



**Manager's  
Newsletter**

Town of

**Kitty Hawk**

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## Kitty Hawk Works To Recover From Irene

The Town and its citizens/property owners are in the process of recovering from the damages of Irene. The neighborhoods and businesses on the sound side of the Town, including the Town's Police Department, Public Works Building, and the Town property which houses the state's Coastal Reserve office, experienced extensive flooding. On Sunday, after the storm passed, Town Employees and residents alike started the clean-up process. Many organizations have come to assist, including the American Red Cross with clean-up kits, and the Salvation Army with a food canteen. The Baptists on Mission and Christ in Action also offered manpower and equipment to aide individuals in their clean-up efforts.

On Tuesday and Wednesday after the storm three teams from the Planning & Inspections and Fire departments surveyed residents and visited a total of over 550 properties that were most directly impacted by the flooding. Of the 550+ properties visited, the Town made contact with the residents or owners of approximately 300 homes and businesses (mostly homes). The remaining residences were either vacant or had no one home at the time the survey was conducted. The individuals surveyed included 245 property owners (89%) and 30 renters (11%).

- ◆ 81 people (20%) reported that flood water got into the living area of their home.
- ◆ 49 people (17%) reported that the water level rose above their lowest electrical outlet.
- ◆ 53 respondents (19%) reported that they lacked certain utilities at the time of the survey.
- ◆ 177 of the respondents (74%) stated that they have flood insurance, while 62 (26%) did not.
- ◆ Only two residents (less than 1%) reported that they needed someplace to stay.

A vast majority of people did not need any assistance from the Town. However, staff was able to provide information on resources available to many citizens.

The Town would like to thank all of our Residents, Property and Business Owners and Employees for their ongoing hard work, cooperation, resilience, and patience during the storm recovery efforts.

If anyone in the Town needs assistance or knows someone who does, please call Town Hall at (252) 261-3552.

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## September 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Highlights

At their September 6th meeting, Council recognized the service of employees, (from left to right) **Willie Midgett**, Public Works Director, 5 years; **Sharon Davenport**, Police Administrative Records Clerk, 15 years; **Donna Heffernan**, Administrative Zoning Tech, 10 years; and **Joel Johnson**, Police Sergeant, 10 years; Mayor Clifton Perry (in middle) presented Certificates of Appreciation.



Liv Cook from the **Outer Banks Children's Museum** provided an update about the non-profit museum and an overview of the services provided.

Mayor Pro Tem Gary Perry, provided an update on the storm damage and a summary of the information gathered while canvassing storm damaged neighborhoods. Chief David Ward followed with information on how to avoid being taken advantage of by scam artists after the storm.

The Public Comment session included two speakers who provided information on what to do after your home or business has been flooded.

**Public Hearings** were held and the following action was taken:

- ◆ **Proposal to broaden use of costumed mascots and wavers** for advertising—Council will make revisions to the suggested change and deferred the vote until the October 3, 2011 meeting.
- ◆ **Proposal to allow “Home Occupations”** as conditional uses in the Kitty Hawk Woods zoning district—Adopted
- ◆ **Proposal to revise standards for motor vehicle dealerships**, specifically, to change the minimum lot size requirement from six acres to 0.75 acres and allow secondary frontage on any type of street—Adopted
- ◆ **Application to establish motor and electric vehicle dealership** at 6100 N. Croatan Highway—Adopted with condition the applicant would be required to obtain Storm Water Drainage Study
- ◆ **Application to establish a shared parking arrangement** between businesses in the Ocean Centre shopping center at 5230 N. Virginia Dare Trail. - Deferred until October 3, 2011 if applicant supplies a signed recordable agreement.

**Waldt Construction** Inc. was awarded the contract for Sandy Run Park, Phase II project with a total bid of \$237,620.00.

Town Council declared September 24, 2011, **Big Sweep 2011 Day**

A Motion was approved to **waive permit fees associated with Hurricane Irene damage** from August 29, 2011 through February 29, 2012.

The Town Manager provided additional storm information and an update on the Storm Drainage study, reporting that final estimates for the project would be completed soon. He also relayed several letters of appreciation and positive comments regarding members of the Town Staff.

## What to Expect After Registering With FEMA

Inspectors from the Federal Emergency Management Agency are currently contacting disaster applicants in the North Carolina counties who have reported damage to their primary residence as a result of Hurricane Irene.

Inspectors are private contractors who wear official FEMA identification. Authorized inspectors will only confirm personal detailed information that has been provided previously during the registration process. There is no charge for the inspection. It's important to keep the scheduled appointment to make sure the assistance process moves quickly.

Federal assistance to individuals and households may include loans and grants to help pay for rental housing, essential home repairs and other disaster-related expenses.

### **What to Expect:**

**Call from Inspector:** After registration an inspector will call and schedule an appointment to visit the damaged property – generally no longer than 10 days after registration.

**Inspector's Visit:** Inspectors will review both structural and personal property damage and then file a report. The process typically takes 15 to 45 minutes. Inspectors do not determine an applicant's eligibility. The applicant – or someone who is 18 or older and lived in the household prior to the disaster – must be present for the scheduled appointment.

**Follow Up Letter:** Within 10 days of an inspector's visit, applicants will receive a letter from FEMA containing a decision. Individuals with questions regarding the letter should call the helpline number 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585) or visit a disaster recovery center <http://www.fema.gov/drclocator>. If an applicant is eligible for assistance, the letter will be followed by a check or an electronic funds transfer. The letter explains how the money can be used.

Applicants may receive a low-interest disaster loan application in the mail from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The loan does not have to be accepted. However, completing an SBA application opens the door to other possible forms of assistance.

***For additional information on FEMA and Disaster Recovery Resources visit  
[www.townofkittyhawk.org](http://www.townofkittyhawk.org)***

## Ocean Rescue Update

Lifeguard stands have been removed and Ocean Rescue staff will be roving the beach between the hours of 10:00 am and 5:00 pm, from now until the end of September.

## Debris Pick-Up Continues

The damage from the storm generated a lot of debris. The Town has contracted with Crowder Gulf to remove all storm related debris. Pick-ups began on Monday, September 5 and will continue until all storm debris is removed. An additional truck has been added to work side streets and smaller areas. Crowder Gulf will be working seven days per week until the debris is removed.

Storm related debris needs to be placed in right-of-way as soon as possible. Debris should be separated into two piles—yard waste and household. **Only storm related debris will be removed at this time. Do not place non-storm related debris in the right of way.**

**Hazard materials such as paint, gas, anti-freeze etc will not be removed by Crowder Gulf.** Dare County will pick up at a later time. These items may also be taken to the Dare County/Kitty Hawk Recycle Center on Bob Perry Road. The Recycle Center is currently only accepting recyclables. No storm debris is accepted. The center is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. It is closed on Wednesday.

### NOTICE TO OWNERS OF HOMES THAT HAD FLOOD WATERS INSIDE OF THE BUILDING

Kitty Hawk Town Council has waived all permit fees associated with repairs to damage suffered during Hurricane Irene until February 29, 2012. Although there is no cost for the permit, you may still need to obtain a building permit for certain types of repairs.

- ◆ Any work with a value exceeding \$5,000 (total cost of material and labor) in a residence, requires a building permit.
- ◆ Any work involving load bearing members (such as poles, girders, joists, rafters, or headers) requires a building permit.
- ◆ Any work requiring a N.C. contractor's license, such as electrical, plumbing, HVAC, or gas line replacement requires a building permit.
- ◆ Examples of work under \$5,000 that can be performed without a permit include the replacement of drywall, paneling, siding, insulation, or trim work; or the construction or replacement of non-load bearing walls. The maximum of \$5,000 applies only to the construction work and not to the cost of clean-up.

Even in these instances where a permit is not required, keep in mind that flood resistant materials should be used in all parts of the building that are below the required flood protection elevation. All wood products should be pressure treated, and any insulation should be Styrofoam boards or the sprayed on type. It is also recommended that if you remove wall covering or insulation that was wet by flood waters for cleaning and treatment for possible mold, wait until the studs or other wood members are dry before replacing the insulation and wall finish with flood resistant material.

If the water level rose above your electrical outlets, please have a N.C. licensed electrician check your system out for water damage. This step is even more important if the circuit breaker or fuse panel box was wet. Even after electrical components are dry, flood waters may have impaired their ability to function as designed, which may create a fire hazard.

If you need additional information or have any questions please call the Town's Planning and Inspections Department at (252) 261-3552.

## Avoid Contaminations From Standing Waters

When cleaning up after a hurricane or flood, be aware that flood water may contain sewage and other harmful contaminants. Below are some tips for stay safe:

- ◆ Keep children and pets out of the affected area until cleanup has been completed.
- ◆ Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, and goggles during cleanup of affected area.
- ◆ Have your onsite waste-water system professionally inspected and serviced if you suspect damage.
- ◆ Wash all clothes worn during the cleanup in hot water and detergent. These clothes should be washed separately from uncontaminated clothes and linens.
- ◆ After completing the cleanup, wash your hands with soap and water. Use water that has been boiled for 1 minute (allow the water to cool before washing your hands).
- ◆ Or you may use water that has been disinfected for personal hygiene use (solution of ½ teaspoon [~0.75 milliliters] of household bleach per 1 gallon of water). Let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy, use solution of ¼ teaspoon (~1.5 milliliters) of household bleach per 1 gallon of water.
- ◆ Seek immediate medical attention if you become injured or ill.

For more information, please contact our local health department at (252) 475-5003, or visit [emergency.cdc.gov](http://emergency.cdc.gov) or call CDC at 800-CDC-INFO (English and Spanish) or 888-232-6348 (TTY).

## Protecting Yourself From Mold

When waters flood a home or business it may cause mold to grow on walls and flooring within 24 to 48 hours. Even worse, mold will continue growing until steps are taken to eliminate the problem.

Mold and mildew can cause serious health problems, as well as structural damage to a home when a property has experienced flooding. Cleaning up quickly and drying out thoroughly may help prevent immediate and long-term health problems.

Typical symptoms reported from mold exposure include:

- ◆ respiratory problems including wheezing and asthma attacks
- ◆ burning or watery eyes, nose or throat irritations
- ◆ skin irritations like rashes or hives
- ◆ nervous system disorders including headaches and memory loss

Allow areas to dry two to three days before replacing damaged materials. Identify and correct the moisture source. Remove all water and fix any leaks before cleaning. Porous materials such as paper, rags, wallboard and rotten wood can trap molds and should be thrown out. Harder materials such as glass, plastic and metal can be cleaned and disinfected.

To remove moldy materials, wear a filter mask and gloves to avoid contact with the mold. Remove porous materials such as ceiling tiles, wallboard and wood products. If wallboard is flooded, measure and cut at least two feet above the high water mark.

Carpeting can be a difficult problem because drying does not remove the dead spores. If there is heavy mold, consider disposing of the carpet.

After thorough cleaning and rinsing, disinfect the area with a solution of household bleach and water (1½ cups of bleach per gallon of water). Never mix bleach with ammonia - the fumes are toxic! Let disinfected areas dry naturally overnight to kill all the mold.

Download FEMA's mold and mildew cleanup brochure at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3049&fromSearch=fromsearch>

## Aerial Spraying for Mosquitoes Resumes Friday Night

Beginning 7:00 pm Friday evening, September 9, Dare County will resume the aerial spraying program to reduce the number of mosquitoes resulting from flooding caused by Hurricane Irene.

The spraying, which started on Thursday, September 8, had to be suspended after approximately two hours due to unsuitable weather conditions for spraying. Tonight's spraying is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m., weather permitting, and is expected to continue until the early morning hours of Saturday, September 10.

The aerial spray operation is being conducted in response to surveillance findings that indicate greatly increased mosquito populations and also due to the limited road accessibility in portions of the County. The operation will encompass 50,000 acres within Dare County using the pesticide Dibrom® applied at the rate of 0.75 fluid ounces per acre.

Although a person's chances of experiencing any health effects from spraying are very low, the Dare County Department of Public Health offers the following steps to reduce exposure to pesticides during spraying:

- ◆ Remain indoors when pesticides are sprayed in your immediate area.
- ◆ Close windows and doors before spraying begins.
- ◆ Wash homegrown fruits and vegetables before eating.

Should you feel you are experiencing health effects from spraying, please consult your doctor.

For more information, please contact Dare County Department of Public Health at 252-475-5003 or Dare County Public Works at 252-475-5880.

## Avoiding Scams/Disaster Repair Tips from the NC Department of Justice

Do not pay for work up front. Inspect the work and make sure you are satisfied before you pay. A reasonable down payment may be required for some projects, but don't pay anything without getting a written contract. Avoid paying with cash; use a check or a credit card instead.

Beware of any contractor who tries to rush you or who comes to your home offering assistance. If an offer is only good "now or never," find someone else to do the work. Get recommendations from friends, neighbors, co-workers and others who have had work performed on their homes recently.

Get three written estimates for the work, if possible, and compare bids. Check credentials and contact the Attorney General's Office and the Better Business Bureau to learn about any complaints against the contractor. Before work begins make sure you get a written contract that lists all the work to be performed, its costs and a completion date.

Watch out for price gouging. Under North Carolina law, businesses cannot charge too much for goods or services when a disaster, an emergency or an abnormal market disruption for critical services has been declared or proclaimed by the Governor. Under the law, the Attorney General's Office can put a stop to price gouging and seek refunds for consumers who paid too much. The courts may also impose civil penalties against price gougers of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

If you need help. If you have a complaint about disaster repair or price gouging or need to check out a contractor, contact the NC Department of Justice for help or call toll free within North Carolina at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM. The Town of Kitty Hawk, Building and Inspections Office can also verify if a local contractor is properly licensed. Their number is (252) 261-3552. Operating hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. The office is closed between 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm for lunch.

If you've been the victim of a disaster-related scam, file a complaint <http://www.ncdoj.gov> or call NCAG offices toll free within North Carolina at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

***Kitty Hawk Fire Department is  
 Recruiting Volunteers  
 Incentives Available  
 Call 252-261-2666 for more  
 information.***



The Town of Kitty Hawk's newsletter is prepared two times per month and sent electronically to anyone who wants to receive it. Paper copies of the newsletter are available at Town Hall. The newsletter does not present or represent opinions of the Town Council.

**Town of Kitty Hawk**

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