



## EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

Dear Lambertville Community,

The Lambertville Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has developed this checklist to help you and your family prepare for and respond to various emergencies. Your safety is important, so we encourage you to review this information and plan ahead. You'll also find links to resources and additional details.

[Plan Ahead for Emergencies](#)

[Emergency Supplies](#)

Action Plans:

[Flood](#)

[Hurricane](#)

[Tornado](#)

[Fire](#)

[Blizzard/Ice](#)

[Hazardous Material \(HazMat\) Emergency](#)

[Pandemic](#)

[Additional Resources](#)



## Plan Ahead for Emergencies

- ✓ Sign up for emergency alert text messages or voice messages at <https://lambertvillenj.org/resident/alerts>
- ✓ Assemble emergency supplies
- ✓ Discuss and come to an agreement with your family about:
  - How to receive emergency alerts
  - In case all family members are not present during an emergency, create a communication plan
    - \* Consider more than one mode of communication. For example, texts or emails sometimes go through when cell calls do not
    - \* Consider including friends or neighbors if you live alone
  - How to immediately evacuate your home, if necessary
    - \* Include two paths from each room
  - Where to seek immediate shelter if needed, including nearby areas of higher elevation
    - \* Consider friends or family for longer term shelter
  - How and where to reconnect
  - If able, assist elderly neighbors who may not be able to manage on their own
- ✓ Store important documents in safety deposit box or fire and waterproof lockbox:
  - Medication list and pertinent medical information
  - Proof of address
  - Deed/lease to home
  - Passports
  - Birth certificates
  - Social Security cards
  - Insurance policies
  - Printed list of important contacts
  - Extra cash
  - Current photographs of home and car for insurance purposes
  - Copy, scan or photograph important documents and store on cloud, phone or external drive for ready access, in case of evacuation

### Be sure to:

- Make sure your house number is easily visible from the street, even at night
- Protect surge-prone devices
- Learn how to manually release your garage door



## Emergency Supplies

Have the following items ready and easily available in case of an emergency:

- ✓ ***Non-perishable food***, minimum of 3 days, along with paper plate, disposal utensils, can opener
- ✓ ***1 gallon of water per day for each person***, minimum of 3 days
- ✓ ***Infant formula & bottles, diapers, wipes***
- ✓ ***Medications***
- ✓ ***Copies/backups of important documents, e.g. medical and home owners insurance info, contact numbers***
- ✓ ***Emergency cash***
- ✓ Flashlight(s), extra batteries
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio
- ✓ Family first aid kit with gauze, tape, bandages, antibiotic ointment, aspirin, a blanket, nonlatex gloves, scissors, hydrocortisone, thermometer, tweezers and instant cold compress
- ✓ Blankets/sleeping bags
- ✓ Whistle to signal for help so rescuers can locate you
- ✓ Extra clothes
- ✓ Kitty litter, wipes/hand sanitizer and garbage bags for sanitation
- ✓ Food and water for pets
- ✓ Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- ✓ Wrench, screwdriver, pliers, dusk masks

### Helpful tip:

Purchase a clear storage bin to hold your supplies and store it in an easily accessible place.



***Bold, italicized items*** constitute a basic evacuation kit. As such, they should be collected and stored for easy transport, should evacuation be required. Be sure to consider your personal needs and be prepared.



## Flood Action Plan

- ✓ Actively monitor Lambertville Emergency Management alerts
- ✓ Stay put, unless directed otherwise
  - If in vulnerable area, prepare to evacuate
- ✓ Flash flooding can happen extremely rapidly, and violently:
  - Be prepared to quickly evacuate to higher elevation, if required
  - Basement living spaces are especially at risk to flash flooding and should be evacuated at first sign of water penetration
- ✓ River flooding is more predictable and allows for greater preparation:
  - Move important things to a higher floor
  - Shut off pilot lights of gas-powered appliances
  - Turn off your electricity at the main breaker
  - Arrange to stay with friends or family prior to expected flooding
- ✓ When evacuating:
  - Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters
  - Avoid bridges over fast moving water
  - Stay away from flooded areas, including roads and washed out bridges, or when returning is allowed
- ✓ Upon return:
  - Avoid drinking or using water until you know it is safe, check food for spoilage, and wear protective clothing during clean-up
  - Document damage with photographs to help with insurance claims
  - During clean-up, be aware of and do not mix certain chemicals: <https://sciencenotes.org/household-chemicals-you-should-never-mix/>



## Hurricane Action Plan

- ✓ Actively monitor the situation and prepare for storm
  - Remove all loose items from your property and exterior of the home
  - Reinforce your garage door/s
  - Ensure evacuation kit is ready, if needed
  
- ✓ If not evacuating, during storm
  - Stay inside, away from windows, doors, and other areas more susceptible to damage
  - Hunker down in an interior room on the lower level of the home
  
- ✓ When evacuating:
  - Turn off electricity at the main breaker
  - Shut off pilot lights of gas-powered appliances
  - Follow safety routes outlined by officials
  - Always stay away from loose power lines and electric wires
  - Stay away from flooded areas, including roads and washed out bridges, when evacuating or when returning is allowed
  
- ✓ Upon return:
  - Avoid drinking or using water until you know it is safe, check food for spoilage, and wear protective clothing during clean-up
  - During clean-up, be aware of and do not mix certain chemicals: <https://sciencenotes.org/household-chemicals-you-should-never-mix/>
  - Document damage with photographs to help with insurance claims



## Tornado Action Plan

- ✓ Actively monitor changing weather conditions when under a "Tornado Watch"
  - Be prepared to quickly seek shelter

- ✓ Take action if "Tornado Warning" is issued:

### **At home:**

- Seek storm cellar, a basement, or inside room without windows on the lowest floor (such as bathroom, closet, or center hallway)
- Cover head and neck with arms or blanket
- If possible, take cover under a heavy table or workbench

### **In public:**

- Seek out a basement, interior corridor, tunnel, underground parking lot or subway
- Avoid upper floors of buildings, rooms with wide, flat roofs, e.g. auditoriums, gymnasiums, trailers and parked vehicles
- Stay away from windows

### **Outside:**

- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck
- If you're driving, drive at right angles to the tornado's path; if you can't escape it, get out of the vehicle and seek a low-lying area; avoid getting under overpass or bridge (where winds or debris might be funneled)
- Lie flat in a ditch or other low-lying area and protect your head; stay away from poles or overhead lines. Otherwise, stay in the vehicle with the seat belt on, keeping your head below the windows and covering it with your hands or a blanket

- ✓ Document damage with photographs to help with insurance claims

### **Tornado Watch:**

- Indicates weather conditions *could* lead to tornadoes
- Covers large areas, and can last for hours
- Tornado occurrence, timing, and location are uncertain

### **Tornado Warning:**

- A tornado has been sighted or indicated on radar in a specific area
- There is an imminent threat to life and property in that area



## Fire Action Plan

### Preparation:

- ✓ Keep at least one fire extinguisher on each floor
- ✓ Install and properly maintain required (check local code) number of smoke and CO detectors. Test weekly, replace batteries semiannually
- ✓ Identify a second exit from every room, e.g. a window onto an adjacent roof or a collapsible ladder from a second floor window. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily
- ✓ Sleep with bedroom doors closed—more survivable temperatures, livable oxygen levels, lower toxic carbon monoxide levels, reduced smoke inhalation

### During:

- ✓ If you cannot **safely** extinguish the fire, leave immediately and call 9-1-1
- ✓ Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and door. If either is hot, or if there is smoke coming around the door, leave the door closed and use your second way out
- ✓ If you open a door, open it slowly. Be ready to shut it quickly if heavy smoke or fire is present
- ✓ Keep windows and doors closed to prevent fire from spreading quickly
- ✓ Heat and smoke rise, so stay low and crawl on hands and knees
- ✓ If you can't get to someone needing assistance, leave the home and call 9-1-1. Tell the emergency operator where the person is located
- ✓ If pets are trapped inside your home, tell firefighters right away
- ✓ If you can't get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around doors with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight
- ✓ If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop and roll – stop immediately, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out. If you or someone else cannot stop, drop and roll, smother the flames with a blanket or towel
- ✓ Rally to family meeting spot

### After:

- ✓ Document damage with photographs to help with insurance claims

### Most common fire hazards:

- Clothes dryers
- Cooking
- Portable space heaters
- Unattended burning candles
- Fireplace
- Wood stoves
- Electrical safety
- Christmas trees
- Gas grills
- Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries\*
- Failure to keep heating system in good working order

\*—Tips for safe storage & maintenance of eBike, eScooter, and eSkateboard batteries can be found on the last page



## Blizzard/Ice Action Plan

With winter storms comes a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning and heart attacks.

### Preparation:

- ✓ Monitor winter storm reports
  - Winter Storm Advisory-light amounts of wintry precipitation expected
  - Winter Storm Watch-Medium confidence of heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain
  - Winter Storm Warning-High confidence of heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain
- ✓ Be prepared for limited travel and extended power outages from heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain events
- ✓ Prepare your home to keep out the cold
  - Insulation, caulking, weather stripping
  - Protect pipes from freezing
- ✓ After significant snow events, remove snow from around gas meter and make sure outdoor vents are clear
- ✓ Create emergency kit for your car:
  - Jumper cables, sand, flashlight, snow shovel
  - Warm clothes, blankets,
  - Bottled water and non-perishable snacks
  - Keep a full tank of gas
  - Cell phone with chargers and backup battery
  - Portable shovel
- ✓ Learn signs of and basic treatment for frostbite and hypothermia

### Important!

- Stay off roads
- If stranded in car, stay inside, conserve fuel, and keep car exhaust clear of snow
- Limit time outside
- Avoid overexertion to reduce risk of heart attack





## HazMat Emergency Action Plan

### At home:

- Use safe storage
  - Acids, bases, solvents, oils/lubricates, cleaners, pesticides should be sorted and stored in appropriate separate containers and should not be mixed
  - If liquid, a secondary, leak proof container may be considered
  - Reactive products should not be housed in a common storage container
  
- Know where you have stored hazardous materials, such as:
  - Flammable liquids
  - Toxic, corrosive and/or reactive household products
  
- Make Utilities and Contacts list and post near/in phone
  - Water
  - Gas
  - Electric
  - Heating service and type (for example: oil, gas, liquid propane)

### If you encounter a HAZMAT emergency:

- Call 911 with the following information, if known
  - Address and location
  - Any injuries
  - Any medical issues, dizziness, nausea, headache, weakness, slurred speech
  - Actions taken
  - Type of product(s) involved
  - Odors or sounds if evident in the immediate area
  - Container(s) or vessel(s)
  - Description of the physical scene, container or vessel (for example: 4-digit yellow placard)
  - Call back number



## Pandemic Action Plan

- ✓ Maintain personal health kit
  - Masks
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Wipes
  - Latex/nitrile gloves
  - Electronic thermometer
  
- ✓ Monitor developing situation and follow expert guidance
  - CDC information and updates: **text zip code to 438829, call 1-800-232-0233**



## Additional Resources

<https://www.ready.gov/>

<https://www.fema.gov/>

<https://nj.gov/njoem/>

<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/emergency/>

<https://www.osha.gov/emergency-preparedness>

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-specific.asp>

<https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/emergency-preparedness/emergency-preparedness-home>

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help.html>

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter-ww>

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/tornado-ww>

<https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/469/Community-Alert-Notification-System>



Fires caused by e-mobility equipment are occurring with more frequency. The following information is being provided to encourage safe storage and maintenance of Li-ion batteries used in electric bikes, scooters, skateboards, and the like. Although it was originally generated with NYC residents in mind, the safety tips apply more generally and are proved for your consideration. It has been downloaded from: <https://www.thecity.nyc/2022/12/15/23511702/how-to-safely-charge-store-maintain-e-bike-and-batteries>.

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## HOW TO SAFELY STORE AND MAINTAIN YOUR E-BIKE

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Dangerous fires caused by the lithium-ion batteries in e-bikes, scooters, skateboards and other equipment are happening more often in NYC. We know that a lack of safe charging stations and the pressure on delivery workers to make faster deliveries — and, sometimes, the use of cheaper products and damaged batteries — all make the problem harder to solve.

THE CITY newsroom wants to help you stay safe as we continue to report on the issue. Here's how you can prevent battery fires, according to the FDNY and other experts:

### EQUIPMENT & CHARGING

- Ideally, buy equipment certified by a third-party testing group. The most common one is Underwriters Laboratory, with the icon .
- Only use a charger manufactured for your equipment or device.
- Plug battery chargers directly into a wall outlet — **don't use extension cords** or power strips.
- Do not leave batteries unattended while charging, and **do not charge them overnight**.
- Do not charge batteries near heat sources or anything flammable.

### MAINTENANCE, STORAGE & DISPOSAL

- If your battery is damaged in any way, get a new one from a reputable seller. **Altering or adapting batteries is very dangerous** and could increase the risk of fire.
- If you crash on your e-bike or scooter, replace a battery that has been knocked or hit. Like bike helmets, **batteries should be replaced after a crash even if they are not visibly damaged**.
- Store batteries at room temperature, away from heat sources and anything flammable.
- Keep your e-bike or scooter and batteries away from exits and windows so that a possible fire does not block escape.
- Never put a battery in the trash or recycling**. It is dangerous — and illegal. Always bring batteries to an official battery recycling center