

- * The statistical probability of a hurricane hitting New Jersey's coastline in any one year is about one per cent.
- * The last time the eye of a hurricane made landfall in New Jersey was in 1821.

While some may find these facts reassuring, others view the threat of hurricanes and coastal storms with their potential for untold disaster as very real. Consider these facts:

Between 1960 and 1971 the population of the United States grew 12 per cent; the number of people living along the coast soared more than 40 per cent.

Almost 80 per cent of people now living in hurricane threatened areas have never experienced a major hurricane. This lack of experience could result in their not heeding warnings or instructions.

Along the New Jersey coast 100,000 or more weekenders jam each of the coastal islands during the height of the hurricane season.

Hurricanes pick up speed as they move north.

In Cape May County:

A 100-year storm with tides 10 feet above mean low water would flood all but three roads.

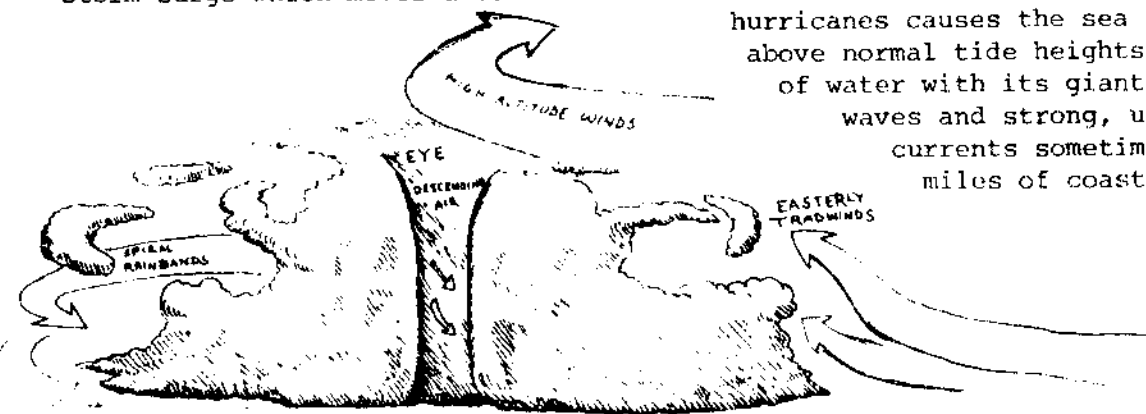
At any one time during hurricane season there are between 300 and 400 thousand people on the barrier islands, plus 50 to 60 thousand people in campgrounds. The total county population is over one million.

Planning estimates indicate that about 4,000 people per traffic lane could be evacuated per hour, thereby requiring 27 to 30 hours for evacuation.

A hurricane is a tropical rainstorm with sustained winds of 74 or more miles an hour. The tropical storm starts when heat energy from the sun is collected in the ocean. As the water evaporates it is carried by rising air and forms thunderclouds. Unlike a typical summer thunderstorm, however, there is a drop in atmospheric pressure which results in a cyclonic, counter-clockwise spiral of heated air and evaporating water. Scientists are not sure exactly what causes a tropical storm to turn into a hurricane.

At the center of the hurricane is the "eye" where the winds are low. The diameter of the eye varies from 10 to 30 miles, depending on the strength of the hurricane. The most powerful winds are at the edge of the eye, an area called the eyewall. Beyond the eyewall are rainstorms and powerful winds.

One of the major destructive agents of a hurricane is a wall of water called a storm surge which moves ahead of the hurricane. The strong winds associated with hurricanes causes the sea level to rise above normal tide heights. This dome of water with its giant wind-driven waves and strong, unpredictable currents sometimes covers many miles of coast.



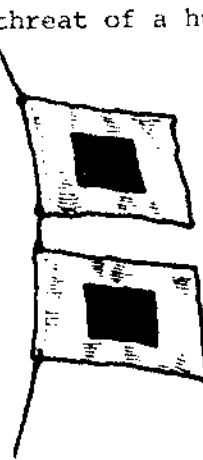
CAPE MAY COUNTY HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Because of its low-lying peninsular geography, southernmost location, population increase during the hurricane season and limited exit routes, Cape May County has devised one of the most comprehensive hurricane evacuation plans in the country. With the aid of National Weather Service updates and a computer that gives decision time for evacuation, the county could be emptied in 27 to 30 hours.

The underlying philosophy of the plan is to provide sufficient time following an evacuation alert to allow all residents to exit the county before the onset of gale force winds. Contingencies have been devised to provide transportation for car-less summer renters, assistance to the homebound, alternative vertical evacuation sites, coordination of routes with neighboring Cumberland County, and removal of stalled vehicles which might block exit routes. All activities would be coordinated by radio through the Office of Emergency Preparedness located in the County Library building.

In the event of a hurricane watch with the possible threat of a hurricane within 24 hours you should do the following:

- * Listen to radio or television announcements
- * Get gas for your car
- * Obtain a few days supply of special medicines
- * Stock up on canned goods
- * Check flashlight and radio batteries
- * Bring in outdoor furniture and equipment
- * Secure boat
- * Board and tape up windows



Following a hurricane warning with a hurricane expected within 24 hours an evacuation may be ordered. If so, leave. To prepare, you should do the following:

- * Shut off all utilities
- * Take small valuables and important papers with you
- * Bring along needed medicines
- * Leave in the daylight

A SAFE STORM, ONE WITH NO INJURIES OR LOSS OF LIFE,
REQUIRES, ABOVE ALL, FULL PUBLIC COOPERATION.

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