

**Special Bulletin:
Restoration and Recovery - Important Information
from the Building Department**



HILLSBOROUGH

e-News

Updates for Sunday, September 5, 2021

**Important Information from the Building
Department:**

Hurricane Ida

As per the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, the following guidance will be used to assess hurricane aftermath:

September 5, 2021

If your furnace, boiler, electrical panel, fuel tank, or meters (gas or electric) were fully or partially submerged in water above the burner, you can contact the Hillsborough Township Building Department to request a damage assessment. To request a damage assessment that meets this criteria, residents may contact us at 908-369-5882, Tuesday September 7th through Friday September 10th from 8:00am-4:00pm. We will schedule an Inspector to visit your property as quickly as we can. Please be advised at this time we are currently prioritizing the most severely damaged structures. Thank you for your patience during this difficult time.

Further guidance for repairs to these systems can be found at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs website at the following link:

<https://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/codes/resources/stormrecovery.html>

Code Communicator Article Volume 24 Number 1 Spring 2013 Pg. #5

The State of NJ Department of Community Affairs recommended the following guidelines for use in addressing electrical systems in the immediate aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. The same criteria applies with

the aftermath of Hurricane Ida:

If electrical panel has been submerged:

- Pull the meter
- Clean and dry all breakers and bus bars
- Reinstall breakers necessary for temporary occupancy and restoration.
- Within 90 days, all breakers and bus bars must be replaced. In lieu of replacement, the bus bar may be certified by a licensed electrical contractor

Wiring that has been submerged:

- If undamaged, no replacement is necessary

Other equipment and outlets (receptacles, lighting, switches, alarms, etc.) underwater:

- Within 90 days, all other equipment and outlets must be replaced.

The state recommends the following guidelines for use in addressing plumbing and or mechanical systems in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Ida:

Plumbing and / or mechanical systems that have been partially or fully submerged:

It is recommended that a New Jersey licensed Master Plumber or Mechanical / Master HVACR contractor inspect the units affected. These units and systems should be evaluated to determine if units have been compromised due to water damage, and determine necessary repairs or replacements. Once complete, the Local Code Enforcement (Hillsborough Building Department Code Officials). All work should be inspected by the local code enforcement agency before final payment is made to the contractor.

Gas piping in a residential structure that has been totally or partially submerged should be blown out and pressure tested with a pressure of not less than 3 psi for a period of 10 minutes.

Gas piping in a commercial structure that has been totally or partially submerged should be blown out and pressure tested with a pressure of one and one-half times the working pressure, but not less than 3psi for a period of 30 minutes for each 5,000 cubic feet of pipe volume.

Where the gas piping has not been submerged, but the appliance has been partially or completely submerged, the existing gas pipe joints should be tested to determine if leaks exist. This can be accomplished by any acceptable method including but not limited to a “soap test”.

Gas-fired or oil-fired appliances that have been partially or completely submerged should be repaired or replaced. Manufacturer's instructions for repairs should be followed, if available.

Electrical components that have been partially or completely submerged should be repaired or replaced, prior to energizing.

The state recommends the following guidelines for addressing structural damage in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Ida:

Permits will be required, but not limited to, repairs or replacement of the following:

- Roof rafters
- Roof ridge beams
- Structural window headers
- Interior doorway headers
- Ceiling and floor beams
- Main girders
- Exterior wall framing
- Interior bearing walls
- Foundation walls
- Chimneys
- Retaining walls
- Accessory structures, such as detached garages, pole barns, and sheds

Permits will not be required for cosmetic repairs such as:

- Roof shingles
- Siding
- Gutter repair/replacement
- Window replacement
- Non-Structural repairs (such as plaster, gypsum board walls, bathroom tile, carpets etc.)

If you have any questions, please contact the Hillsborough Building Department at 908-369-4313 Ext. 7166 or 7164.

Debris Removal

The Auten Road Road Facility is closed Monday, September 6, 2021. It will resume operations on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 for storm related debris from 8 am until 2 pm. It will remain open through Friday, September 10th, from 8 am until 2 pm, daily.

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

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