

**Special Bulletin:  
Restoration and Recovery  
Friday, September 3, 2021**



# HILLSBOROUGH e-News

## Restoration and Recovery

### **ROAD CLOSURES:**

For up to date road closures please visit the Township website at [www.hillsborough-nj.org](http://www.hillsborough-nj.org)

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### **Contacting the Township during non-business hours:**

To contact Social Services or the Health Department during non-business hours, please call the Police Non-Emergency number at 908-369-4323.

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### **Contacting the Township Building Department during non-business hours:**

To assist our residents with storm related matters, the Building Department will remain open this evening until 8 pm. On Saturday, the Building Department will be open tomorrow, Saturday, September 4, 2021 from 9 am until 3 pm. They can be reached at 908-369-5882.

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### **Hillsborough Damage Assessment / Homeowner Guidance**

If your home has been posted unsafe by the Hillsborough Township Construction Office due to flood damage please note the following:

- Do not attempt to turn on gas or electricity from the meter or panel.
- Demolition and repair of the structure requires permits.
- Structural damage requires repair plans from a Registered NJ Engineer or Architect.
- Contact your Homeowners Insurance and deal with only contractors that are approved by your Insurance company.
- Contractor are required to be licensed by the State of NJ, ask for contractor licensing.
- If your house has been posted unsafe you and your family should not be living within the structure.
- If your meter gas and/or electric has been removed by the utility company you will need approval from the Building department for the utilities to be turned back

- on.
- All appliances that have been under flood water will need to be removed, this includes but not limited to Furnaces/AC's, Water heaters, Stoves, Refrigerator, washer/dryers etc.

If your home has sustained flood damage but has not been posted unsafe please note the following:

The electricity should be shut off in the area of the damage. Gas may need to be shut while the damage is assessed.

If water heaters and furnaces have been submerged the appliance will need to be removed and replaced.

Permits are required for repairs.

The Township permit fees will be waived until 12/31/2021 for storm Ida, Hillsborough Township's Building contact number in 908-369-5882.

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## **Auten Road Facility - Storm Related Debris**

The Auten Road Facility will be open Saturday, September 4th from 8 am until 2 pm and again on Sunday, September 5th from 8 am until 2 pm .

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## **Generator Safety**

- Keep generators outside of your home.
- Do not use the generator in the garage.
- Carbon Monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.
- Refuel generators carefully.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines when using generators.
- Use the appropriate sized and type power cords to carry the electric load.
- Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires.
- Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat might build up or damage to a cord may go unnoticed.

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## **Well Safety and well water disinfection**

Flooding is one of the reasons to test your well. The Hillsborough Health Department recommends a well test and a well disinfection by a professional. If your home has sustained flood damage but has not been posted unsafe please note. Please see the link below:

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=fs351>.

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## **Mold in the Home**

### **WHAT IS MOLD?**

Mold is found everywhere! There are over 200,000 known species. Grows from spores. Spores are found EVERYWHERE, both inside and outside. The spores need moisture and food to grow. Some common food sources that mold use include wood, wallpaper, sheetrock, paper, wool, leather, hair and dust. The key to preventing or eliminating mold growth is to remove the moisture.....NO MOISTURE, NO MOLD!!!!

### **SHOULD I TEST MOLD I FOUND?**



People are often focused on testing the mold to find out if it is “dangerous or not”. Different types of mold affect, or do NOT affect, people differently. A type of mold that has no effect on one person could be very irritating to another. Rather than focus on what kind of mold you found, focus on finding the source of the moisture which caused the mold in the first place.

### HOW DO I CLEAN/REMOVE MOLD?

If mold is on hard, non-porous material, like wood, countertops:

Ventilate the area or room as much as possible. Open windows and doors while working and place fans in the windows, blowing the air OUTSIDE.

A N95 mask (available at hardware stores) should be worn while working. Protect the rest of home by hanging plastic sheeting in doorways.

DO NOT SPRAY MOLD WITH BLEACH. Instead, make a solution with Trisodium Phosphate (“TSP”, available at hardware stores) or a mild detergent and water. Scrub hard/non-porous items with a brush or wipe with clothes, then wipe dry. Use as little water as possible when mixing cleaning solutions, as the key is to use it to help remove mold and dry the surface as quickly as possible. Soaking a surface, even with a cleaning agent, will lead to new mold growth. Use fans, increased ventilation, or dehumidifier in the work area to remove moisture ASAP. DO NOT USE BLEACH! Bleach will kill mold, but the bleach will dissipate and leave water on whatever you sprayed, which will feed new mold. Also, when mold dies, it can be MORE harmful than when it was alive!!!

If mold is on soft, porous material, like drywall or furniture:

Item or material must be discarded/replaced. There is no way for you to completely remove all spores, and if any are left, it will begin to grow again.

If you aren’t comfortable removing the mold, hire a professional company that deals with mold remediation.

### HOW DO I PREVENT MOLD FROM COMING BACK?

If mold grew in an area once, it can come back if you don’t remove the moisture.

Increase ventilation to the area, or use a dehumidifier to remove moisture.

Check gutters and downspouts to make sure they are draining away from the foundation of your house. Also, make sure the grading around your house is pitched away from your house.

The key to preventing or eliminating mold growth is to remove the moisture.....NO MOISTURE, NO MOLD!!!!

For additional guidance, please see:

US EPA Mold Website <https://www.epa.gov/mold>

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## **Engineering update:**

If your private property (i.e. yard, driveway, ditches, private lanes, trees) was damaged due to storm Ida the Township recommends you contact your Homeowner or Flood Insurance company first to see what may be covered and then contact a private landscape/drainage contractor and, or private civil engineer for advice and design. The Township cannot recommend redesigns or contractors for private property. If there is damage to the public road you can contact the Township's Public Works Dept. or Somerset County depending if you live on a Township or County Road.

## JCP&L Water and Ice Locations :

[https://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages\\_help/storm\\_info/water-ice.html](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages_help/storm_info/water-ice.html)

**This Newsletter is brought to you by the Hillsborough Township Committee:**

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