an Emergency?

Local Emergency vs Major  
Disasters

# Local Emergencies vs Disasters

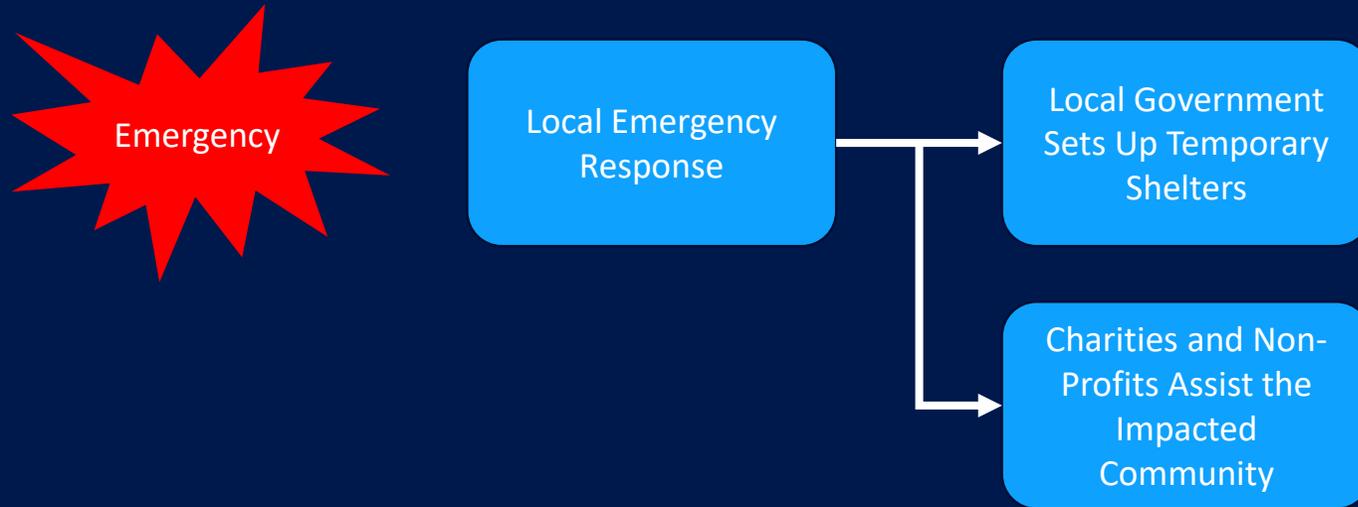
## Local Emergency

- Examples: Building fire or a large water main break
- Localized impact
- Local and State Emergency Responders can stabilize the situation
- Federal disaster recovery funding is NOT available

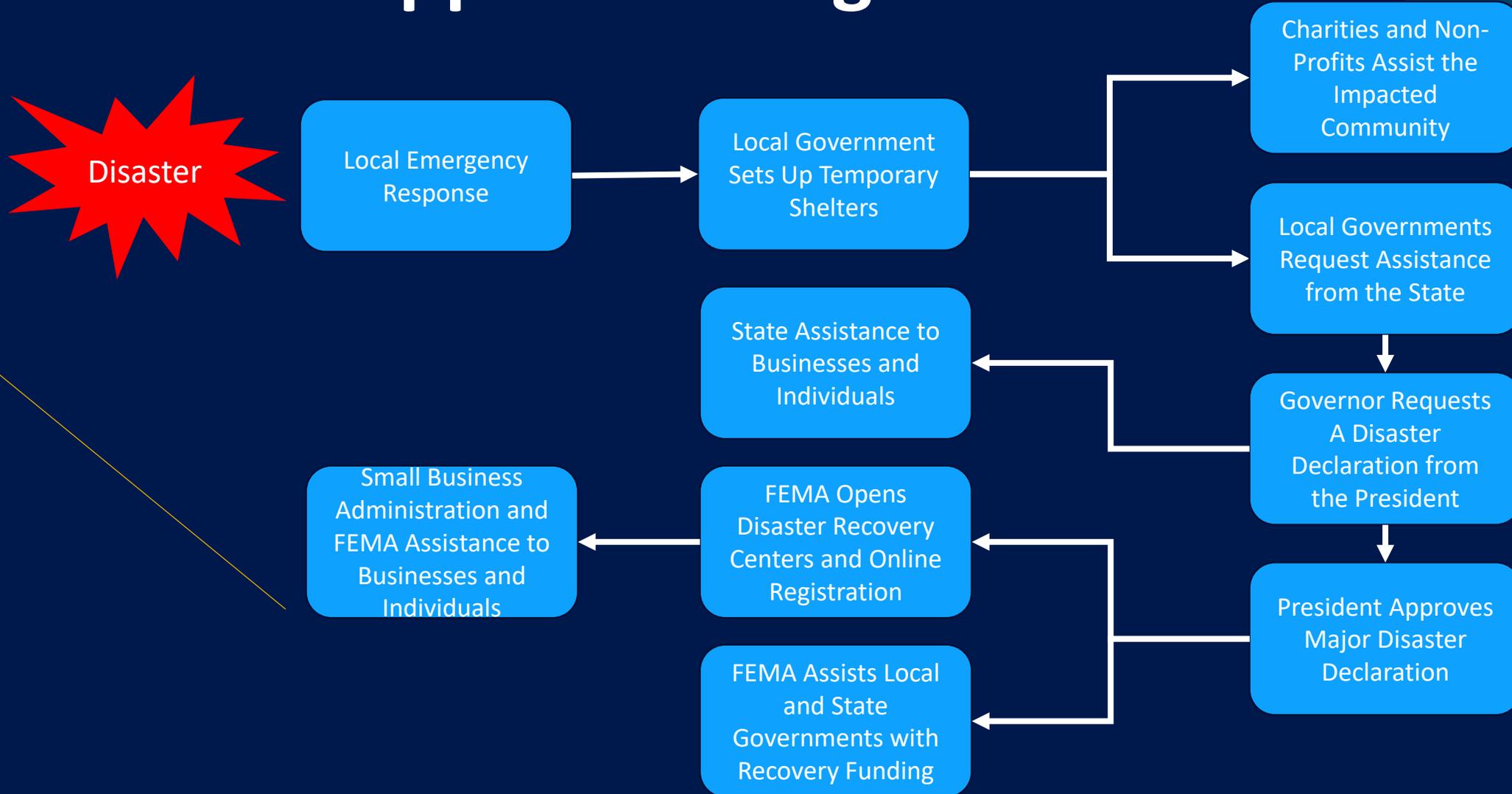
## Disaster

- Examples: Hurricane or an Earthquake
- Significant damage to many communities in a State
- State and Federal assistance is needed
- Presidential Major Disaster Declaration
- Federal disaster recovery funding available

# What Happens During a Local Emergency



# What Happens During a Disaster





# Emergency Management

Who does what in an Emergency?

# Who Does What

Many organizations are here to help. Here's what some of their roles are:

Organization	Role
Home Owners Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensures that a building is safe and has an evacuation plan in place</li> </ul>
American Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists local governments in providing temporary shelters and meals</li> </ul>
Community Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists disaster survivors with meals, personal items, and other assistance</li> </ul>
Borough of Edgewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Response (Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement)</li> <li>Protects and supports local infrastructure</li> <li>Provides temporary shelter</li> </ul>
Bergen County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports local emergency management efforts with County resources</li> </ul>
State of New Jersey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Police and other specialized emergency response resources</li> <li>State assistance programs and disaster relief programs</li> </ul>
FEMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disaster Survivor assistance</li> <li>Disaster recovery funding for local and state infrastructure repair</li> </ul>



# What Does FEMA Do?

- FEMA supports Local and State Governments-Its not a First Response Agency
- FEMA helps to fund the rebuilding of a community's damaged infrastructure
- FEMA can help individuals with:
  - Emergency Home Repairs
  - Temporary Housing Assistance
  - Personal Property Loss Assistance
  - Medical and Funeral Assistance
- FEMA will NOT pay for everything you will need
- FEMA is NOT a substitute for insurance
- FEMA Assistance will not impact your eligibility for other programs such as Social Security, Food Stamps, Medicaid, etc.



To Register for FEMA Assistance:  
800-621-3362  
800-462-7585 (TTY)

# What Does the State Do?

- The State provides specialized emergency response assistance to the local governments such as the State Police or the National Guard.
- The State can help survivors in accessing State funded assistance programs such as Social Services and Mental Health Support.
- The State works closely with FEMA to coordinate the federal assistance during Major Disaster Declarations.



For Information About State Programs:

# What Does Your Local Government Do?

- Bergen County and the Borough of Edgewater provide immediate first response capability to help stabilize the situation. (911, Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Public Works, etc.)
- The Borough can set up a temporary shelter in a community center or gym for a short time.
- The Borough works closely with the County to request assistance from the State and FEMA.
- The Borough will work with Voluntary Organizations to coordinate how they can best help those in need.
- The Borough will provide residents with regular updates on the situation and how residents can get help if they need it.



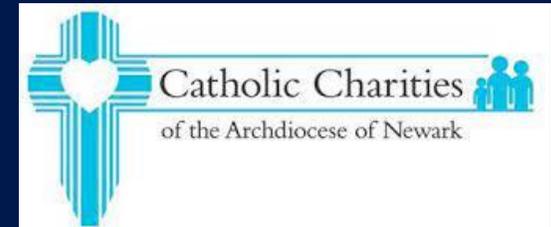
If you have an Emergency, call 911

# What Do Volunteer and Community Organizations Do?

- Volunteer and Community groups help disaster survivors with many services such as:
  - Emergency Feeding
  - Temporary Housing and Shelters
  - Family Reunification
  - Providing Clothing and Personal Items
  - Help with Home Repair and Cleaning Up
  - Medical Care
- Volunteer and Community groups work closely with government agencies to help those in need.



**American  
Red Cross**



# What are the Home Owners Association's / Building's Responsibilities ?

- Maintaining a safe building for all the residents and visitors.
- Maintaining the building to State and Local Codes and Standards. (Including doing evacuation drills)
- Having working safety & fire equipment available.
- Having an evacuation plan.
- Clearly marked evacuation routes and shelter in place locations within the building.
- Designating areas outside the building to be used as gathering points in an evacuation.
- Working with special needs residents to ensure that they can evacuate in a timely manner.



# What Are Your Responsibilities?

It is important to know what YOU are responsible for:

- You are ultimately responsible for the safety of you and your family-Now is the time to prepare!
- Having an Emergency Plan
- Having enough supplies for 4 days
- Having up to date and adequate Insurance
- Helping other members of your community, if you are able

By being prepared for an emergency, you can help emergency responders and volunteer groups focus their limited resources on those in your community that need help the most





# Being Prepared

Prepare Now for Tomorrow's  
Emergency

# Preparedness



It is your responsibility to ensure that you and your family are prepared for a future emergency.

- Speak with your local officials and your building's management to learn what emergencies you should plan for.
- It is important to prepare NOW for a future emergency. Waiting until the last minute may be too late.
- Include your family members in the development of your emergency plan.

# Insurance

Having updated and adequate Insurance is critical component in being prepared for an emergency.

You must ensure that you also have the right type of insurance.

Ensure your Homeowners, Renters, or Condo/CO-OP insurance includes sufficient temporary relocation insurance.

Flood insurance is important because most of the time homeowners insurance will NOT cover water damage.

Insurance	Purpose
Condo/CO-OP Insurance	Condo insurance is coverage that helps protect against losses and repair costs for a condominium unit.
Flood Insurance	Flood insurance goes beyond the coverage of a standard homeowners insurance and protects you from more severe types of water damage, like heavy rain and severe coastal storms.
Homeowners Insurance	Provides coverage for private residences and protects against damage to your home and property.
Renters Insurance	Renters Insurance protects your possessions against damage or theft.
Umbrella Insurance	Added protection against lawsuits in addition to your Homeowners Insurance

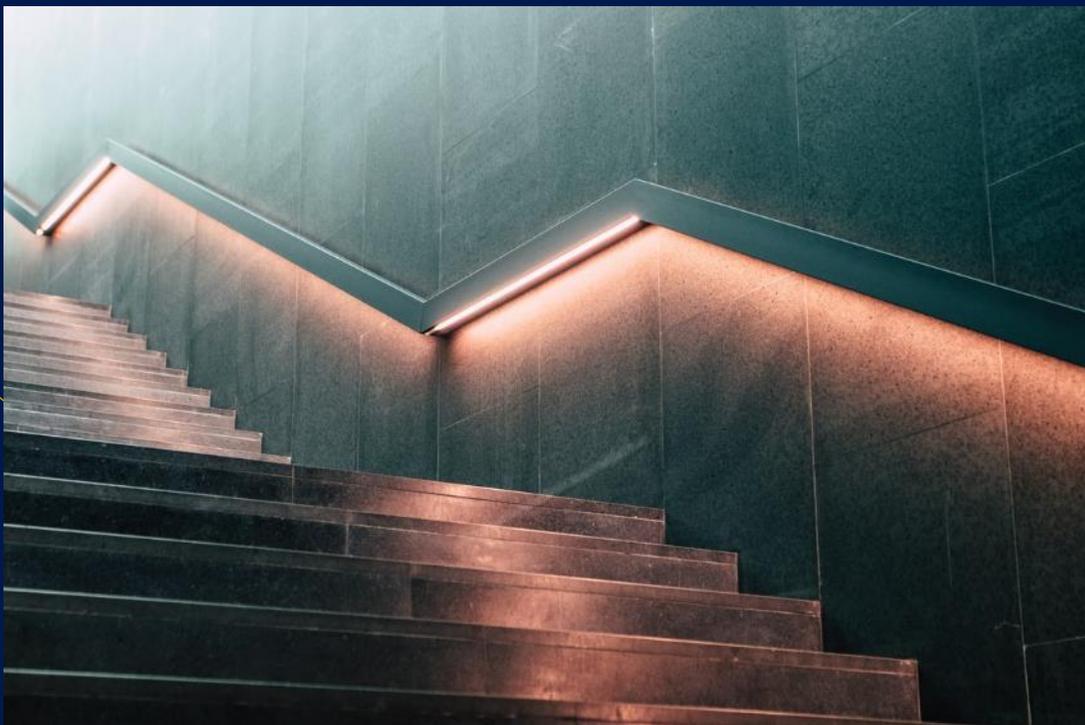
# Before Evacuating Your Building

Do the Following:

- Know your building. (locations of exits, stairs, safe areas and the neighborhood)
- Know your building's evacuation plan. (what they expect you to do)
- Create a plan of what you need to do based on the building's plan. (when to go, where to go, what to take with you, what to do while evacuated and how to get back to normal)
- Safeguard what you value or will need later. (Insurance, Documents, Finances)



# Preparing to Evacuate: Know Your Building



- Find alternative ways to exit the building and, if possible, practice using these other ways. Assume your normal route will be blocked, dark or smoky.
- If using a fire escape, check to see how it works and if there are stairs all the way down or a ladder.
- If using stairs, can you re-enter on a lower floor or do you have to go all the way down to exit? Where do the stairs let you out? (street level or basement, front or rear of the building)
- Learn how you are notified to evacuate. (PA, fire alarm, other alarm or internal messaging system)

# Preparing to Evacuate

## Know Your Building's Plan

- Is there a plan to follow?
- Does it tell you when to go, how to go, where to go once outside?
- Does the plan give you a way to let them know you or your family member is elderly or disabled and needs additional help evacuating?
- How do the first responders; building owner/superintendent learn you evacuated or not?
- How are you notified to evacuate?
- Does it cover reentry procedures?



# Special Needs Residents

- Get to know your neighbors and see if they could use your help in an evacuation.
- Anyone who can not evacuate their home on their own should be registered with the Edgewater Special Needs Registry Program. You can register for this free program at any of the following:
  - 
  - Call Edgewater Fire Prevention at 201-943-1700 Ext 4117
- Infants or small children who can not evacuate on their own should enquire about the Fire Department's Tot Finder Program.



# Sheltering in Place or Evacuate?

Knowing When to Stay or Go Can Save Your Life

# Sheltering in Place or Evacuating

Depending on the situation, choosing whether to evacuate or to shelter in place can save your life.

- The nature of the emergency situation will determine if it is safer to shelter in place or evacuate.
- Always follow the instructions of your building's alert system and local officials.



# Why to Evacuate Your Building

Your building might be evacuated for many reasons:

- Hurricane
- Fire
- Flood
- Building is unstable
- Unsafe levels of gas/fumes
- Unsafe levels of biologicals (molds/pests)
- Prolonged utilities outage



# Sheltering in Place

There may be times when sheltering in place is safest course of action. Below are some examples of when sheltering in place makes sense:

- Severe Storm or Tornado
- Active Shooter
- Winter Storm

It is important to know where the best locations are in your building to shelter in place.

Listen to local authorities for instructions about sheltering in place.



# Fire in a High Rise Building

- A fire in a High Rise Building doesn't automatically mean the whole building will be evacuated.
- Many High Rise Buildings are built to contain a fire to an individual unit. This is particularly true for buildings with sprinkler systems.
- DO NOT OPEN YOUR DOOR IF IT IS HOT. Place a wet towel at the bottom to prevent smoke from entering.
- Always follow the instructions of your building's alert system and the Fire Department.





# Steps to Building an Evacuation Plan

Being Prepared When an  
Emergency Happens

# Preparing to Evacuate Your Building

Create a plan for you and your family to include:

- Why are we evacuating?
  - Fire
  - Structure is unstable
  - Unsafe levels of gas/fumes
  - Unsafe levels of biologicals (molds/pests)
  - No utilities



# Building Your Plan

## Step 1: Sizing up the Situation

When putting a plan together, first discuss these questions with your family and record the answers:

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family/household communication plan?
- How much time do I have to get out?
- Where will we meet after exiting the building?
- What are the conditions outside (Dark/Light, Cold/Hot, Rain/snow)
- What do I need to take with me?

# Building Your Plan

## Step 2: Consider the specific needs of your household.

Tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily needs by keeping these factors in mind when developing your plan:

- The different ages of members within your household.
- Responsibilities for assisting others.
- Where people are if not at home.
- Dietary needs.
- Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment.
- Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment.
- Languages spoken.
- Cultural and religious considerations.
- Pets or service animals.

# Building Your Plan

## Step 3: Write down your plan to include:

- How you get notified of the evacuation (in the building or away)?
- Evacuation routes with alternates.
- Reunification locations in a close but safe place.
- Communication between your household members.
- Where to shelter (temporary like the Red Cross or a hotel or longer term like with family/friends)
- What to do with your pets?
- Emergency Contact information. (Family/friends, Doctor, Veterinarian, insurance company, job/school, etc.)

# Building Your Plan

## Step 4: Safeguard your valuables

- Obtain homeowners/rental insurance for all identified hazards in an amount greater than the current value of your home/contents.
- Document everything you own with photos, appraisals and serial numbers if available.
- Store all original documents (birth, death, marriage, divorce, deed/rental agreement insurance policies) safely off site or in fire proof box.
- Copy all documents (including the ones stored) and vehicle registration, driver's license, bank statements, medication, medical information, etc.)
- Keep electronic files, scans of documents and anything you may need remotely if your computer is unavailable.



# Preparing to Evacuate Your Building

What to take with you?

# What to take with you?

Each member of the household capable of carrying their own items should take what they will need to be comfortable for 96 hours while evacuated in a “Go Bag”.

The “Go Bag” is prepared ahead of time and kept where you can grab it in a hurry before leaving their home.

Remember you may have to carry it down multiple flights of stairs so don't make it too heavy.

Remember to regularly check your Go Bag and replace batteries and items that might be perishable.



# Items in a GO BAG

- A backpack or duffle bag with a shoulder strap big enough to carry your items but also manageable for the size of the person carrying it.
- A copy of your plan.
- A copy of all of the important documents and information you identified in Steps 3 & 4.
- Prescription medications the individual member takes; as long as it is safe to do so.
- Over the counter medication that you normally use (aspirin, cold/flu medicine, stomach/digestive aids, etc.).
- Extra reading/driving glasses.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes (a sweat suit is a good option; it packs small, can be used for sleeping or day time and is warm).

# Items in a GO BAG

## continued:

- A Rain Suit (top and bottom) (keeps you dry and warm)
- Flashlight and extra batteries or a hand crank charging type)
- Personal hygiene items (all travel size) and hand sanitizer.
- Feminine supplies.
- Extra cell phone battery, wall and car charger.
- First Aid Kit.
- 2 emergency blankets for each person.
- Paper and pencil Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children or adults.
- Infant formula, diapers and wipes.
- Pet food and supplies including: medication, a collar, leash, muzzle if needed, carrier for small animals if possible. Most human shelters don't allow animals.
- Water (a bottle for each person and one for each pet)

# Items in a GO BAG

## continued:

- Cash and change. (Recommend \$100 per person and if possible the head of house carry one month's rent.)
- Optional items:
  - Paper Towels
  - Moist Towels
  - Dust Mask
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio tone alerts and extra batteries
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Garbage bags and plastic ties (for laundry & salvaging more out of your residence if allowed to)
- During cold weather hat, gloves, extra socks.

# Putting it all together

- Check to see if each person with a Go Bag can actually carry it outside to your meeting place.
- Store the Go Bag(s) as close to your exit as you can without causing an obstruction.
- Practice evacuating as often as you can using different routes if you can.
- Practice during the day and night and in all kinds of weather.
- Test your primary and alternate communications methods.
- Refresh your kit at least every six months.

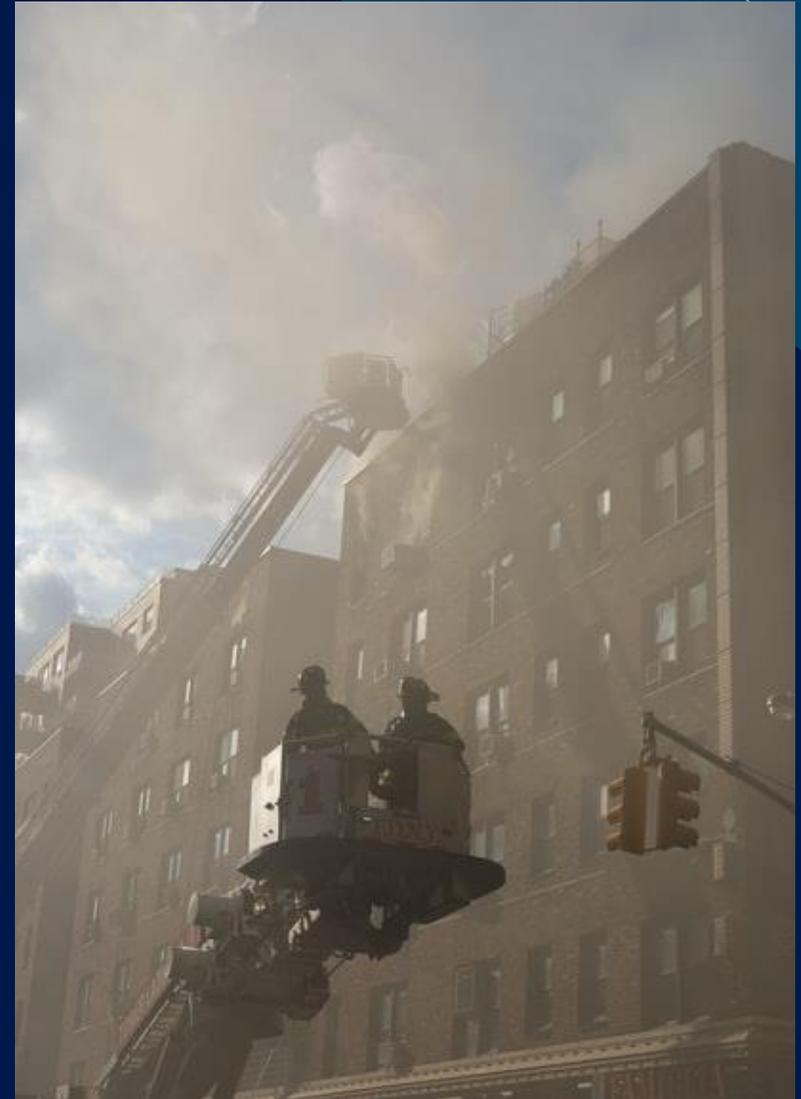


# What Happens During an Emergency Evacuation

# Evacuating Your Building

What you need to do during an evacuation:

- Obey alarms and evacuation instructions.
- **DO NOT USE THE ELEVATOR** unless directed to do so.
- Follow your plan.



# Evacuating Your Apartment Safely During a Fire

If there is smoke in your apartment:

- Always crawl or stay low as heat and smoke rises.
- If you discover a fire in a room, leave the room and close the door.
- Leave the apartment immediately. Close the door behind you and leave the door unlocked.
- Make sure your family stays together and no one re-enters the apartment until officials let you know its safe to do so.
- Once you are safe, call 9-1-1



# If You Are Trapped in Your Apartment

If you cannot get out of your apartment through the front door:

- Call the Fire Department immediately at 201-943-2600 or 911 and advise them you are trapped.
- If possible, go out onto your balcony and close the balcony door behind you.
- If you cannot go out to the balcony during a fire,
  - Go into a room without a fire and close the door.
  - Place wet towels or clothing at the bottom of the door to prevent smoke from entering the room.
  - Crack open a window to get fresh only if there is a closed door separating you from the actual fire.
- Wait for the Fire Department to rescue you.

# Temporary Shelter



If you are forced to evacuate your home, you might not be allowed back for longer than you think.

- Community Shelters
- Hotels
- Temporary Residence
- FEMA Temporary Housing Assistance

# Returning Home



- Fire Investigation
- Insurance Company Review
- Code Enforcement
- Structural Engineers
- Building Inspectors
- Rebuilding
- Certificate of Occupancy



# More Information

Helpful Information Sources

# Helpful Links

Important Links to Help you Prepare for a Future  
Emergency:

[FEMA Ready.Gov](#)

[New Jersey Office of Emergency Management](#)

[Borough of Edgewater](#)

[Borough of Edgewater Bureau of Fire Prevention](#)

[American Red Cross](#)



# Thank You

Borough of Edgewater, New Jersey

Michael McPartland, Mayor

201-943-1700

<https://edgewaternj.org/>

Presentation Prepared by Meridian Strategic Services. Inc.

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