



TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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Office of Emergency Management

1 May 2013

Tabernacle Residents:

The Township Office of Emergency Management, the Tabernacle Local Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Township Committee have adopted the theme "**Ready Tabernacle**" as a public awareness program directed at encouraging individuals and families in our community to make as a **priority the development of a family communications plan and to take other basic steps to be prepared for any emergency situation.**

As part of the township's efforts Tabernacle Office of Emergency Management has been selected as a project sponsor to receive the services of AmeriCorps NCCC team. Team Moose 2 with first line supervisor Ebony Boney, team leader, and eight members will arrive on May 12, 2013 and execute an emergency preparedness project that is scheduled to last until May 31, 2013. The team will have the mission of visiting every home in Tabernacle with emergency preparedness information. Additionally the team will be tasked with assisting residents who have Special Needs and who may need assistance in an emergency situation fill out the enclosed form registering them with OEM for potential assistance in a public safety emergency.

During their deployment in Tabernacle, the team will be living in the Tabernacle Emergency Services Building. As well as assisting OEM with its community emergency preparedness project, the team will participate in the Township Memorial Day Parade and plan and supervise an environmental service project for the Township.

We trust that all residents will join with us in welcoming the members of Team Moose 2 to Tabernacle and will support their mission for Emergency Management. For your information, all team members will be in uniform clearly marking them as members of AmeriCorps and will have appropriate photo ID. The team will be accompanied by a member of the staff of the Office of Emergency Management or the Pinelands Regional CERT a majority of the time of their stay.

In addition to the Tabernacle AmeriCorps emergency preparedness project, the township has developed a new emergency preparedness and awareness link on the Tabernacle web site. To visit this preparedness page go to WWW.TOWNSHIPOFTABERNACLE-NJ.GOV and click on the "Ready Tabernacle" symbol as shown above. On the "Ready Tabernacle" site you will find copies of any relevant emergency preparedness alerts or messages and links to the majority of the information you will need to prepare yourself and your family. You will also find a form to report incidents to OEM or to ask for assistance.

A guide to a “Ready Tabernacle” Preparedness Toolkit containing ways to prepare yourself and family is also available to you at www.Ready.gov/Resolve.

Now is the time to think about basic needs you, your family and your pets will need in advance of an emergency. How will you communicate with family members and emergency officials; what supplies do you need to keep in your home, car or office; do you have a family emergency plan and a family emergency rally point? The more you know about what to do in an emergency, the more confident and secure you will feel in your abilities to manage through a disaster. You can start now by taking these simple steps:

- o **Be informed.** Know the hazards and risks in your area. Learn what you need to do to get ready for them.
- o **Make a family emergency plan,** so you know how you would communicate with and find your loved ones if a disaster hit. For example, think about how you would reach your kids at school, or your spouse at work. If you had to evacuate, where would you go. Thinking this through in advance will make a big difference.
- o **Build an emergency supply kit**– both at home and in the car – that includes water, food and first aid supplies to help you survive if you lose power or get stranded in your car. This is especially important for dealing with icy roads and snowstorms during winter.
- o **Get Involved** - Be an advocate and educator for safety and emergency preparedness within your community. Consider joining the Pinelands Regional Community Response Team (CERT).

Using modern-day technology can help individuals and families prepare, adapt and recover from disruptions brought on by emergencies or disasters. History has shown us that the government can’t do it alone when it comes to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. Learn more by visiting “Ready Tabernacle” on www.townshipoftabernacle-nj.gov .

Finally, over the next week review and fill out the attached form, look at and review the Tabernacle web site and then welcome the AmeriCorps Team into your home. They have been deployed to our town to assist you and your family in your preparedness for an emergency.

The mission of the Tabernacle Office of Emergency Management is to support citizens and first responders by ensuring that, as a community, we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. You may contact me at anytime to assist your efforts but in the end it is ultimately your responsibility.

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Take steps to protect and prepare yourself and your family in an emergency:

- 1) **Be informed**
- 2) **Make personal or family preparedness plan, review your plan and practice it**
- 3) **Build a kit**
- 4) **Get involved in community preparedness**