City of New Bedford 2025 Hurricane Plan

Mayor Jon Mitchell

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

Promulgation Statement
City of New Bedford 2025 Hurricane Plan

A primary role of government is to provide for the safety and welfare of its citizens. The welfare and safety of citizens is never more threatened than during times of disaster and other serious emergencies. A goal of emergency management is to ensure that effective multi-discipline and multi-jurisdictional mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery plans exist so that the public welfare and safety are preserved.

The City of New Bedford's 2025 Hurricane Plan provides a framework for a city-wide plan to ensure a coordinated response and support when responding to a hurricane that threatens life and property within the city. The plan addresses the roles and responsibilities of all city departments, agencies, government organizations, volunteers and community partners that may be involved in response operations, and identifies how regional, state, federal, private sector, and other resources may be activated to address disasters and emergencies in the community.

This plan we developed with input from various city departments, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and community partners. The City of New Bedford Hurricane Plan assures consistency with current national and state policy guidance and describes the interrelationship with other levels of government. This plan will continue to evolve, responding to lessons learned from an actual hurricane making landfall here in the city, from ongoing planning efforts, from training and exercise activities and continuing state and federal guidance.

Therefore, in recognition of the emergency management responsibilities and within their authority vested by the citizens of the City of New Bedford, we do hereby promulgate the attached City of New Bedford 2025 Hurricane Plan on this 6th day of August, 2025.

Jon Mitchell
Mayor

Brian Nobrega, Jr.
Director of Emergency Management

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On the cover: Satellite image of Hurricane Bob making landfall on Aug. 19, 1991, courtesy of NOAA.

The following departments are directly involved with the review and execution of this plan:

- Mayor's Office
- Emergency Management
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Emergency Medical Services
- Public Information Officer (Mayor's Office)
- Department of Public Infrastructure
- Department of Facilities & Fleet Management
- Inspectional Services
- Community Services
- The New Bedford Port Authority
- New Bedford Public Schools
- Purchasing Office
- Chief Financial Officer
- Information Technology
- Animal Control
- City Solicitor
- New Bedford Regional Airport
- Treasurer's Office
- Auditor's Office
- New Bedford Cable Access
- Parks Recreation and Beaches

Outside Organizations

- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- SRTA Bus
- Tremblay Bus
- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Eversource Electric & Gas

HURRICANE EMERGENCY PLAN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to provide information and identify critical actions necessary to prepare for, respond to and recover from an actual or threatened hurricane affecting New Bedford.

For the most part, this plan contains material from the city's Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEMP) Plan that is applicable to hurricanes. It contains information for tasked individuals, departments and agencies to carry out their assignments in a hurricane emergency. The CEMP defines roles and responsibilities for each department in any disaster. The CEMP gives a brief description of those roles and responsibilities while this plan outlines those roles and responsibilities in more detail within a timeline. The CEMP is the city's overall emergency plan that is supported by other plans like this one. This plan will also help identify additional plans needed to support the CEMP and other plans. Both plans will be used in responding to any heavy weather event.

Departments and agencies having responsibilities under this plan are encouraged to develop their own emergency plan and/or implement procedures to respond to hurricane emergencies. **Appendix 1** of this plan is reserved for department-level plans. Departments included in this plan should have their own operational plan to deal with their roles & responsibilities that are outlined in this Hurricane plan.

Reference should also be made to the city's CEMP for a better understanding of the various emergency management functional areas (i.e., sheltering, evacuation, damage assessment, etc.)

II. HAZARD DESCRIPTION

Tropical cyclones (tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes) form over the warm, moist waters of the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.

- A tropical depression is declared when there is a low-pressure center in the tropics with sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less

- A tropical storm is a named event, defined as having sustained winds from 39 to 73 mph (34 – 63 knots).

- If sustained winds reach 74 mph (64 knots) or greater, it becomes a hurricane. The Saffir-Simpson scale ranks hurricanes based on sustained wind speeds—from Category 1 (74 to 95 mph) to Category 5 (156 mph or more). Category 3, 4, and 5 hurricanes are considered "Major" hurricanes. Hurricanes are categorized based on sustained winds; wind gusts associated with hurricanes may exceed the sustained winds and cause more severe localized damage.

- Other hazards such as severe rain, wind, and/or flooding can impact the city of New Bedford. Also timing off the tide cycle is critical when planning for a response to a tropical storm, hurricane, or any other heavy weather event.

Hurricanes

When water temperatures are at least 80° F, hurricanes can grow and thrive, generating enormous amounts of energy, which is released in the form of numerous thunderstorms, flooding rainfall, and-very damaging winds. The damaging winds help create a dangerous storm surge (rise in the water above the normal astronomical tide). While in the lower latitudes, hurricanes tend to move from east to west. However, when a storm drifts further north, the westerly flow at the mid-latitudes tends to cause the storm to curve toward the north and east. When this occurs, the storm may accelerate its forward speed. This is one of the reasons why some of the strongest hurricanes on record have reached the New England area.

Hurricanes can range from as small as 50 miles across to as much as 500 miles wide. The area within the 'eye' of the storm and the outer periphery are relatively calm with winds seldom exceeding 30 mph. The location of the eye is not that important for New Englanders because the average forward speed of the entire storm averages 33 mph at the latitude of the Commonwealth. Customarily, an eye that is 15 miles wide will last for 30 minutes or less at any one location.

There generally are two source regions for the storms that have the potential to strike New England:

1) off the Cape Verde Islands near the west coast of Africa, and

2) in the Bahamas. The Cape Verde storms tend to be very large in diameter, since they

have a week or more to traverse the Atlantic Ocean and grow. Bahamas storms tend to be smaller, but they can also be just as powerful, and their effects can reach New England in only a day or two.

The official hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. However, from 1950-2015, there are no records of a land-falling hurricane in New England during June or July. August, September, and the first half of October are when the storms most frequently occur in New England. This is due, in large part, to the fact that it takes a considerable amount of time for the waters south of Long Island to warm to the temperature necessary to sustain the storms this far north.

Based on a 30-year climate period from 1991-2020, an average Atlantic hurricane season has 14 named storms. 7 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. (Category 3 or greater).

A glossary of hurricane terms may be found in **Appendix 14.**

III. HURRICANE HAZARDS AND VULNERABILITY

Hurricane Hazards:

The three major hazards produced by a hurricane are storm surge, high winds and rainfall.

a. **Storm Surge**. The storm surge is a great dome of water that sweeps across the coastline near where the eye of the hurricane makes landfall. The mean water level may increase 15 feet or more. The advancing storm surge combines with the normal astronomical tide to create the hurricane storm tide. In addition, wind waves that can average 5 to 10 feet high are superimposed on the storm tide. This buildup of sea water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas. Additionally, factors impacting on storm surge level include the forward speed of the hurricane, landfall location and high tide.

As part of its Massachusetts Hurricane Evacuation Study, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has provided the city with a Hurricane Surge Inundation (Flood) Map and corresponding Hurricane Evacuation Map, found in **Appendices 3 and 4**, for use in evacuation planning and decision-making. These maps are a product of storm surge computer modeling (SLOSH) performed by the Corps and the National Hurricane Center indicating "worst case" potential flooding.

The New Bedford Hurricane Barrier is designed to provide flood protection to most of the city. The barrier and gates are constructed to a height of 22' above Mean High Water. Generally, the barrier and gates will withstand a storm surge of +/- 20'. However, SLOSH modeling indicates that surges generated by Category 3 and 4 hurricanes, which landfall on critical storm tracks with high astronomical tide and forward speeds greater than 40 MPH, can exceed the design height standards of the Barrier. Although storms of this nature are extraordinarily rare events, their occurrence is possible.

See **Appendix 3 and 5** for more information on storm surge protection offered by the barrier.

b. **High Winds.**
Hurricane-force winds (74 mph or greater) can destroy poorly constructed structures, down power lines and uproot trees and the surrounding section of roadways and sidewalks. Debris, such as signs, roofing material, siding, and small items left outside, can be propelled with high velocity.

c. **Rainfall.**
A typical hurricane can bring 6 to 12 inches or more of rainfall to the area it crosses. These rains can precede hurricane landfall by hours and may continue for many hours after landfall.

While heavy rainfall has only minor influence on the storm surge water levels, it can easily surpass storm drainage capabilities resulting in street (urban) flooding.

d. Secondary Hazards

Hurricanes can also cause secondary hazards such as tornadoes and electrical power outages. Potential cascading events include health issues (mold, mildew); increased risk of fire hazards; hazardous materials, coastal erosion; disruption to transportation; structural and property damage; debris distribution; and environmental impact. Contamination of water supplies may also occur.

e. Tropical Storm Hazards

Tropical storms and tropical depressions, while generally less dangerous than hurricanes, can be devastating as well. The winds of tropical depressions/storms are usually not the greatest threat; rather, the rains, flooding, and severe weather associated with the tropical storms are what customarily cause more significant problems. Serious power outages can also be associated with these types of events. While tropical storms can produce extremely powerful winds and torrential rain, they are also able to produce high waves, damaging storm surges, and tornadoes.

f. Vulnerability

While only a portion of New Bedford is vulnerable to storm surge flooding, the entire city is vulnerable to all other primary and secondary hazards associated with a hurricane or tropical storm.

Hurricane Severity and Damage Potential:

The Saffir/Simpson Hurricane Scale is used by the National Hurricane Center to give an estimate of the potential property damage from a hurricane landfall. This scale categorizes or rates hurricanes from 1 (Minimal) to 5 (Catastrophic) based on their intensity. Wind speed is the determining factor in the scale. (Note: In 2010, predicted storm surge ranges and potential flooding effects were removed from the Saffir/Simpson Scale).

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Category	Sustained Winds	Types of Damage
Category 1	74-95 mph 64-82 kt 119-153 km/h	**Very dangerous winds will produce some damage:** Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap, and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.
Category 2	96-110 mph 83-95 kt	**Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage:** Well-constructed frame homes could sustain

	154-177 km/h	major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.
Category 3 (major)	111-129 mph 96-112 kt 178-208 km/h	**Devastating damage will occur:** Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
Category 4 (major)	130-156 mph 113-136 kt 209-251 km/h	**Catastrophic damage will occur:** Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with the loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted, and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
Category 5 (major)	157 mph or higher 137 kt or higher 252 km/h or higher	**Catastrophic damage will occur:** A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

More detailed information on the Saffir/Simpson Scale, including resulting damage potential can be found in **Appendix 2.**

Location and tracking of a system can also be a major factor to indicate severity of storm impacts, especially when it comes to storm surge. Most storm surges happen when the force of the wind (called wind stress) pushes water toward the shore. For hurricanes in the northern hemisphere, this effect creates the largest storm surge in the right-front quadrant of the storm. The winds are strongest there due to the combination of a storm's counterclockwise rotation and forward motion

For Massachusetts, a serious scenario would be for the eye of a major hurricane to track west of Buzzards Bay. This would direct the strongest winds to push large quantities of water towards the shore, producing potential storm surge of 25 feet or more at the upper part of Buzzards Bay.

Normally, the following factors apply to hurricanes impacting the New Bedford (and Massachusetts/New England) area:

- The highest storm surge, the strongest winds, and highest likelihood of a tornado forming are in the right, front quadrant.
- The left, front quadrant contains a slight tornado threat, strong winds, and the smallest

storm surge.

- The left, rear quadrant is the weakest part of the storm with a flooding threat.
- The right, rear quadrant contains a slight tornado threat, strong winds with a flooding threat.
- While Category 1 through 4 hurricanes is possible, the cooler ocean waters in our area are not considered capable of supporting a Category 5 hurricane. A Category 5 hurricane is extremely unlikely.

IV. SLOSH MAPPING / STORM SURGE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – New England Division, working in cooperation with the Federal and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agencies, and NOAA, has recently updated its Hurricane Evacuation Study for Massachusetts. The purpose of this study is to provide coastal communities in Southern Massachusetts with data quantifying the major factors involved in hurricane evacuation decision-making. The study products contain state-of-the art information on the extent and severity of potential flooding from hurricanes; the associated vulnerable population; and the capacities of existing public shelters and estimated sheltering requirements as well as providing guidance on how this information can be used with National Hurricane Center advisories for hurricane evacuation decision-making.

As part of the study, the Corps prepared Hurricane Surge Inundation Maps for coastal communities using Sea, Lake and Overland Surge from Hurricanes (SLOSH) computer modeling. The resulting inundation areas are identified as Category 1 through Category 4, referring to the Saffir/Simpson Scale. The Corps considered the highest wind speed for each category, the highest surge level, combined with worst-case landfall location, forward speed and direction to develop these inundation areas.

The maps do not depict any potential inland freshwater flooding. Additionally, SLOSH modeling considers only storm surge height and does not consider the effects of waves.

The inundation levels do not account for future sea-level rise scenarios.

Hurricane Surge Inundation Map Levels

Category 1	7.9 Feet
Category 2	12.6 Feet
Category 3	16.9 Feet
Category 4	22.0 Feet
100 Year Flood Zone	17.0 Feet

The following information will be included in this plan:

* The Hurricane Surge Inundation Map for New Bedford may be found in **Appendix 3**

* The 2024 Hurricane Evacuation Map for New Bedford may be found in **Appendix 4**

* Estimated vulnerable population for evacuation areas identified in the Evacuation Map may be found in **Appendix 6**

* Medical, institutional and other “special needs” facilities within the evacuation areas identified in the Evacuation Map may be found in **Appendix 7.**

* Mobile home/trailer park facilities located in the city may be found in **Appendix 7.**

* Potential evacuating population for the areas identified in the Hurricane Evacuation Map may be found in **Appendix 6.**

* Public Shelter facilities identified as potential hurricane shelters by the city may be found in **Appendix 9.**

* There are an estimated 3,234 people who live in Zone A. These numbers are to include poverty rate, elderly population, and special needs population/facilities. Public shelter utilization/capacity may also be found in **Appendix 9** based on past state sheltering capacity. Usually, you see about 10% of the evacuated seeking shelter in a Mass Care Shelter Facility,

V. HURRICANE ALERTING AND WARNING

General

It is essential that hurricane emergency information is disseminated to appropriate local government officials and appropriate response agencies, as well as to the general public. To lessen the potential for loss of life in a hurricane occurrence it is also essential that any local government evacuation orders be issued in a timely basis and that such an evacuation order and related emergency information receive the widest dissemination possible to the general public though as many warning resources as possible.

Know Your Zone

The City of New Bedford will engage in public outreach via the city's social media platforms to encourage and utilize 'Know Your Zone" to ensure the public has a tool to identify their evacuation zone.

Here is a link provided by MEMA for "Know Your Zone" ….
https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=47f74f4743fd4ba6860c727681c351bc

Incoming Warning

The City of New Bedford Emergency Management Agency will utilize HURREVAC as well as updates from the National Hurricane Center and the National Weather Service storm advisories to inform the public pertaining to incoming watches and warnings. These warnings will be addressed up to approximately 5 days before the storm and multiple warnings will be issued as little as 3 days before the estimated arrival of the storm.

National Hurricane Center

The National Hurricane Center maintains a continuous watch on tropical cyclones and areas of disturbed weather. It prepares and issues analyses and forecasts in the form of text advisories and graphical products. The NHC issues coastal tropical cyclone watches and warnings for the United States and its Caribbean territories.

NHC products include:
- Tropical Weather Outlook
- 48-Hour Tropical Weather Outlook Graphic
- 5-Day Tropical Weather Outlook Graphic (late summer 2014)
- Public Advisories
- Forecast Advisories (more detailed than public advisories)
- Forecast Discussions
- Track Forecast Cone Graphics
- Wind Speed Probabilities Graphics
- Rainfall Estimates Graphic

When data confirms that a tropical cyclone has developed, the National Hurricane Center issues its advisory products at regular intervals:

Tropical Weather Outlooks are issued at 2 AM, 8 AM, 2 PM and 8 PM (one-hour earlier EST). Special Tropical Weather Outlooks are issued anytime that there are significant changes with areas of disturbed weather discussed in the Outlook.

Both Public and the more detailed Forecast Advisories are issued at 5 AM, 11 AM, 5 PM, and 11 PM. When there are watches and/or warnings in place, Intermediate Advisories are interspersed and issued at 2 AM, 8 AM, 2 PM and 8 PM.

The Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory contains more detailed information including forecasts of the cyclone positions, intensities, and wind fields for 12, 24, 36, 48, and 72 hours from the current advisory time

If a hurricane or tropical storm approaches land, the advisory information begins to focus on coastal and inland effects and Watches and Warnings are issued, as appropriate:

Hurricane Watch

Issued when sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are *possible* within the specified area in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Hurricane Warning

Issued when sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are *expected* somewhere within the specified area in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. The warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force.

Tropical Storm Watch

Issued when sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph or 63 are possible within the specified area within 48 hours in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone.

Tropical Storm Warning

Issued when sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph are expected somewhere within the specified area within 36 hours in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone.

NHC products are transmitted over the "NOAA Weather Wire Service" to public and private agencies and are available via the internet.

National Weather Service

The National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office in Norton issues daily Hazardous Weather Outlooks and Area Forecast Discussions. When there is a threat of a hurricane or tropical storm, these products will provide information on local concerns and potential impacts.

Once the hurricane or tropical storm becomes a threat to Massachusetts, NWS/Norton will issue Hurricane Local Statements following each NHC advisory and intermediate advisory. The local statements will consist of information on the expected or ongoing impact of a storm on the local area including projected wind, tide and storm surge, as well as recommendations for precautionary actions and completion times.

MEMA/NWS Conference Calls

When there is a threat of a hurricane or tropical storm, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) coordinates once or twice daily conference calls with NWS/Norton for local, state and federal agencies. These conference calls provide information to public officials on potential local impacts and future watches and warnings that may be issued. The EMD will attend these calls, but other city departments will be invited as well.

New Bedford Emergency Management

New Bedford Emergency Management (NB EMA) receives hurricane information from numerous sources, including a subscription to a private severe weather alerting service through the Department of Public Infrastructure. NB EMA is responsible for monitoring this and other warning sources during a period when hurricane advisories are issued indicating that a hurricane can be expected to affect the eastern United States. NBEMA also participates in MEMA/NWS conference calls.

NB EMA utilizes professional hurricane tracking and analysis software (HUREVAC). This software utilizes data from the NHC Forecast Advisories automatically uploaded via the internet, to provide detailed mapping of actual and forecast storm track; areas of gale, tropical storm and hurricane force winds; the likely wind speed and wind direction conditions at any point in the forecasted track; display of strike probabilities; and guidance for evacuation decision-making.

Outgoing Warning

Hurricane alert and warning information will be disseminated as follows:

A Mayor and Emergency Operations Group

Throughout the threat period as a hurricane or tropical storm approaches, NB EMA will provide hurricane information received from the various incoming sources to the Mayor and other members of the Emergency Operations Group (Police, Fire, EMS, DPI, Health, DFFM, etc).

Periodic coordination meetings of the Emergency Operations Group will be scheduled to review current waning information and discuss needed preparedness activities, evacuation issues (need for, level, timing of, issuance of order, opening of mass care shelter[s]), and emergency public information messaging.

B Special Needs Facilities

The city will reach out to “special needs facilities” (schools, medical facilities, child/adult day care centers, etc.) located in potential evacuation areas providing current storm information and flood potential, determining closing times for those than can, and determining the possible need for evacuation transportation assistance. This can be done via email, NB Alert, following city social media, or a face-to-face notification if needed.

C General Public

The general public will receive hurricane alerts and warning information through a number of sources, including:

- News media
- Emergency Alerting System (EAS)
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Massachusetts Alerts (powered by ping4Alerts! Smartphone application)
- NB Alert
- City of New Bedford’s Social Media Platforms
- Department Social Media Platforms once it is shared on the City’s main social media platform

D Warning Information for New Bedford Residents

Emergency information for New Bedford residents will be issued through the Public Information Officer (PIO) and made available via a number of Local and Print Media including:

- Local broadcast and print media including:
- New Bedford Standard-Times (print) and www.southcoasttoday.com (on-line)
- Radio Station WBSM AM1420
- New Bedford Government Access Channel (Channel 18 on Comcast’s cable

television system)
- City of New Bedford Official Website – www.newbedford-ma.gov

E Evacuation Orders – Direct Notification

Telephone Notification

In addition to warning methods outlined in the previous section, evacuation orders/recommendations will be provided to residents in areas to be evacuated using the city's Code Red System called "NB Alert" emergency telephone notification system. The city may also ask MEMA to send an emergency notification as well through their system. MEMA's system will ping all phones in a certain area regardless of whether they have signed up for an emergency notification system. EMA will coordinate this type of message when an evacuation order is given to ensure everyone is getting notified to the best of the city's ability.

Route Alerting

Additionally, residents living in areas under an evacuation order may be notified by public safety personnel making announcements in siren/PA equipped vehicles and, additionally, by door-to-door notification, in critical areas.

Depending on the predicted intensity of the storm, consideration will be given to door-to-door notifications to residents of the two mobile home parks in the city's north end.

The New Bedford Police Department will be the lead agency responsible for evacuations. Other departments, including Fire and EMS will be assisting the police department as needed along with the Department of Public Infrastructure. Other departments may be called upon for their services as well.

VI. EVACUATION

General

Protection of New Bedford residents from loss of life from the hazards of hurricanes, primarily storm surge, is accomplished through the evacuation of residents from potential flooding and other vulnerable areas into safe areas and shelters. It is based on the following factors:

- the identification of storm surge inundation areas and corresponding evacuation areas provides by the Corps of Engineers Southern Massachusetts Hurricane Evacuation Study
- the identification of "special needs" facilities within each evacuation area requiring advance notice of an impending evacuation and/or transportation assistance
- the identification of other at-risk areas, such as trailer parks and marinas
- the determination of evacuation time based on the specific hurricane threat
- the designation of evacuation routes and establishment of traffic/ access control points, as necessary
- the designation of hurricane evacuation shelters for the general population and persons with "special needs"
- the assignment of public and private transportation for evacuation of the general population without vehicles and special needs populations.

Evacuation Zones

Based on the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Storm Surge Inundation Map, two (2) evacuation zones have been established. The Hurricane Evacuation Mapping (June 2014) identifies two evacuation zones areas as outlined below and discussed in more detail in **Appendix 4**.

Evacuation Zones

Hurricane Evacuation Zone	Zone Description	Estimated

		Vulnerable Population*
A (Category 1 & 2 Storms)	The sea level to approximately 15 feet elevation. Areas outside Hurricane Barrier only.	3,234
A with B Scenario 1	Added part of the city's south end outside of street hurricane gates from Woodlawn St and Rodney St South. THESE NUMBERS DO INCLUDE RESIDENTS ALREADY IN ZONE A ABOVE.	4,497
Full Zone B (Category 3 & 4 Storms) *****WIDESPREAD CITY IMPACTS*****	Sea level to approximately 22 feet elevation; areas inside and outside Hurricane Barrier	32,345

*Population numbers are estimated using 2020 Census maps and MEMA Population Maps

Evacuation Levels

Evacuation Level A will correspond to Evacuation Zone A

Evacuation Level B will correspond to Evacuation Zone A and B combined.

Additionally, based on the expected intensity of the storm, Evacuation Level A may be scaled back to include those properties closest to the water, etc. or increased to include property outside of the street hurricane gates. See **Appendix 4** for a map of the street hurricane gates.

EVACUATION ORDER: The Mayor, with the advice of the Emergency Management Director and the Emergency Operations Group, will determine the level of evacuation required for a threatening hurricane, establish time evacuation will be initiated, and formally order or recommend the evacuation of said area. Evacuation should be completed by the onset of tropical force winds.

The Public Information Officer will disseminate the evacuation order/recommendation through the various outgoing warning methods outlined on **Page 13** of this plan.

An emergency telephone notification to potentially impacted residents will be requested through the city's NB Alert system or WEA/IPAWS message by MEMA, if needed. These are geo-based rather than address-based notifications. Not all residents receiving these notifications necessarily reside in an Evacuation Zone. For an Evacuation Zone A notification, all homes and businesses located outside the Hurricane Barrier would be notified.

Evacuation notification efforts by police and other public safety personnel will be concentrated in critical inundation areas, as needed. Additionally, notification should be given to marina areas and mobile home/trailer parks.

The city may also request the state through MEMA to do a WEA/IPAWS alert as well for certain sections of the city. This will result in contacting residents who are not signed up for the NB Alert system.

Any evacuation order should be consulted with DPI as they are responsible for closing the 3 street gates located on East and West Rodney French Blvd and Padanaram Ave. DPI will have an operational plan on when to close these gates based on timing, tide height, and storm surge. The Mayor, EMD, and DPI Commissioner will be in contact with each other to decide to close these gates. Police, Fire, and EMS will also be notified before the closing of the gates.

EVACUATION DECISION - MAKING AND TIMING: The timing of the issuance of an evacuation order is critical.

IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT HURRICANE EVACUATIONS SHOULD BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE SUSTAINED 39 MPH (34 KNOT) TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS, OR THE ONSET OF STORM SURGE INUNDATION, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST.

Consideration must be given to:

- Warning Dissemination Time - the time required to mobilize personnel and equipment to conduct evacuation and issue consistent warnings to the public, and

- Clearance Time - the time required for vehicles carrying evacuees to clear the roadways after an evacuation order has been disseminated to the public.

  For planning purposes, the USACE Hurricane Evacuation Study recommends:

  7-hour clearance time for well-publicized evacuations occurring during the daytime; and 9-hour clearance time for evacuations which occur late at night or early in the morning. Evacuations should be done at all possible during daylight and before the onset of sustained Tropical Storm force winds. Hurrevac is a tool that can be used to get up to date evacuation times based on current forecasts. This tool should be used when planning and executing any needed evacuations.

The National Hurricane Center has developed the Decision Arc Method for calculating when evacuations should begin for them to be completed prior to the arrival of tropical storm force winds. This procedure utilizes advisories from the NHC along with clearance time data from the Southern Massachusetts Evacuation Study.

The hurricane tracking and analysis software utilized by New Bedford Emergency Management can automate this Decision Arc Method to provide recommendations for evacuation starting time.

Evacuation Routes

Primary evacuation routes have been identified for Evacuation Zone A and are listed in **Appendix 4**.

When there is a potential for a hurricane-related evacuation, the city will ensure these primary routes are in passable condition with minimal obstructions.

Traffic Control/Re-Entry Control

The movement of vehicles during evacuations may require assignment of Police Department personnel to strategic traffic control points during evacuations to ensure a safe and efficient flow of traffic out of the area and to limit the flow of vehicles coming into the

evacuation area. Additional entry-control points may need to be established. Entry control will be maintained until conditions are unsafe for public safety personnel. Additional DPI will provide traffic equipment to assist with the evacuation. Other departments such as Fire, EMS, EMA, and DFFM may be called upon to assist as well.

A listing of potential evacuation traffic control points may be found in **Appendix 4** however the Chief of Police can change these based on external conditions.

Evacuation Options

Residents leaving the evacuation area have multiple options including:

a. relocate to the home of relatives or friends in a non-evacuated/safe area.
b. relocate to a hotel/motel in a safe area
c. seek refuge at a mass care shelter

Many evacuees will relocate to homes of relatives and friends in safe areas. However, past experiences have shown that an estimated 10% - 15% of evacuated population will choose the mass care shelter option. A small percentage of residents living outside the evacuation area may choose to evacuate as well, relocating to an area or structure they consider safer.

Evacuation Transportation

Evacuation transportation to a mass care shelter(s) will be provided for residents who do not have access to private vehicles. Additionally, transportation assistance may have to be provided to special needs facilities to augment their own capability to move their respective residents.

Evacuation transportation, utilizing public and private high-volume vehicles (buses and vans), will be coordinated through the EOC if activated. A listing of primary evacuation transportation resources is found in **Appendix 8.**

A system of pick-up points and/or bus routes for transportation of the general population will be established and made known to the public via local warnings sources, and by police and other public safety personnel conducting evacuation warnings. Requests for specialized transportation for the elderly or those with disabilities, or people requiring an ambulance, will be relayed to the evacuation Command Post and if needed to h EOC.

An Evacuation Transportation Coordinator may be designated to manage this function or all residents utilizing supplied transportation will be brought to the city's designated storm shelter.

Evacuation Command

Overall coordination of any evacuation operation will occur through the EOC if activated.

However, if an EOC is not activated at the point of evacuation a command post should be set up and be utilized to manage resources and the overall evacuation.

Any route alerting evacuation warnings made by public safety personnel operating siren/PA equipped vehicles and/or door-to-door notifications will be carried out in the field utilizing the Incident Command System with the Chief of Police or his/her designee serving as Evacuation Team Leader.

Evacuation Phases and Tactical Action Guide

The evacuation of vulnerable population involves several phases that must be handled adequately for the evacuation to be a success. In each phase (except Zero Hour) there are several tasks, beginning when notification of the incident occurs and ending when the population has been returned to their residences.

The tasks serve as a guide for the carrying out the four basic phases and are consistent with the Massachusetts Evacuation Coordination Plan (DRAFT) guidance.

Mobilization: The block of time required by the city to make coordinated decisions about who will need to evacuate, and to dispense clear evacuation advisories to the public.

Evacuation: This phase is the time when evacuation plans and decisions are fully activated.

Zero Hour: At this phase evacuation operations are "complete" and deployed evacuation transportation resources are secured.

Re-Entry: This phase includes ensuring safety of the evacuated areas and structure assessments for evacuees to return.

Mobilization

72 hours+ prior to the anticipated arrival, the city will be monitoring the situation and discussing the potential impact to and needs of the community. As the event increases in likelihood, the charts found in **Appendix 16** list likely activities such as sharing information and mobilizing resources in preparation for an evacuation.

Appendix 16 has a checklist of all tasks that should be done during this phase of the evacuation and will be assigned by the Incident Commander or Operations Section Chief.

Evacuation

0-48 hours prior to the anticipated arrival, an evacuation order/recommendation has been issued and is currently fully active. As the event nears, the following chart lists common activities during the evacuation phase. Enough time will need to be given prior to the event in order to ensure that the equipment, resources, and vehicles used for evacuation will be secured before the onset of tropical storm force winds.

Appendix 16 has a checklist of all tasks that should be done during this phase of the evacuation and will be assigned by the Incident Commander or Evacuation Section Chief.

Zero-Hour

The city is experiencing the onset of tropical storm force winds. All equipment, personnel, and vehicles used for evacuation should be secured. During this phase personnel assigned to evacuation will either be released or reassigned to another task such as control points or security of evacuated areas as long as it is safe to do so. The Incident Commander will make this decision based on the current situation.

Return/Re-entry and Recovery

E-72+ hours after the hurricane, the city is monitoring the storm's aftermath and discussing the impact to and needs of the community. The chart below lists potential tasks, depending on the severity of the storm, to be carried out before allowing re-entry into evacuated areas.

Appendix 16 has a checklist of all tasks that should be done during this phase of the evacuation and will be assigned by the Incident Commander or Evacuation Section Chief.

VII. MASS CARE SHELTER

During the evacuation mobilization phase, the city will determine which facility or facilities will be opened to serve as a mass care shelter for hurricane evacuees prior to the evacuation order and will communicate the same to the public. The city has become a regional shelter as of June 2024. This will be run by American Red Cross primarily, but the city will have staffing assisting as well. However, the city should still have a plan to shelter their residents in the event Red Cross is overwhelmed. A secondary shelter may be opened to support first responders who are a part of the response team for the hurricane. Please see the City of New Bedford ***Emergency Shelter Plan*** for more information.

Shelter Facilities

A listing of mass care shelter facilities may be found in **Appendix 9**. Keith Middle School, 225 Hathaway Boulevard, has been designated as the city's Primary Mass Care shelter.

Shelter Operations

The shelter management and operation team will be comprised of personnel from, but not limited to, American Red Cross, Emergency Management, Community Services, and Health Departments, along with New Bedford Public Schools. The Police Department will provide uniform personnel for shelter security as available along with the city's Emergency Management Services. Other city departments may be called upon to assist with sheltering.

Shelter Functions

Services provided to evacuees at the shelter would include the following:

-Shelter registration and intake processing
-Provision of dormitory services
-Provision of food and beverage services
-Assessment and provision of functional needs support services, with available equipment
-Health and medical support services based on staffing availability
-Animal/pet shelter support services
-Return/re-entry transportation services
-Limited social and community program services
-Facilitate evacuee reunification, if necessary.

Shelter Supplies and Equipment

Over the past several years, the city has been able to amass a cache of shelter equipment including blankets, cots (regular, special needs, and bariatric), and other equipment, along with cargo trailers to transport this equipment, to operate an Evacuation Level A shelter.

A listing of mass care shelter equipment may be found in the city's Shelter Plan and with Emergency Management.

Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) Considerations

NB EMA is incorporating recent FNSS guidance into its mass care and shelter planning efforts. To comply with this guidance, the city will shelter those individuals with access and functional needs together with the general population.

The city has developed relationships with a service provider that can provide appropriate levels of care for shelter residents whose needs may exceed the capabilities of regular shelter staff.

No individuals seeking shelter will be denied access. Individuals arriving at the shelter without a caregiver will be accepted and efforts will be made to locate a caregiver through available staff and resources. Service animals will also be permitted to enter the shelter with their owner.

Minor modifications may be made to the dormitory/sleeping area, as needed, to meet the needs of shelter residents and limit the potential for separation from the general population.

A listing of functional needs support equipment currently in the city's mass care shelter equipment cache may be found in the city Shelter Plan.

Pet Shelter Considerations

During evacuation orders, individuals with pets at home are more likely to refuse evacuation orders, if they are unable to take their household pets with them or know they will be safe. Recognizing the need to have residents-at-risk take evacuation directives seriously, Keith Middle School has been designated as a pet friendly shelter.

New Bedford Animal Control will coordinate local pet shelter operations which is "co-located" with human sheltering, allowing evacuees to have contact with their pets at times and for purposes specified in the pet shelter rules. A pet shelter trailer, as well as separate, designated areas inside the shelter facility will be utilized for household pet sheltering. New Bedford Animal Control maintains a cache of animal shelter equipment and supplies that can be deployed to the shelter when activated.

Shelter Public Information

Emergency public information disseminated through the local media, Channel 18, city social media platforms and the city web site regarding evacuation should include a list of recommended items for evacuees to bring if they choose to go to a shelter. Recommended items include:

- blankets or sleeping bags; pillows
- special dietary foods
- flashlights
- medications for 3-5 days

- eyeglasses
- change of clothing for 3-5 days
-toiletries (soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- infant needs
- towel and facecloth

If evacuees are bringing household pets as well, recommended items to take with them include:

-pet carrier or cage
-collar and leash, if appropriate
-pet food
-medications

Maintaining Situational Awareness

It is vitally important to maintain current information about conditions inside the shelter(s) (i.e. capacity, staffing levels, resource needs) as well as conditions outside the shelter (damage to evacuated areas, re-entry times, etc.) The Shelter Managers will be asked to provide periodic Situation Reports to the EOC and will receive situational updates and information which can be provided to shelter residents.

Short-Term Sheltering

Short term sheltering can be defined as a place to take shelter for as little as 1-4 days. In a short-term sheltering scenario, shelter residents are advised they may return to their homes when the re-entry advisory has been received from the EOC and/or when electrical power has been restored to the area.

Shelter managers and staff will be mindful that shelter residents may leave to return home to check on damage/perform clean-up activities only to return due to the lack of electrical power or damage.

Long-Term Sheltering

If there is extensive hurricane damage, there may be families and individuals who are unable to return to their homes or can only do so to perform securing/repair/clean-up activities and must return to the shelter for sleeping and other services.

If the need for long term sheltering is determined through local assessment, then a request for Federal Assistance is made through which temporary housing resources will be provided if a federal disaster is declared.

As sheltering operations continue, functions may need to be expanded to include:

-Social and community program services
-Expanded health and medical support services, including behavioral health services
-Transportation support services

Appropriate city departments/agencies will work with local NGOs (social services agencies, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.) and state agencies to provide whatever additional assistance may be possible. In addition, the American Red Cross (ARC) may be

able to help with shelter operations.

As these operations continue, the city will need to make the decision whether to:

-continue shelter operations at current facility or merge facilities as the number of residents decreases

-relocate shelter operations to a smaller, appropriate facility (especially if schools are in session)

-relocate shelter residents to an ARC-operated State-Initiated Regional Shelter in another community (and provide continued transportation support services)

Shelter Demobilization

Once the emergency has stabilized and shelter residents are able to return to their homes or to alternate housing arrangements, the process of deactivating the shelters and demobilization of staff will be initiated. This process will be coordinated between the Shelter Manager and the EOC (if deactivated, the Mayor, Emergency Management Director and heads of appropriate Emergency Operations Group departments).

Once demobilization has been decided, the Shelter Manager will advise shelter staff and residents of the deactivation plan, time when deactivation will begin/conclude and continuation of certain services that will be required for shelter residents who will need transitional assistance.

Shelter demobilization should be done with ample time for the residents in the shelter to make arrangements to leave. It is recommended that an 8–12-hour notification should be given before closing the shelter. The decision to demobilize a shelter will come from the Mayor with support of the EMD and other local officials.

Return/Re-Entry Transportation

Provision of transportation resources for shelter residents returning to their homes will be coordinated through the EOC (if deactivated, the Emergency Management Director).

For short-term sheltering operations, transportation resources may be staged on site at the shelter or be dispatched to the shelter when needed or when demobilized. Transportation may need to be established on a scheduled or appointment basis, especially in the case of long-term shelter operations.

VIII. POINT OF DISTRIBUTION SITE(S)

Point of distribution site(s) (POD SITES) are centralized locations in an impacted area where survivors pick up life-sustaining relief supplies following a disaster or emergency.

The City of New Bedford recognizes the following location(s) as POD sites in the case of an emergency or disaster:

- New Bedford High School: 230 Hathaway Blvd, New Bedford, Ma 02740

The city has a POD Plan and can be referenced for more information.

IX. DIRECTION & CONTROL

The Emergency Management Director, working with and under orders from the Mayor, is responsible for coordinating all agencies involved in providing services necessary to preserve life and property.

A hurricane or tropical storm threatening New Bedford will require the coordinated actions of local government agencies and appropriate non-governmental organizations working together to protect the lives and property of city residents. The city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located at New Bedford Police Headquarters – 871 Rockdale Avenue, is the location where the Mayor, executive staff and heads of department and agencies with responsibilities under this plan gather to direct and control necessary emergency operations.

While the Emergency Management Director will activate the EOC at minimal staffing levels (primarily emergency management staff and volunteers) during the approach of a hurricane, the Mayor will order full activation of the EOC at an appropriate time to coordinate operations. Prior to full activation, regular meetings of the Emergency Operations Group will be scheduled to review and coordinate preparedness and response strategies.

When fully activated, the Mayor will determine the need for ongoing presence in the EOC by individual department heads or their representatives. Based on the anticipated intensity of the storm, continued presence may be required, or they may be released and report to their respective bases of operation with a scheduled time for reconvening at the EOC.

The EOC will continue in operation at an appropriate level after the storm to coordinate recovery operations including the re-entry of evacuees.

EOC Locations

Primary	New Bedford Police Headquarters 871 Rockdale Ave
	Emergency Management 151 Purchase St
Secondary	City Hall 133 William St
	Department of Public Infrastructure 1105 Shawmut Ave
	The New Bedford Port Authority (Port of New Bedford) 123 MacArthur Dr

X. PREPAREDNESS STRATEGIES

Ongoing Preparedness Activities:

* Test communications and warning systems periodically and maintain good working order.

* Test and maintain auxiliary power systems (fixed and portable generators) on a regular basis.

* Maintain, revise and exercise the general emergency operations plan (CEM Plan) and this hurricane plan.

* Departments and agencies with task assignments under this plan should periodically review and revise emergency plans and/or implementation procedures for their respective organization.

* Periodic training for emergency response personnel.

* Designate suitable hurricane shelter facilities throughout the city and survey periodically.

NOTE: Due to the potential for a Presidential emergency or disaster declaration

Following a tropical storm or hurricane there is a potential for a Presidential emergency or disaster declaration and the activation of FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program. This program provides partial reimbursement for eligible disaster-related expenses. It is essential that all city departments involved in preparedness, response and recovery activities keep detailed records of personnel hours, vehicle and equipment operation (and who operated them), purchases of expendable supplies and materials, and contracted services.

When There is a Threat of a Hurricane or Tropical Storm - Watches/Warnings Issued:

__ Review this plan (particularly Preparedness/Response/Recovery activities and Assignment of Responsibilities) and individual department/agency standard operating/implementation procedures.

__ Verify telephone numbers of critical contacts and test communications equipment.

__ Identify potential resources needed (as appropriate for department/agency) such as:
-EOC support staff
-Shelters support staff and shelter supplies/equipment
-Construction equipment (chain saws, backhoes, dump trucks, 4X4 vehicles, pumps, barricades, etc)
-Clean-up/recovery crews
-Communications equipment
-Evacuation transportation vehicles (ambulances, buses, wheelchair vans)

-Public safety vehicles with PA systems and personnel for evacuation warning

__ Operations Group personnel (and heads of all city departments) will provide for the protection of facilities and personnel under their control and ensure the preparation and availability of department resources

__ Establish time when EOC will be activated

__ Prepare to coordinate the potential evacuation and sheltering of populations from storm surge/flooding areas.
- Refer to Evacuation Phases and Tactical Action Guide, Page 18
- Determine facility(ies) to be opened as mass care shelter(s), coordinate staffing and delivery of shelter equipment and supplies
- Evaluate ongoing surge predictions and evacuation recommendations from NWS and MEMA.

__ Disseminate storm preparedness emergency public information through various media sources.

The Emergency Management Director will:

__ Track the progress of all tropical storms/hurricanes, participate in NWS/MEMA conference calls and provide periodic informational updates to Mayor and Emergency Operations Group.

__ Review/assess population and areas at potential risk.

__ Coordinate with PIO on providing storm preparedness information to city residents. (refer to **Appendix 10** - Hurricane Public Information)

__ In consultation with the Mayor, schedule/conduct periodic Emergency Operations Group meetings to coordinate preparedness and response activities prior to full activation of the EOC.

__ Activate EOC on a “stand-by” basis with minimal, internal staffing; Establish time when EOC will be fully activated

__ Continue to monitor the progress of storm and analysis software on a regular basis to guide the start of the evacuation decision making/implementation process.

__ Contact special needs facilities potentially affected by the storm and in need of evacuation transportation assistance.

__ Maintain communication with appropriate external organizations on an ongoing basis (MEMA, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Eversource, etc.)

__ Alert/mobilize evacuation transportation resources.

XI. RESPONSE STRATEGIES

___ Activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Heads of departments and agencies with task assignments under this plan will report to the EOC at a time designated by the Mayor (or an alternate with decision making authority).

___ Notify MEMA when EOC has been activated

___ Establish liaison and lines of communications with local electric utility (Eversource).

___ Assess at-risk population

___ Define areas where evacuation of population will be ordered/recommended (refer to **Appendix 3** – Surge Inundation Map and **Appendix 4** - Evacuation Map)

- Hurricane surge inundation (flood) areas
- Marinas
- Mobile home/trailer parks

___ Determine evacuation time using decision arc guidance.

__ Identify facilities such as elderly housing, medical, institutional, etc. where special evacuation considerations, i.e. individual/advance notification and transportation arrangements, are required (refer to **Appendix 7**). *The Emergency Management Director will have made initial contact with many or all these facilities*.

___ Declare local state of emergency (refer to **Appendix 12** for Sample Declaration of State of Emergency).
This is a prerequisite to request state agency resources through MEMA.

___ Notify MEMA of declaration

___ Issue the evacuation order/recommendation**.** (refer to **Appendix 11** for Sample Evacuation Order)

___ Notify MEMA of evacuation order and ask MEMA for IPAWS alert.

___ Provide information to the public, through local media and Government Access Channel 18, including:

- areas of ordered/recommended evacuation
- locations of mass care shelter(s)
- supplies to bring if going to a shelter
- available transportation for those without access to vehicles

__ Implement CodeRED/NB ALERT emergency telephone notification to target population

___ Implement and execute the evacuation.

__ Assign personnel to carry out evacuation notification, i.e. police personnel in PA equipped vehicles and other public safety personnel as needed

___ Provide needed traffic direction and control to affect evacuation, limit access to evacuation area.

___ Coordinate any needed transportation, of evacuees.

___ Establish evacuation Incident Command; field Command Post and transportation staging area(s), if necessary; provide situational updates EOC.

___ Response agencies will provide ongoing situational awareness updates to their respective representatives in the EOC.

___ Coordinate, as needed, the emergency response for such contingencies as:

- Storm-related injuries
- Downed trees, power lines and other obstacles
- Loss of electric and telephone service for an extended period of time
- Arcing wires and other fire incidents
- Traffic accidents
- Loss of traffic signalization/control
- Urban (street) flooding and road washouts
- Needed search and rescue operations
- Building collapse
- Wastewater system problems
- Water contamination
- Looting and other criminal activity
- Hazardous materials releases
- Animal care/control issues

Response actions will include:

- Provide for continued operation of water/wastewater systems, as long as safety allows.
- Monitoring auxiliary generators at critical public facilities. Consider powering such facilities by auxiliary generator prior to loss of electrical power.
- Establishing alternate means of communications with response agencies and personnel in the event telephones become inoperable.
- Emergency medical response and treatment
- Search and rescue activities
- Fire suppression and prevention
- Traffic control *(expedite flow or access limitation or restriction, as well as at dangerous intersection with inoperable signalization)*

- Address public health hazards posed by flooding, water contamination, etc.

- Police surveillance to prevent looting and other criminal acts.
- Ongoing public information dissemination through local media.
- Initiation of debris removal operations as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Identify a Debris Staging area and record location and quantity of all debris from cradle to grave
- Debris removal operations will be conducted in accordance with established priorities. Preference should be given to access to hospitals, police/fire/EMS stations, other critical facilities, and main streets.

__ Provide periodic Situation Reports to MEMA.

__ Maintain ongoing communication with Eversource Electric Community Liaison, reporting major problems and community restoration priorities.

__ Initiate preliminary damage assessment activities when it is safe to do so.

XII. RECOVERY STRATEGIES

__ Continue coordination of response/recovery operations, such as:

- debris removal and disposal
- public protective actions
- public health and sanitation
- restoration of utilities
- repairs to streets, traffic signalization and signage
- repairs to public facilities

__ Determine when and what evacuated areas are safe for re-entry.

__ Coordinate re-entry of evacuees
- __ Provide appropriate emergency public information
- __ Activate any needed return/re-entry transportation support for evacuees
- __ Establish traffic and access control points, if necessary; Assign appropriate traffic control personnel and barricades

__ Deactivate and demobilize mass care shelter(s) when no longer needed.

__ Coordinate security for damaged residential and commercial property, as well as areas without electricity.

__ Coordinate provision of disaster victims with food, medical services, and other support services, as needed.

__ Coordinate credentialing procedures for utility, response, and contract personnel to have access to areas where re-entry of evacuees is not yet allowed.

__ Continue public information efforts on such topics as:

- fire safety
- personal safety issues such as downed trees and wires, use of lighting devices, etc.
- areas of city to be avoided
- status of essential city services
- food spoilage
- where to call for various types of assistance/information

__ Provide initial “damage” estimates (OT and equipment costs, contract costs. damages, etc.) to Emergency Management Director, if requested, for Initial Damage Assessment report to MEMA to support a possible declaration request.

__ Maintain EOC on activated status as long as needed - possibly at minimal staffing.

- Consider twice-daily then daily meetings of departments and agencies involved in recovery operations to assess work performed and redirect efforts.

__ Provide assistance to federal and state officials conducting any Preliminary Damage

Assessment (PDA) in the city. PDAs are intended to document the magnitude and impact of damage to impacted communities and are an aid in determining if federal assistance is required or justified.

XIII. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General Responsibilities –

All city departments and agencies share some common responsibilities, whether they are specifically tasked below. These include:

1. Develop and maintain internal emergency plans and operating procedures.

2. Maintain a current inventory of department resources and ensure their readiness for use. Identify potential sources of additional equipment and supplies.

3. Plan for the safety and protection of personnel, facilities, equipment and critical records deemed essential for sustaining government functions and conducting emergency/disaster operations.

4. Maintain an accurate and current roster of organization personnel and a system for alerting and mobilizing them.

5. Ensure that personnel are trained in the use of department resources and to carry out their emergency/disaster task assignments.

6. Carry out emergency tasks and responsibilities in coordination with other response departments and agencies.

7. Assign and rotate key management personnel as organization representative to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), when required.

8. Maintain records of personnel and equipment hours, supplies and contracts used for emergency/disaster preparedness, response and recovery operations, as well as for other related financial transactions. (Potential for emergency/disaster declaration and resulting partial reimbursement of eligible expenses).

9. Provide damage assessment of equipment, facilities, etc., under the organization's control as well as any external infrastructure it may have under its jurisdiction.

10. All departments directly involved with the city's hurricane response should be prepared to activate all essential employees. The other departments may need to provide support, assistance and execute on tasks assigned by the Mayor. This requires all city employees to be prepared to work numerous hours potentially during off shifts and be prepared to stay at work during the duration of the storm. The Incident Commander will work with department heads to release staff for breaks and at the end of the response as well. Each department must plan accordingly to ensure the department can maintain their roles and responsibilities and rotate staff to ensure staff is rested. City employees may be required to perform tasks that may

be unrelated to the duties of their normal job responsibilities: these tasks may be assignments that involved efforts related to the execution of this plan. The collective effort from all departments and their respective team members is absolutely essential to ensure the safety of all being assisted as well as all city employees.

B. Specific Responsibilities

Mayor

1. Develop/approve all emergency management-related policies and make all final decisions concerning emergency management actions.

2. Approve all emergency management and operations plans to include this Hurricane Emergency Plan.

3. Order activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), when necessary, and at an appropriate level.

4. Assume responsibility for overall response operations and handle all non-routine problems during the emergency.

5. Make the decision, upon recommendation from the public safety departments to order/recommend the evacuation of hurricane surge-threatened areas.

6. Authorize activation of warning systems and issuance of evacuation instructions.

7. Direct the opening and staffing of mass care shelter(s).

8. Declare local state of emergency and issue curfew order, if necessary.

9. Designate an Evacuation Transportation Coordinator, if needed, to manage evacuation transportation support and a Disaster Information Coordinator.

11. Assume responsibility for continuity of government and continuity of operations activities.

12. When appropriate, terminate response and recovery operations and release personnel to routine duties.

12. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

Emergency Management Director

1. Develop and maintain this Hurricane Plan and other emergency plans

2. Monitor all tropical storms/hurricanes and provide periodic informational updates to Mayor and Emergency Operations Group.

3. Activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Mayor's direction

4. Coordinate the local government response to the hurricane/tropical storm, as well as appropriate recovery activities.

5. Make recommendations to the mayor regarding the advisability of evacuation of residents from areas at risk.

6. Maintain liaison with Eversource.

7. Provide periodic Situation Reports to MEMA.

8. Provide initial and detailed damage assessment reports to MEMA and formally request federal disaster assistance if an emergency/disaster declaration is received.

9. Coordinate with the MBTA prior, during and post storm

10. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department.

Emergency Management Department

1. EOC communications and operations support.

2. Field communications and other public safety support.

3. Assist with evacuation warning, if necessary.

4. Assist other departments as needed.

5. Assist with Mass Care Shelters.

Public Information Officer

1. Coordinate Emergency Public Information activities and warnings

2. Provide emergency public information and instructions, including evacuation areas and the location and opening times of mass care shelter(s).

3. Schedule media briefings involving Mayor and appropriate response officials and department heads.

4. Monitor public information reporting accuracy, correct inaccurate information.

5. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

6. Provide ongoing Emergency Public Information and news releases to the media and schedule periodic press briefings, as needed.

7. Notify Mayor and Incident Commander of any press related issues

Police Department

1. Designate evacuation routes, as appropriate and provide resources to manage evacuation

2. Provide traffic control, crowd control, and restricted area/re-entry control including patrolling evacuated areas.

3. Lead evacuation of residents threatened areas.

4. Provide security, as needed, to critical facilities including mass care shelter(s).

5. Assist in hurricane warning and notification support, including the use of siren/PA-equipped vehicles.

8. Conduct and/or support search and rescue operations.

9. Provide animal control services (see Animal Control Division, #15 below)

10. If necessary, designate “restricted” or “controlled” areas, and institute pass requirements if deemed necessary.

11. Provide assistance to The New Bedford Port Authority marine operations

12. Manage response for calls safely and efficiently.

13. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

Fire Department

1. Provide fire response, control and suppression during disaster/emergency period.

2. Assist with evacuation effort

3. Provide hurricane warning/notification support with siren/PA-equipped vehicles.

4. Conduct search and rescue operations.

5. Provide secondary emergency medical services.

6. Provide fire watch duties in shelter(s), as needed.

7. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

8. Provide assistance to The New Bedford Port Authority for marine related

incidents.

9. Manage response for calls safely and efficiently.

Emergency Medical Services Department

1. Coordinate and provide emergency medical response, triage and treatment to injured victims.

2. Provide patient transportation to medical facilities.

3. Provide first aid/medical supplies for emergency/disaster use.

4. Provide EMS support in mass care shelters, as needed.

5. Initiate a patient/victim tracking system, when necessary.

6. Assist Health and Medical Coordinator (Public Health Director or alternate) and/or hospital with establishment of temporary morgues.

7. Manage response for calls safely and efficiently.

8. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

Public Infrastructure Department

1. Assist Police Department traffic and access control operations with barricades, as needed.

2. Maintain and operate land-based Hurricane Barriers gates.

3. Provide equipment and personnel as necessary to assist in emergency response and recovery.

4. Coordinate debris removal operations and disposal.

5. Repair and restore wastewater system, public streets and recreational areas in accordance with established priorities.

6. Provide damage assessment of streets, wastewater system and other infrastructure under department control.

7. Track availability of all resources including equipment and personnel to support city wide response.

8. Maintain the flow of potable water through the distribution system and isolate and repair any areas where a rupture has occurred.

9. Sample and test water and take appropriate action to prevent or correct contamination.

10. Maintain adequate water pressure for fire suppression operations. If not able, alert other departments immediately including the EOC if activated.

11. Provide damage assessment of water distribution and storage system and facilities.

12. Provide engineering services and advice.

14. Provide when able emergency generators for critical facilities under the city's control.

15. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

Facilities and Fleet Management Department

1. Ensure safety and security of city-owned buildings.

2. Assist with debris removal.

3. Provide staging areas for response and recovery resources, if needed.

4. Provide damage assessment of public buildings, properties and public places under its control.

5. Coordinate temporary and permanent repairs of public buildings.

6. Maintain critical infrastructure including vehicles and equipment needed.

7. Maintain emergency generators connected to critical facilities.

8. Assist with evacuations of residents

9. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

Inspectional Services Department

1. Provide damage assessment of buildings and structures to determine structural integrity and code compliance.

2. Determine if structures can be occupied after damage. Condemn and post those that are unsafe.

3. Inspect electrical and gas services prior to restoration/reconnection.

4. Issue permits for structure repairs and temporary occupancy.

5. Order emergency demolitions, as needed.

6. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the

department

Health Department

1. Provide coordination, assistance, information, and resources as necessary for local health and medical services during emergency operation and re-entry phase.

2. Coordinate Health and Medical function**.** (Refer to Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan)

3. Monitor and evaluate health risks or hazards, as required, and take or recommend corrective actions.

4. Conduct sanitary inspections (food and drink, wastewater, housing, mass care shelters, etc.) and laboratory testing.

5. Detect and inspect sources of contamination dangerous to the general physical health and take appropriate corrective actions.

6. Coordinate insect and rodent control activities.

7. Advise on sanitary measures, safe waste disposal, potability of water, and other public health issues.

8. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

Community Services Department

1. Coordinate the delivery of human and social services to disaster victims by activating appropriate department and support personnel.

2. Provide staff support for mass care shelter operations and, if needed, coordinate the provision of extended services with appropriate agencies in the community.

3. Assess continuing human and social service needs of disaster workers and victims.

4. Work with the Public Information Officer to inform the public of extended services availability.

The New Bedford Port Authority (The Port of New Bedford)

1. Provide warning and emergency information and reminders to key port entities, facilities, and marinas.

2. Coordinate communications/activities with Fairhaven Harbormaster

3. Monitor and manage activity at boat ramps.

4. Ensure that fishing and other vessels tied-up at city-owned piers are secured properly during inclement weather.

5. Maintain liaison with marine interests, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hurricane Barrier Project, Massachusetts Departments of Conservation and Recreation (State Pier), and the United States Coast Guard.

6. Monitor potential large vessel safe harbor arrivals of storm.

7. Secure all Port assets and equipment.

8. Coordinate marine support for emergency/disaster response and recovery operations.

9. Provide damage assessment of Commission properties and facilities.

10. Coordinate emergency and permanent repairs of damaged facilities.

11. Liaison to the city with general port, fishing and wind partners.

12. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

School Department

1. Coordinate with the Emergency Management Director the use of school facilities and school food stocks for mass care shelter and feeding.

2. Provide school buildings and staff support for mass care shelters operations

3. Assist in damage assessment of school facilities.

4. Coordinate emergency and permanent repairs of damaged facilities

5. Maintain records of all expenses associated with the storm response and storm damage.

6. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

Communications Division/MIS

1. Coordinate Communications function with Emergency Management Director as outlined in the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

2. Maintain liaison with telecommunications providers, vendors and repair services.

3. Subject to availability of resources, provide communications equipment to non-equipped departments and personnel with emergency/disaster

assignments.

4. Coordinate with common-carrier telephone service provider (Verizon) the restoration of service and needed repairs according to established priorities

5. Coordinate assessment of any damaged communications infrastructure and organize needed restoration/repairs.

6. Maintain the Police and Fire radio systems along with the city's Mototrbo system.

7. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

Cable Access Department

1. Disseminate warning and emergency public information via access channels on local cable television system.

2. Work with local cable television provider (Comcast) to restore cable access capabilities that may be affected by disaster.

3. Work with Public Information Officer to provide disaster recovery public information on an ongoing basis, as needed.

4. Be available for all city's press conferences

5. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department

Animal Control Division (Police Department)

1. Coordinate emergency/disaster animal issues locally

2. Coordinate animal services and assistance necessary during a disaster including protection and care of animal victims and the disposal of dead animals.

3. Coordinate pet sheltering component of mass care shelter operation.

4. Rescue and capture escaped or stranded animals.

5. Order testing and/or quarantining of infectious or contaminated animals.

5. Arrange for temporary provision of food, water and shelter for animal victims.

6. Coordinates return of domestic animals to owners after emergency has passed.

Regional Airport

1. Provide warnings and emergency information to fixed-base operators.

2. Maintain liaison with local aviation interests, the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission and Federal Aviation Administration.

3. Coordinate any needed aviation support for emergency/disaster response and recovery operations.

4. Conduct debris removal operations on airport property to ensure expedient restoration of airport services.

5. Provide damage assessment of airport properties and facilities. Also record all cost associate with storm response.

6. Coordinate emergency and permanent repairs of damaged facilities.

7. Secure all airport facilities and equipment

8. Be present in the EOC if activated or have a representative in place of the department.

City Solicitor/City Solicitor's Office

1. Prepare local declaration of emergency, curfew orders, related emergency orders and resolutions, as needed, to provide for protection of life and property and public safety.

2. Advise Mayor on emergency power that may be exercised to effectively respond to the disaster of emergency and provide any needed interpretation of emergency laws and regulations.

3. Draft and/or review legal documents for any contracted emergency/disaster recovery work.

Financial Group

1. The following department will assist with the financial side of storm response.
    1. Chief Financial Officer
    2. Treasurer
    3. City Auditor
    4. Purchasing

2. Implement emergency purchasing, procurement and contracting procedures for supplies, materials, equipment and services in support of disaster operations, as needed.

3. Provide assistance and support to the Incident Command or designee with disaster reporting and damage assessment efforts, as well as with application for federal disaster assistance and documenting emergency and permanent work activities by city departments.

4. Maintain overall records of financial transactions during emergency/disaster periods.

5. Assist with the tracking of cost associated with the response to the storms.

6. Assist with the tracking of cost associated with any damage from the storm.

Evacuation Transportation Coordinator/Emergency Management

1. Alert appropriate transportation resources when evacuation of at-risk population is possible.

2. Contact special needs facilities/populations in at-risk areas to determine specific evacuation transportation shortfalls where city assistance may be needed.

3. When an evacuation area and time is defined, activate appropriate resources for secondary evacuation transportation and establish transportation routes/pick-up points for evacuees in need of transportation to mass care shelter(s).

4. Coordinate any needed evacuation assistance to special needs populations to shelters or alternate special care facilities.

5. Coordinate with Public Information Officer to inform the public of the availability of evacuation transportation for evacuees, transportation routes, phone number call for special needs transportation, etc.

6. Coordinate transportation resources for the return of evacuees from mass care shelter(s) when it is safe for them to return.

Disaster Information Coordinator (Designee of Mayor)

1. Gather preliminary preparedness/response/initial recovery costs, expenses and damage estimates from city departments. Prepare and submit Initial Disaster Assessment report to MEMA

2. Coordinate more detailed damage assessment activities.

3. Provide additional damage information (casualties, damaged/uninhabitable structures, long-term mass care requirements, local assistance requirements, etc. to MEMA and provides updated information as it becomes available.

4. Coordinate local assistance/support for any Preliminary Damage

Assessment activities in the city by state and federal officials.

5. If there is an emergency/disaster declaration and FEMA's Public Assistance Program is activated, serve as city's Authorized Applicant Agent, attend disaster assistance applicant briefing, and formally request disaster assistance.

6. Coordinate the documentation of emergency and permanent work performed by response agencies and the related purchase of goods and services.

7. Manage the city's Public Assistance Program disaster assistance claim through reimbursement and closeout.

American Red Cross

1. Assist with pre-disaster surveys of mass care shelter facilities.

2. May operate a city shelter facility as a State-Initiated Regional Shelter.

3. May support city's Local-Initiated Overnight Shelter(s), particularly if it transitions to a long-term operation, in such areas as staffing, disaster health services, mental health services, and feeding.

4. Provide emergency mass feeding on a fixed and mobile basis to areas heavily impacted by a disaster situation.

5. Coordinate disaster relief activities with other agencies and the city.

6. Work with city officials to coordinate assistance from other local voluntary agencies active in disasters. Provide individual and family assistance to meet immediate emergency needs. As needed, open ARC Service Center(s) to provide this assistance.

7. Continue to provide services to disaster victims through recovery period.

XIV. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Reserved for Optional Department/Agency Hurricane Plan and/or Implementation Procedures

Appendix 2 - Saffir/Simpson Hurricane Intensity Scale

Appendix 3 - Hurricane Surge Inundation (Flood) Mapping

Appendix 4 - Hurricane Evacuation Mapping

Appendix 5 - New Bedford Hurricane Barrier and Storm Surge

Appendix 6 - Vulnerable and Potential Evacuation Population

Appendix 7 - Special Needs Population in Evacuation Areas

Appendix 8 - Evacuation Transportation Resources

Appendix 9 - Hurricane Mass Care Shelter Facility Listing and Estimated Shelter Utilization

Appendix 10 - Hurricane Public Information

Appendix 11 - Sample Evacuation Order

Appendix 12 - Sample Declaration of State of Emergency

Appendix 13 - Sample Curfew Order

Appendix 14 - Glossary of Hurricane Terms

Appendix 15 - Department Emergency Telephone Numbers

Appendix 16 - Checklist for Evacuation Tasks