



# Post Storm Safety Tips



TOWN OF SOUTHBURY  
LOCAL EMERGENCY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

More information is available at the Town of Southbury website at [southbury-ct.org](http://southbury-ct.org)

Other resources:  
**FEMA**  
[fema.gov](http://fema.gov)

**DEMHS**  
[ct.gov/demhs](http://ct.gov/demhs)

**OSHA**  
[osha.gov](http://osha.gov)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Generator Safety 1

How to take care of your storm debris 2

Alternative Heating Concerns 2

Crime Prevention after a storm 3

From the Senior Center 3

Food Safety 3

## Your Safety Matters

The Town of Southbury wants to be sure that residents remain safe during the restoration and recovery period following Hurricane Sandy.

There are many resources of great information available to you to ensure the safety of everyone. It is our hope that this information will be beneficial to you as well.

When you begin to survey your home after the storm, you should check for downed or loose power lines. If you have gas on your property, you should check all of the connections outside of the home and note if there are any strange odors such as an odor of rotten eggs, this could be a sign of a gas leak. If you do note such a smell please call 911 so that the Fire

Department may respond and investigate this for you.



**A tree down in the Town of Southbury**

If you see a downed power line **KEEP AWAY**. Do not touch anything in the area and call CL&P. Do not try to move it with a stick or another object, leave it alone until the proper workmen can move it safely.

You should also look at the structural components of your home, check the foundation, roof and chimney for any deformities that you have never seen before. If you have any concerns, you should check with the building department at 203-262-0609.

If you lost power, you should go around the home and turn the switches off of anything that was on at the time of the power failure, including, but not limited to heating and cooking appliances including hair dryers and toasters.

Also, be aware of overhead limbs and tree branches that may fall. Stay away and have them removed.

## Generator Safety

Many families are either using or purchasing generators. Generators are a great tool during times like this, but they can be very dangerous and even fatal for you, your family and utility workers if not used properly.

When setting up a generator to use, careful attention has to be made to ensure that engine exhaust will not enter the home. The exhaust contains Carbon Monoxide, which exposure to can be fatal.

Signs and symptoms of Carbon Monoxide exposure include light headedness, headache, sleepiness and confusion, and flu like symptoms. Pregnant women can sustain severe effects on a fetus as well.

# How to Take Care of Your Storm Debris



Examples of chain saw safety equipment

Many people will find that they have downed trees and branches. Please be sure to pay attention to any electrical hazards that there may be.

Many people will try and clean up the debris themselves. There are many hazards when using a chainsaw. Please be sure to use the proper equipment including good footwear, gloves, hearing protection and safety glasses. Be careful in how and where you are cutting as you do not want to have the tree bounce back at

you and possibly have the saw cut you.

You should follow the same precautions as generators when refueling and be careful to prevent strains and sprains. Chainsaws are notorious for creating injuries during storm cleanup, Please do not become one of these statistics.

The Town of Southbury accepts storm debris at the Kettleton Road transfer station. Please do not pile debris at the side of the road; this only creates a hazard for mo-

torists and our Public Works personnel.

Burning permits are available for residents who wish to burn their debris. Permit applications can be downloaded from the Town's website: [www.southbury-ct.org](http://www.southbury-ct.org) or be picked up at the Fire Marshal's office.

Please check the website for information about possible fee waivers for the transfer station and burning permits after any significant storm event.

*"Ashes from wood burning alternatives MUST be made cold before discarding them"*

## Alternative Heating Concerns

Many folks have alternative heating appliances. These appliances include wood stoves, pellet stoves, kerosene heaters, propane heaters and even fireplaces. As mentioned earlier with generators, Carbon Monoxide poisoning is a concern here as well.

All appliances need to be well ventilated to prevent an accumulation of the

gasses that come from these devices. Please be sure to keep combustibles clear of the appliance as a fire can occur if they are too close.

Ashes from wood burning alternatives **MUST** be made cold before discarding them. Ashes should **ONLY** be placed in non combustible containers because containers made of plastic and paper will

ignite.

**CANDLES:** Be sure that candles are handled carefully. Keep them away from objects including curtains, paper and other things that can ignite. Glass Jar candles have special precautions regarding when you should consider them to be empty of wax. Failure to follow this could result in the glass jar breaking.

## Generator Safety continued...



A residential type portable generator

Generators also present electrical safety concerns. A licensed electrical contractor must install a transfer switch before the generator can be used with the home's electrical service.

If your home is not

equipped with the proper isolation equipment (transfer switch) you should utilize only extension cords that are suitable for the electrical needs.

Refueling is another safety concern. You should never fill a generator when it is running and you should allow it to cool before fueling. Be

sure that the fuel is in a safe container and is located outside of your home.

**OPERATE GENERATORS OUTSIDE ONLY!**

# Crime Prevention After a Storm Event



**Power lines down near a metal guardrail presents for an electrocution hazard**

Everyone should pay close attention to people who are operating a scam. Generally speaking the Utility workers do not need to access the inside of your home. Check for proper identification of anyone who

approaches you as a Utility worker. Watch out for scams involving fund raising as well. If you have any doubts at all about the credibility of anyone, call Southbury Police Dept. at 203-264-5912.

The Better Business Bureau is a great resource for checking on contractors too!

If you have a Medical Emergency, smell smoke, your Carbon Monoxide Detector is beeping, or have concerns that a crime may have been committed, **call 911.**

Our Emergency Services Staff are available and ready to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## From the Senior Center

Storms create hardship and additional work for everyone. When dealing with clean up activity, pace yourself, and get support as needed. Contact friends, family or neighbors to help if needed so you do not suffer from physical exhaustion.

When performing your clean up work, pace yourself and if needed, hire someone to perform some of these tasks. Talk to a family member to seek out a profes-

sional to perform these tasks.

Of equal concern is emotional exhaustion. Living in conditions without power or water can be emotionally draining. Get out of the house and visit a comfort station when available which can provide lighting, a warm shower and a place to charge electronic devices such as cell phones.

The Senior Center also offers activities on a daily basis, — come down and visit us.

If you have sustained damage at your home there may be some processes you need to complete or some forms to fill out, such as with your insurance company. The staff at the Senior Center is available to assist you in completing these tasks, depending upon what the forms are. Please give Sharon Gesek a call at 203-262-0651 and she will share with you what the staff can do to assist you.

*“When dealing with clean up activity pace yourself and get support as needed.”*

## Food Safety

When we lose power quite often food will spoil due to the lack of refrigeration. You will need to remain vigilant of the condition of your food to prevent any food-borne illnesses that can occur from spoiled food.

Prevention of food spoilage starts with keeping the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as

much as possible

You should throw away any food that has a strange odor, look or texture. Heating or cooking foods that are like this will not make the food safe to consume.

Any perishable foods that have sustained temperatures above 40 degrees for two or more hours will need to be thrown away.

Thawed food that contains ice crystals or is 40 °F or below can be refrozen or cooked.

If using a cooler you should pack ice around all food items and pack raw meat, poultry and fish into a separate cooler.



# Town of Southbury

Local Emergency Planning Committee

501 Main Street South

Southbury, CT 06488

Phone: inquiry's may be placed to

203-262-0647

Fax: 203-264-9762



A Southbury road blocked after hurricane Sandy

**The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is an arm of the emergency response system of the Town of Southbury. Participants include representatives of all response agencies including the Police Department, the Volunteer Fire Department, and all three Ambulance Services. Other members include key Town employees representing Public Works, Building, Information Technology, Senior Services, Social Services, Webmaster, Animal Control, Fiscal Office, and the First Selectman's office. Other agencies and organizations represented include the Pomperaug District Department of Health, Regional School District 15, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Southbury Training School, local newspapers, First Light, CL&P, the Red Cross and our commodities manager.**

Questions about any Town Services should be directed to the 1st Selectman's office at 203-262-0647

## Thank You!

Words cannot express the gratitude for the great response from our local emergency response agencies during Storm Sandy.

Town residents should be proud of the collaborative working relationship of all of the agencies that have worked and continue to work during the storm and completing the recovery phase of this storm.

Our Public Works employees, Fire personnel, Law Enforcement and

EMS staff of all three services were out in the storm doing what needed to be done during the storm. They deserve a great thank you.

Behind the scenes there were staff and volunteers working on areas of developing shelters and comfort stations, monitoring food safety, tending to animal control issues and working in our Emergency Operations Center — all of whom contributed to assisting the Emergency Management Staff in reaching an efficient outcome for all situations.

Connecticut Light and Power worked incredibly well with us. Our liaison worked with us in a teamwork fashion for the residents of the Town of Southbury.

