



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RELEASE # 2014-02**

**CHATHAM TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE ADVISES RESIDENTS  
TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS DURING WINTER STORM NIKA**

**CHATHAM TOWNSHIP, NJ** – February 5, 2014 – [The Chatham Township Committee](#) advised residents to take precautions after Governor Chris Christie declared a [State of Emergency](#) related to Winter Storm Nika. In addition, the Chatham Township Senior Center and the Library of the Chathams will be closed today, while the Chatham Township Municipal Building will open at 10:30 with limited personnel.

Mayor Kevin Sullivan, speaking on behalf of the Committee, said, “We encourage all Chatham Township residents to take the necessary precautions during this winter storm. We echo Governor Christie’s comments for ‘residents to drive carefully and remain off the roads if possible.’ We also ask that residents check on their elderly neighbors and remove any snow from fire hydrants to ensure easy access by the Fire Department. If residents lose power, they should call JCP&L at 1-888-544-4877 immediately so that they are aware of the problem and can work toward restoring power in an expeditious manner.

“We also remind residents to register for *Alert Chatham Township Now!* ([ACT Now!](#)) our Emergency and Community Alert system to ensure that they receive future safety and emergency information in a timely manner.”

**REPORTING POWER OUTAGES**

Residents should report power outages to [JCP&L](#) by:

- **Phone:** 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877)
- **Online:**  
[https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/customer/outages\\_help/Report\\_Power\\_Outages.html](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/customer/outages_help/Report_Power_Outages.html)

- **Text:** Text OUT to 544487 (register first by texting REG to 544487 (LIGHTS) to get started.)
- **App:** Download the free JCP&L app for your Apple® iPhone® and Android™ smartphone - use the keyword "FirstEnergy" to locate the apps in the online store.

### **POWER OUTAGE UPDATES**

Residents can view updated information on JCP&L's outages, their storm restoration process and tips for staying safe, by visiting

<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/nj.html>

### **DOWNED WIRES**

Residents should report downed wires to 1-888-544-4877 or to the Police or Fire Department -- never go near a downed power line, even if you think it is no longer carrying electricity.

### **HOME PREPARATION**

Residents are encouraged to prepare for the possibility of outages caused by winter storms:

- Keep a flashlight and extra batteries handy. Use care when burning candles; open flames are a fire hazard.
- Gather extra blankets or a sleeping bag for each person. Do not use gas stoves, kerosene heaters or other open-flame heat sources to prevent deadly carbon monoxide gas from building up in your home.
- If you have a water well and pump, keep an emergency supply of bottled water and/or fill your bathtub with fresh water.
- Stock an emergency supply of convenience foods that do not require cooking.
- Keep a battery-powered radio with extra batteries on hand. Tune to a local station for current storm information.
- Have a hard-wired telephone or a charged cell phone handy in the event you need to report your electricity is out. Mobile phones can be charged in your vehicle using a car charger when the power is out. If you have a smart phone, this will ensure you have access to online information sources.

### **About Chatham Township**

Chatham Township is located in Morris County New Jersey. It has approximately 11,000 residents and nearly 4,000 households. Individuals interested in receiving emergency and community alerts can visit [www.chathamtownship-nj.gov/resident-communications.html](http://www.chathamtownship-nj.gov/resident-communications.html) and can learn more about Chatham Township at [www.chathamtownship-nj.gov](http://www.chathamtownship-nj.gov)

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