

Precautions to take if you live in a flood area

- Should a warning be given by the National Weather Service that flooding may occur, people living in low lying areas should prepare to evacuate when notified by the Emergency Management Office.
- Residents living in low lying areas should make arrangements as to where they will stay in case of flooding. Portsmouth High School is designated as the primary Hurricane/Storm Shelter for Portsmouth residents. The Middle School is designated as the secondary shelter.
- Sufficient clothing and prescription drugs should be packed and ready to go whenever an evacuation notice has been issued. Additional items to bring include: Pillow, blankets, flashlight, radio, extra batteries, toiletries, snack food, books, games, and baby needs if required. Pet owners should make arrangements well in advance to provide shelter for animals. Pets are not allowed in shelters.
- Before evacuating, be sure all utilities except natural gas are shut off. The gas company will turn off gas at the main feeder valve when it is required. In cases where propane tanks are used for heating and cooking, both the shutoffs in the house and at the tank should be closed.
- Residents requiring special assistance or life support systems should make contact in advance with Emergency Management personnel.

Remember, remain calm, and follow the instructions of emergency and rescue personnel. The best safeguard against being trapped in a flood is to heed the warnings of the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Office and move to safe shelter before it becomes too late. If you do not evacuate when asked to do so, no one will come to get you later.

HURRICANE "WATCH" - Threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours

HURRICANE "WARNING" - Hurricane conditions expected in 24 hours or less

Returning home after a flood

- Once it has been declared safe to return to your home, the trauma of dealing with the destruction can be overwhelming. Precautions however, must be taken to prevent accidents and further destruction from fire.
- Be sure that you know whether the electrical power is ON or OFF. Just because the power lines are down, does not mean that there is no electrical power. Electricity can be "back fed" and many people have died thinking that the power is off when in fact the power is being fed through another direction. Do not touch any fallen wires.
- Dwellings serviced by natural gas must be restored with a representative of the gas company present. Pilot lights for stoves, water heaters, and heating units must be checked first by a gas company representative before being ignited.
- During a flood, reptiles, rodents, and other small animals often times find shelter in buildings. A thorough search should be made before the building is occupied.
- A disproportionate amount of deaths and injuries take place during the cleaning up period after a flood.
- The removal of downed trees and debris can result in accidents and heart attacks to many that are not used to heavy physical labor. Now that the storm is over and you have made it this far don't tempt fate and end up being a statistic.

This pamphlet highlights some of the dangers that can and do occur both during and after a flood. This pamphlet is not meant to be all inclusive as to what should and should not be done. Residents living in low lying areas should make themselves aware of other material available from federal, state, and local agencies.

The Town of Portsmouth Emergency Management Office, Police Department, and Fire Department, will play a major role in any such emergency and every effort will be made to provide the professional services that you, the citizens, demand.

Robert Driscoll, Town Administrator
Harry Johnson, Director Emergency Management Office

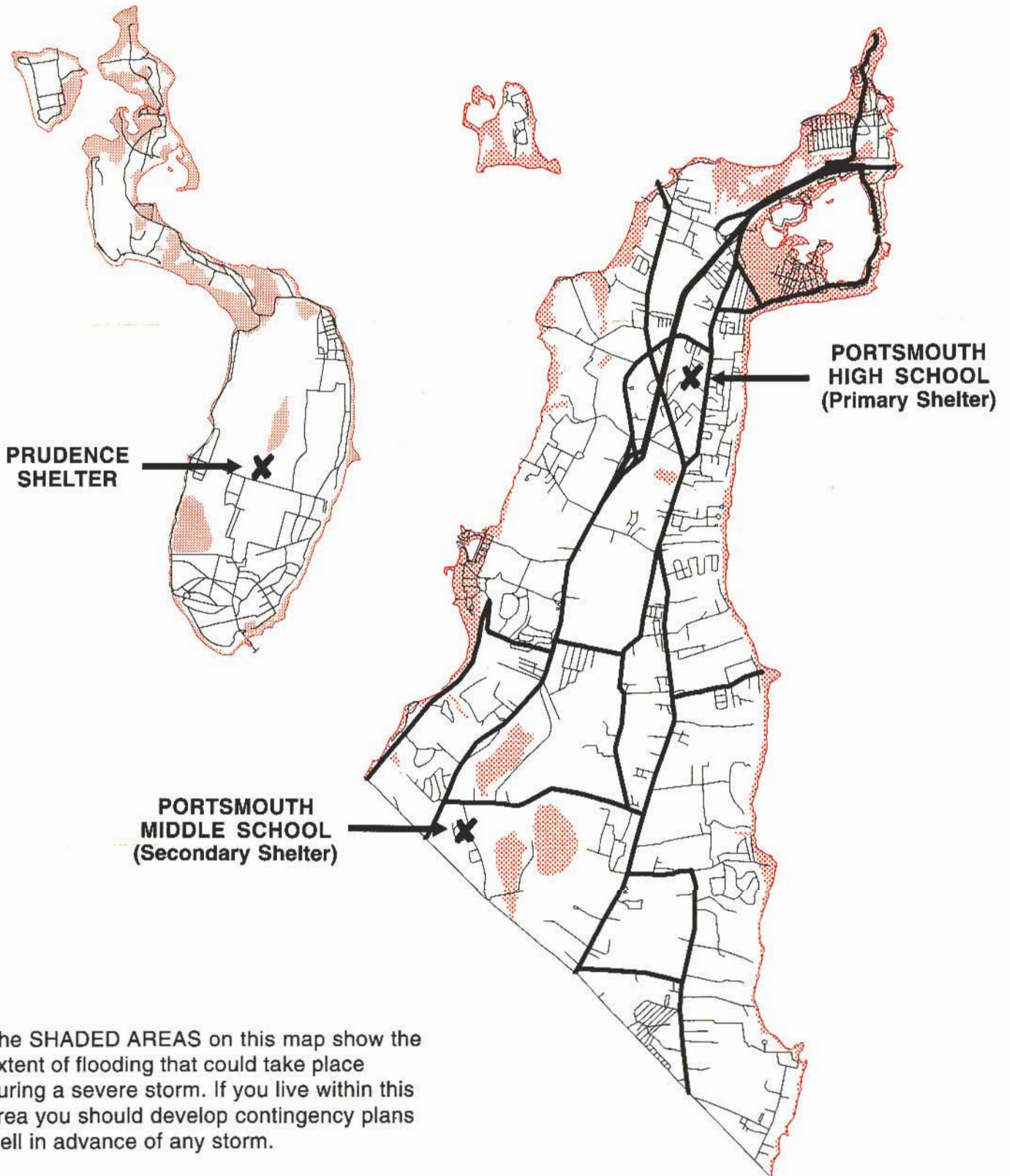
Portsmouth Police Department 683-2422
Portsmouth Fire Department 683-1155

Town of Portsmouth, Rhode Island

Hurricane Evacuation Plan



The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with Police and Fire Officials, has prepared this pamphlet to better prepare the citizens of Portsmouth to cope with flooding that may occur during hurricanes and severe storms.



The SHADED AREAS on this map show the extent of flooding that could take place during a severe storm. If you live within this area you should develop contingency plans well in advance of any storm.

Areas that are particularly vulnerable include all waterfront properties, Common Fence Point, and Island Park.