



## Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

### Disaster and Terrorism Branch

September is Emergency Preparedness Month in New Jersey, and as you may already be aware, the Atlantic Hurricane Season began on June 1<sup>st</sup> and extends until November 30<sup>th</sup>. Here in the mid-Atlantic, peak hurricane season is just beginning. It is important for your organizations to be prepared and to know where to get timely and accurate information, not only during hurricane season, but throughout the year, as each season brings different hazardous weather threats. If your staff and families are not prepared, they will be unable to assist the communities and people they serve in times of crisis.

The [New Jersey Office of Emergency Management](#) (NJOEM) is the state agency responsible for planning, directing and coordinating emergency operations within the State that are beyond local control. They provide information on the various hazards in New Jersey via social media platforms and their website contains guidance on how New Jerseyans can be prepared for all types of emergencies. NJOEM has created a comprehensive guide for hurricane preparedness which you can find [HERE](#). Included in the guide are links to NJOEM, social media accounts and websites.

It is also important to know where to get emergency information locally. New Jersey is a geographically diverse state and what may be affecting Warren County might not affect Cape May County. Each county in NJ has its own office of emergency management that can be found by clicking [HERE](#). Don't forget to follow their social media accounts and bookmark your county's websites for easy access to important information. Additionally, you will also want to do this for the locations of your locations. This will help you to make more informed decisions by having the most accurate information possible.

For the most up-to-date weather information, visit the [National Weather Service](#) (NWS) and our local NWS forecast office, [NWS Forecast Office Philadelphia/Mt Holly](#). You can find links to their social media accounts at the bottom of their respective pages.

Do you have a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) in place? Are your COOPs up to date? A COOP is a document that outlines how a business will continue operating during an unplanned disruption in service. It contains contingencies for business processes, assets, human resources and business partners – every aspect of the business that might be affected. Take our free COOP training [HERE](#) and see the courses offered by FEMA [HERE](#). For your convenience, we have also attached a suggested continuity of operations planning template. This template is a great resource to aid your team in being prepared to continue to serve the residents of NJ should your agency face the threat of disruption.

Lastly, a few reminders for the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season:

- Don't forget to plan for special populations [DTAC Disaster Planners Resource](#)
- Information on [Emergency Operations Plans](#)
- [Exercise your plans!](#)

In an emergency, it is important to obtain information from credible sources! All links in this email are to trusted agencies with reliable, timely and accurate information.