



Executive Summary

Storm Response and Preparation

The Emergency Management Team has been meeting to assess the handling of the last storm. Our approach has taken four prongs. First, better educate the public about storm preparedness. Second, improve communications both from Town Hall and with our cell phone carriers, and landline/internet providers. Restoring and maintaining cell service is obviously a necessity. We need to look at secondary sources of WIFI services. Third, storm responsiveness by the Easton and our utility providers (UI). Helpful information regarding preparation will be repeated prior to each impending storm. Finally, services provided by the town following the storm.

Most preparedness is common sense. Other areas of pre-storm preparation that should be considered include filling your bathtub and filling water bottles. Ensuring you have sufficient supply of medications. Flashlights, lanterns and batteries should be accessible as well as a basic medical kit with supplies such as band aids, gauze, wraps, etc...

Do not stock up on any food items that need to be refrigerated or frozen to stay fresh. Instead, you should have a supply of non-perishable food items. In the hours prior to a storm you may want to turn your refrigerator to its highest setting and fill any empty spaces with water bottles. Frozen water bottles will help maintain the temperature in your refrigerator or freezer. While logistically it is impossible for the town to provide dry ice as some have suggested, it can be purchased prior to an impending storm and works well to preserve frozen food. You can also use a gas grill to cook your food and having an extra tank of propane will ensure you do not run out of gas. Don't forget to fill your car with fuel prior to a storm, as we often see motorists out in very dangerous conditions trying to get fuel.

We also encourage you to have portable power supplies for your electronic devices so you can easily re-charge these devices.

As always, you should never go near ANY downed utility lines (communication and power). Although they may appear dead, they can potentially be energized by a "back feed" from a generator or a circuit breaker may not have tripped. Your preparation will help you and reduce the strain on emergency workers during these events. Below you will find information about generators.

I believe we have solved all issues with reverse 911 calls in storm conditions. You should expect reverse 911 calls and information posted on our website prior to and during storm conditions and recovery. The police Facebook page will provide information about road closures and updates to the extent possible. We are trying to work with the cell phone carriers to minimize any disruption to services in the future. We continue to have intervenor status with the Public Utilities Regulatory Agency (PURA) proceeding with the UI. Specific to Easton, we are expecting a large presence from the UI and contractors in the town in October to remove trees which threaten power lines. Altice/Optimum response continues to be an issue, but we are looking into providing open WIFI access around the Easton Library and Town Hall for public use especially during storms. I have met with Altice/Optimum representatives to discuss storm responsiveness. They will be providing more information regarding service responses and tips for dealing with storm situations. They are aware they did a terrible in the aftermath of the storm. They know they must improve or face the consequences on a state level. We will add more information on Altice as it becomes available. Those in town with Frontier for their landline service also experienced difficulties in getting service restored, which makes cell service maintenance and restoration the priority.

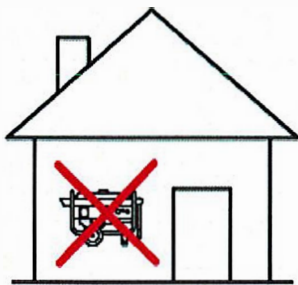
When there are large scale power outages, the town will provide water via a hose at Town Hall as well as charging stations in the lobby of the Police Department. Stockpiling bottled water, due to the rarity of storms is impractical, however you may wish to do so in your own home. You can also purchase filters if you are concerned about the water from the hose here, however, I assure you it is safe! The Easton Senior Center will be available as a warming or cooling centers during storms. Showers will be available at Joel Barlow High School and limited capacity at Helen Keller School as well.

The Easton Courier will be publishing a request for volunteer service during storms or in times of need. If you have the ability and willingness to help your neighbors in a storm, my office and the Courier will compile a list and publish it before storms. Some examples are if you own a chainsaw or a truck or other heavy machinery, or even if you have a generator

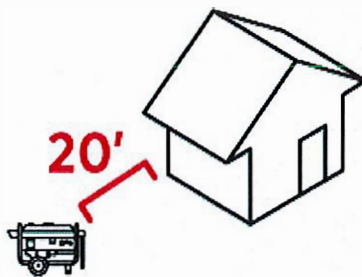
and would offer to help neighbors charge their electronic devices. Please email Ginger Fiore at gfiore@eastonct.gov with "Easton Helping Hands" in the subject line, include your contact information and what service or assistance you can help out with.

This document will be continually updated.

1.31.22



Never run it in
an enclosed space



Always run it at least
20 feet from your home



Always direct exhaust
away from your home



Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks.

- Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside at least 5 feet (1.5 metres) away from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Measure the 5-foot (1.5 metres) distance from the generator exhaust system to the building.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building. The exhaust must be directed away from the building.
- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.



- Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

Just Remember...

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

FACT

- ! A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards