

Lebanon County Lessons Learned and Useful Tidbits to Weather a Storm

By Jo Ellen Litz 9.9.11

Cash Assistance

- **\$ 500 cash Assistance available to flood victims. The county commissioners will host the Lebanon County Disaster Response Fund on Saturday, September 17, 2011, from 8AM-4PM. You will be given a Damage Report Survey to complete.**
- Affordable Housing income limits apply. Up to \$1 million will be awarded to assist up to 2,000 households with recovery efforts. Enter from the basement ramp at the parking lot, 400 S 8th St., Lebanon. Bring ID, pictures, estimates or receipts. One check per household. Qualified applicants will leave with a check.

Income limits and Family Size are:

Maximum Income: 1 person, \$45,400; 2 people \$51,900; 3 people \$58,400; 4 people \$64,800; 5 people \$70,000; 6 people \$75,200; 7 people \$80,000; 8 people \$85,600.

If funds remain after Saturday, the Commissioners will resume the process on Monday in the Commissioners office from 8:30AM-4:30PM.

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- **Flood victims can get bottled water and MREs at the Annville or Jonestown Fire Companies or the Lebanon Armory. It is my understanding that PEMA delivered a lot of water for flood victims, and EMA coordinated distribution.**
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People have told me that knowing what is going on and that they're not alone is comforting. To that end, an overview of communications from the last few days during Hurricane Lee follows.

When your county commissioners, local municipal officials, or the governor declare a state of emergency, please stay home. Emergency crews need to get through. If you must go out, motorists are advised to avoid flooded or submerged roads and remember the slogan "turn around, don't drown". Do NOT cross flooded bridges. They wash out, and you will put your life in danger as well as the lives of first responders or good Samaritans.

Do NOT attempt to canoe any streams in high water. The current is strong, and you could slam into a bridge that is flooding.

For detailed **Emergency Management Information**, visit

www.lebanonema.org

Lebanon EMA lists **Roads Closed**

<http://livewatch.lebanonema.org/oosmisc.aspx>

When the ground is saturated, trees fall. Please be careful. Stay safe.

Community Resource Manual:

When you dial 911 (the public service answering point maintained by the County), a local fire company, police, and/or an ambulance may be dispatched to respond to help you. If you are instructed to go to a public building or report to a shelter, this guide may help you. In case your Internet goes down, download it to your computer now to keep it handy. Print out the entire booklet or pages for your municipality and region.

<http://www.joellenlitz.com/CommResourceGuide11,28MB.pdf> or in Spanish

<http://www.lebanonema.org/commresourceguide2.pdf>

Flood Gauges to Follow Water Depth and Flood Stages:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/marfc/>

Water in the Basement:

If you are starting to get water in the basement, and don't have a sump pump, consider shutting off the main electricity breaker to avoid a fire, but don't stand in water to do this. If possible, elevate or remove valuable items.

Electricity Outages:

Since MetEd can't be everywhere at once, to avoid house fires, if electric meters are arcing (meter fire), MetEd may turn off power to your home or community. Follow MetEd outages

https://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages/outages.do?state_code=PA

Sump Pumps and Generators:

During Lee, sump pumps and generators were in short supply. However, some people told me stories of using the same sump pump that was stored away from Hurricane Agnes in 1972. If you had water in your basement, you may want to invest in a sump pump. The same goes for a generator.

School Closings:

School districts are listed as closed on WGAL TV8's web site:
<http://www.wgal.com/closings/index.html#P>

Water Authorities:

1. Updates will be provided through the Pennsylvania American Water web site at www.pennsylvaniaamwater.com , under the Alert Notifications section. For more information, contact Pennsylvania American Water's customer service center at 1-800-565-7292.
2. Lebanon Water Authority: <http://www.lebanonauthority.org/>

The Morning After, you may be trying to get back to "normal." If you've had storm damage, a few things you want to remember are:

1. Lebanon's Red Cross Shelter was at the Armory, 1000 E Cumberland St., Lebanon, but closed Saturday. 717-273-2671
2. Take pictures for documentation of damage.
3. Keep receipts for the insurance company or FEMA.
4. Report your loss to your insurance company and Lebanon EMA.
5. Make lists of the items you lost. Walk through a flea market, or browse through a catalog to help you remember lost items. Record replacement values too.
6. Also, please print out and complete a **Damage Assessment Form** (make 3 copies—1 for you, 1 for Lebanon EMA, and 1 for your municipality)
<http://www.joellenlitz.com/EMA/Damage%20Assessment%20Form.pdf> , and turn into the EMA office, 400 S 8th St., Lebanon 17042. This may help you, your municipality and the County to get reimbursed for allowable expenses. Report damaged roofs, toppled chimneys, sinkholes or flooded basements, even if they're covered by insurance. Your deductible is considered a loss. Please file your damage reports with EMA ASAP. 717.274.2801. Thank you for your cooperation.
7. Also, here is the Federal form. To be sure you don't get lost in the system, I recommend you fill in both forms. **Register your disaster with FEMA online (see link below) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA: 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.**



[DisasterAssistance.gov - Home](http://DisasterAssistance.gov)
www.DisasterAssistance.gov

8. Please consider thanking 911 telecommunicators, the National Guard, your local firemen and other first responders for the fantastic job they did the last two days. Coffee and doughnuts would be nice, and a donation to your local fire company would be welcome too.
9. Do not cross orange cones placed on roads, even if there appears to be no standing water. Chief Administrator Jamie Wolgemuth will work on prioritizing bridge inspections with Wilson Consulting for structural integrity. There's bound to be more, but some of the known damaged bridges include:
 - a. Levan's iron bridge (West from 343 towards Jonestown) in Swatara Township has macadam eroded at the approach;
 - b. Mt. Zion bridge has macadam lifted;
 - c. Route 934 bridges S & N of Annville have macadam lifted;
 - d. Route 72 @ the Swatara Creek--Frog's Hollow for the locals.

Thank you and God bless you for your patience, both with storm related issues and receiving email updates.

Clean Water

When water and sewer utility plants are built, they usually locate along streams so that intake and discharge pipes are easily accessible to a stream. With a storm like Lee, it is inevitable that these utilities are inundated with water, and may malfunction. Therefore, at one point, the Lebanon Water Authority and American Water Company both asked for your cooperation to conserve water.

Water Conservation can take many forms:

1. Turn off the spigot while brushing your teeth;
2. Take shorter showers;
3. Replace faucet and shower heads with low-flow fixtures;
4. Flush your toilet less;
5. Postpone doing your laundry, or only do full loads of laundry;
6. Don't wash your car or water you lawn;
7. Repair leaks.

What I'm going to say next is not an official request from the water companies or DEP, but it is common sense. If your water is brown, even after letting it run for awhile, think about boiling any water used for drinking, cooking, or dishes.

Sinkholes

At Cedar Haven, we have a 20' sinkhole in the parking lot, and numerous residents shared that they have sink holes in their yards.

Big sinkholes will require heavy equipment and expertise to repair. Small sinkholes may be able to be repaired with a hand shovel. Traditionally, you put large stones in first, then smaller stones topped by cat litter (The scientific term is Bentonite, an absorbent aluminum phyllosilicate, essentially impure clay consisting mostly of montmorillonite.)

DCNR provides a booklet with everything you need to know about sinkholes. <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/hazards/es11.pdf>
Page 30 talks about sinkhole repair.

Garbage

As people clean up from Hurricane Lee, calls came in concerning waste disposal.

EMA Director Dan Kauffman and Chief Administrator Jamie Wolgemuth worked with Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority Director Mike Pavelek to get emergency permission from DEP to extend the hours at the landfill this past Saturday. This was necessary so that the GLRA's operations permit was not put into jeopardy. Please note that by law, all waste generated in Lebanon County must be disposed of at the Greater Lebanon Landfill Authority.

The lines at the landfill are long, and your patience is respectfully requested. If additional hours are approved, you will be informed.

Recycle

The abundance of trash generated by Hurricane Lee is a burden on many people. It costs money to dispose of trash. I don't know if this is an allowable expense for FEMA, but keep your receipts—just in case.

Also, metal can be recycled for cash, and would reduce your garbage disposal bill. If you can't take your metal to the recycler, and will donate it

to someone who will haul for you, the cash they receive would help to cover their gas expenses. If you are a reputable recycler willing to pick up metal, please advise.

Destruction Summarized:

It may be hard to wrap your head around the devastation experienced by you and your neighbors. So, here's a summary prepared by our Emergency Management Agency who is doing a swell job. Determined by the Disaster Report Survey Forms, so far, Lebanon County had 2,212 homes impacted by Lee. 56 homes were destroyed (foundations washed out, cracks, homes moved off of foundations) by tropical storm Lee; 1324 had major damage (water reached the 1st floor); 557 minor damage (furnaces, hot water heaters, outlets covered the basement); 226 were affected (lost personal items like furniture, carpeting, Christmas wrap, food...); and 9 inaccessible.

- North Annville had 11 mobile homes destroyed along the Swatara Creek in Waterworks Way and Towpath Road.
- Annville had 13 homes destroyed along the Quittapahilla Creek. 38 homes had major damage, some around King Street. 175 had Minor damage.
- Bethel Township had 34 homes with Major damage; 1 minor; and 1 affected.
- In Cleona, around Wilshire Drive at the end of Lebanon City's Dike, 43 homes had major damage; 40 had Minor damage; 38 and were affected.
- Cornwall saw 20 homes with Major damage; 1 Minor; 5 affected; and 9 inaccessible.
- East Hanover had 13 homes with Major damage around Valley Glen; and 2 affected.
- Heidelberg had 1 Major and 1 Minor.
- Jackson saw 46 Major.
- Jonestown had 12 homes destroyed; 49 with Major damage; 29 with Minor damage.
- The City of Lebanon had 350 homes with Major damage; 249 with Minor damage; and 1 affected.
- Millcreek had 2 Majors.
- Myerstown had 5 homes destroyed; 57 with Major damage; 25 Minor damage; and 32 Affected.
- North Annville (Waterworks and Tow Path) had 12 homes destroyed; and 56 with Major damage.
- North Cornwall had 68 homes with Major damage; and 25 homes affected.
- North Lebanon saw 1 home destroyed; 96 with Major damage; and 4 affected.
- North Londonderry, 25 Major; 2 Minor.
- Palmyra, 47 Major; 3 Minor.
- Richland; 4 Major.
- South Annville, 7 Major; 21 affected; and 1 mobile home destroyed.
- South Lebanon, 141 Major; 4 Minor.
- South Londonderry, 57 Major.
- Swatara, 1 destroyed; 48 Major; and 1 Minor.
- Union, 15 Major; 1 Minor; 4 affected.
- West Cornwall 2 Major.
- West Lebanon, 100 Major; 25 Minor; and 4 affected.

Bethel had 1 business destroyed.

Cornwall had 1 business with Major damage.

Lebanon has 1 business with Major; and 2 affected.

Myerstown had 1 business with Major damage.

Palmyra had 1 business with Major damage.

Total businesses = 1 destroyed; 4 Major; 2 Affected.

DISINFECTION OF HOME WELLS AND SPRINGS

Editor's Note: The disinfection procedure described below is only a temporary measure for use by homeowners to treat for bacteriological contamination (not including the organisms that cause giardiasis or cryptosporidiosis) and may not be used by public water suppliers. It should not be considered a permanent correction for a home groundwater source that is continuously exposed to microbiological contamination due to improper location and/or construction.

Disinfection of a home groundwater source should be performed under any of the following conditions:

After completing construction of a new well or spring supply

When repair or reconstruction of a well or spring, pumps or attached piping is completed

If the well or spring has been temporarily flooded or subjected to another temporary source of bacteriological contamination

Upon receipt of a laboratory report indicating an unsatisfactory bacteriological analysis of the well or spring supply

MATERIALS NEEDED

You will need a two-gallon or larger bucket, a length of garden hose long enough to reach as far as possible into the home water source, a funnel that fits into the end of the garden hose, and a suitable quantity of a liquid or granular chlorinating compound.

Chlorinating compounds are sold at grocery, hardware, plumbing, and swimming pool supply stores under various trade names. You should look for one of the following:

1. Liquid Forms

- Unscented laundry bleach containing five to six percent sodium hypochlorite
- Sodium hypochlorite solution containing five to 14 percent sodium hypochlorite

NOTE: Do not use a laundry bleach containing scent additives. These additives should not be consumed. Since liquid laundry bleach weakens with time, obtain a fresh supply rather than using old laundry bleach you may have at home.

2. Granular Forms

- Swimming pool granules containing 65 to 70 percent calcium hypochlorite
- Calcium hypochlorite granules (65 to 70 percent)

NOTE: Do not use stabilized chlorine products that are meant for swimming pools or non-chlorinated "pool shock" products. These products are not intended for disinfecting wells or springs. There are fast dissolving pellets containing chlorine that are specifically made for disinfecting wells. This should not be confused with the larger stabilized chlorine pellets (one to three inches in diameter) that should not be used. Please check the product label.

Chlorinating products must be handled in accordance with the manufacturer's directions. Failure to follow instructions could cause bodily injury. Wearing eye and body protection during the procedure is strongly recommended. Do not drink well water containing high levels of chlorine. The water should be tested for bacteria after the disinfection procedure has been completed. Until tested and found potable, bring the water to a rolling boil for at least one minute before consuming or using for food preparation.

PROCEDURE

1. First, remove any cover over the well casing or spring vault to allow access to the water source.
2. Then, add the appropriate amount of chlorinating compound (see below) to three or four buckets of water (6 to 10 gallons total) and mix thoroughly.

For liquid chlorinating products with 5 to 6 percent available chlorinating chemical, use about 1½ quarts of the chlorinating product.

For liquid chlorinating products with more available chlorinating chemical, reduce the amount used. For example, for products with 10 percent, use about ¾ quart or for products with 14 percent, use about ½ quart of the chlorinating chemical.

For granular chlorinating chemicals with 65 to 70 percent available chlorinating chemical, use about 4 ounces (8 tablespoons) of the chlorinating product.

The process of mixing the appropriate amount of chlorinating product with six to ten gallons of water is important for the following reasons:

It helps to mix the disinfectant evenly through the water in the well and force the disinfectant into the surrounding water-bearing rocks.

It prevents the concentrated chlorinating chemical from corroding the metal pump and other metal parts of the well.

3. These amounts of chlorinating products will disinfect about 150 gallons of water to 100 - 150 parts per million (ppm). That corresponds to 100 feet of water in a 6-inch diameter well, a spring vault with inside dimensions of 5 feet long by 5 feet wide and a water depth of 1 foot, or a dug well with an inside diameter of 5 feet and a water depth of 1 foot. If your well or spring holds more or less water, the amount of chlorinating product should be increased or decreased proportionately.
4. Place one end of the garden hose into the well or spring (remove the pump, if necessary) so that the hose is as far into the well or spring as possible.
5. Place the funnel into the other end of the hose and, with help, pour the contents of each bucketful of diluted chlorinating product through the hose while alternately raising and lowering the hose to disperse the disinfectant throughout the water supply.
6. When the appropriate amount of disinfectant has been added to the water supply, do the following:

If the water source has no pump, close the cover over it.

If the water source has a pump or is piped to a house or other outlets, draw the chlorinated water through all the fixtures and outlets until the smell of chlorine is noticed, so that all of the piping and fixtures are disinfected. After the odor is noticed, turn off the water at the fixture or valve outlet.

In some cases involving wells, running the water from fixtures may not produce a chlorine odor quickly. In those cases, it may be necessary to run the water from an outside faucet through a garden hose and back into the well to further mix the chlorinating chemical into the well water.

7. The chlorinating solution should remain in the entire water supply system for at least four hours and preferably overnight. The water should be pumped out after that period until no odor of chlorine remains at the fixtures and outlets. Please avoid discharging water containing detectable amounts of chlorine into storm drains, waterways, ponds, creeks, etc. Fish and aquatic animals are very sensitive to very low levels of chlorine and can be killed.
8. Once the water source is chlorine-free, wait an additional 2-5 days and then resample for bacteria. If total coliform organisms are present, the water should not be consumed unless it is brought to a rolling boil for at least one minute. If total coliform organisms are not found, the water is considered bacteriologically potable. However, the well or spring should be sampled for bacteria at least annually.

9. If the well or spring continues to be contaminated after disinfection and sampling or is found to be contaminated as the result of a future sample, the construction or location of the water supply should be re-evaluated.

For more information, visit www.depweb.state.pa.us, keyword: Drinking Water.

I hope you find this outline helpful. If there are topics not covered, please advise. The list can be updated.

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