



Angel L. Gillette, CEM
Hazard Mitigation/Disaster Recovery Manager
Deputy Public Information Officer

COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON

Department of Administration Division of Emergency Management Services

100 GRACEDALE AVENUE
NAZARETH, PENNSYLVANIA 18064-8430

Telephone: (610) 746-3194

Fax: (610) 746-3199

For Immediate Release: 08/29/2011

For Further Information:

Contact: Robert F. Mateff, Sr.

Telephone: 610-746-3194, ext. 2226

RECOVERY EFFORTS UNDERWAY; EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS URGE SAFETY AS POWER OUTAGES CONTINUE

(Nazareth, Pennsylvania) – Northampton County Emergency Management officials continue to urge residents without power to take appropriate precautions during power outages and use extreme caution while using generators.

Utility companies report that progress has been made; however, outages could range from a few hours to several days until power has been restored to the entire county.

Northampton County Emergency Management Services Director, Robert Mateff, noted that his staff continues to monitor county utilities carefully. "We are working with the various utility companies, as well as local municipalities, to ensure roads are clear and power can be restored to customers as soon as possible," Mateff said.

County Executive John Stoffa signed a disaster declaration for the county on Saturday evening which ensures all available state and federal resources would become accessible to those who meet the designated criteria; helping to speed recovery efforts.

A conference call was held today so that municipal officials, school superintendents, and local emergency management coordinators could discuss ongoing response efforts and to report damages to county Emergency Management personnel. Although the full extent of damage in the county is still unknown; officials have indicated that the level of damage is sufficient to request assistance from FEMA. "Meeting the damage threshold established by FEMA is the hardest part to receiving Federal assistance," said Angel Gillette, hazard mitigation and disaster

recovery manager for Northampton County Emergency Management Services. “Ensuring that all storm related damages are reported quickly and accurately by the municipalities will help the county meet that threshold.” Damage Assessment teams have begun to conduct initial damage assessments throughout the hardest hit areas of the county. Joint Damage Assessment teams that include representatives from PEMA and FEMA are expected to arrive in the county no later than Wednesday.

Northampton County Emergency Management officials continue to urge citizens to:

- Watch for downed trees and power lines
- Avoid downed power lines; Always assume that a downed line is a LIVE wire
- Contact local public safety officials if you are in need of sheltering assistance due to long term power outages; The County Emergency Operations Center is working with the Red Cross and the Salvation Army to ensure adequate shelters are available if necessary
- If you’re in need of immediate emergency assistance, dial 9-1-1

###