



Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 7, 2019

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County OEM's Tornado Warning Part Of Operations Plan For Weather Emergencies

Hunterdon County residents received a tornado warning call from the County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM, through the County's emergency reverse 9-1-1 call system on May 29th, as part of actions taken during the two-week period between May 22nd and June 2, that required constant weather vigilance by OEM, Freeholder Board Deputy Director John E. Lanza, liaison for the Public Safety Department, reported at the June 4th meeting.

Lanza reported, "We all experienced the recent heavy rainstorms in the area that resulted in some minor flooding, road closures, and vehicle accidents. What isn't widely known by the public is that in those extreme weather situations the County's OEM is on full alert and activates the Emergency Operations Plan for Severe Weather."

According to County OEM Coordinator Brayden Fahey, the County obtains weather information from both the National Weather Service in Mt. Holly and from the County's contracted third-party weather service Weather Works, and shares the forecast data with key stakeholders around the County, including local emergency managers, school administrators, and first responders.

The County OEM utilized the Everbridge reverse 9-1-1 system and the County's Citizen Alert system to advise residents of a tornado warning on May 29th.

Lanza stated, "OEM advises that they communicated weather related information via Public Safety social media accounts to nearly 40,000 users during the period. The OEM Facebook account has over 9500 followers.

I encourage all residents to sign up for the County's Citizen Alert system to ensure they receive the most up to date emergency information. The sign up is available on the County's website." www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/communityalerts.html



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The Freeholder pointed out, “Additionally, the grant funded ‘I Am Responding’ system is used extensively by the County to share real-time weather updates with 70 agencies in the County, including; police, fire, rescue squads, EMS, and local Emergency Management Coordinators.

This is another example of a County shared service where the local units are saved the cost of contracting for the weather service because the county provides the service.”

Lanza concluded, “My hat’s off to Mr. Fahey, the entire OEM, Public Safety and 9-1-1 team, and Chief of Staff George Wagner, for another exceptional behind the scenes job of protecting the people of Hunterdon County.”