

## Brookhaven Supervisor Mark Lesko Gives Update on Town's Response to Hurricane Irene

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**Farmingville, NY** - Over the last three days, Supervisor Mark Lesko has inspected the areas of Brookhaven Town which were hit hardest by Hurricane Irene and reports that he is proud with the Town's clean-up and recovery efforts to date. In light of these developments, at 1:00 p.m. today he lifted the State of Emergency which was in effect since Thursday, August 25.

"Hurricane Irene caused significant damage throughout Brookhaven Town, especially in the south shore and low-lying north shore communities," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "We have made tremendous progress over the last four days and I commend our Town Highway, Parks and Waste Management crews for their hard work under very difficult conditions to get the job done. I am proud of our efforts, but there is still more work to be done."

Supervisor Lesko also praised his staff for their efforts in obtaining heavy equipment from the State Thruway Authority that will greatly assist in the debris removal efforts. Currently the Town has received two large payloaders with operators and will soon receive two Tub Grinders that will be used to grind tree debris. He expects more equipment in the days to come.

Supervisor Lesko said, "The Town is way ahead of the curve in getting the emergency equipment needed to respond to the enormous amount of debris that was caused by Hurricane Irene. We were on top of this right from the beginning and our persistence has paid off with the equipment that we need most."

Superintendent of Highways John Rouse said, "The Highway Department was prepared to take the lead to coordinate the Town's clean up efforts. We are working at an accelerated pace with other Town departments to keep our roads clear and free of debris."

### **Power, Cable, Phone and Internet Outages**

There are approximately 190,000 Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) customers in the Town of Brookhaven and 13,341 customers remain without power. There are also a great many homes without cable TV, phone and internet service which is provided by Cablevision. The company has reported that there is now a 50% reduction in service outages and will work to get full service restored as soon as possible.

The Town's Traffic Safety Department also reports that of the 100 traffic lights that were out of service on Sunday, only 10 currently are not functioning. The Town expects full service to be restored soon.

### **Disposal of Residential Yard Waste and Debris**

The majority of calls the Town has been receiving at the Town's 451-TOWN Contact Center are residents who are asking the Town what they can do with storm debris. To accommodate residents, Supervisor Mark Lesko announced that the Town of Brookhaven's Department of Waste Management is accepting storm debris for free at four Town locations: the Brookhaven Landfill located at 350 Horseblock Road Yaphank, the Manorville Compost Facility located at Papermill Road in Manorville, the Holtsville Ecology Center located at 249 Buckley Road in Holtsville, and Percy Raynor Park located on Route 347 in Setauket. Residents can bring Hurricane related debris and yard waste to these locations and they will not be charged. Landscapers who bring debris will be charged the normal gate rates, as will those bringing in construction and demolition materials.

In addition, the Town has scheduled an emergency brush pick-up week from September 5 to September 10 Residents can bundle their yard waste on the curb on Sunday night and it will be picked up during the week. Yard waste must be bundled for the Town to be reimbursed by FEMA. The Town has sent an informational flyer to residents regarding the information for disposal of debris and yard waste which residents will receive by the end of this week. It can also be found on the Town's website at [www.brookhaven.org](http://www.brookhaven.org).

The Town will accept the following materials during the emergency brush week:

Acceptable Materials	How to Prepare Materials	Not Acceptable Materials
Brush, twigs, small branches (up to 6" in diameter), wood chips, hedge clippings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bundle, bag, or place in 32 gallon garbage can (bundles are preferred)</li> <li>- Bundles must be securely tied</li> <li>- Bundles must be no larger than 4' x 2' x 2'</li> <li>- 50 lb. limit per item</li> <li>- Place at curb, separate from garbage, on Sunday night preceding yard waste week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Large branches over 6' in diameter, logs, and stumps</li> <li>- Brush may not protrude above rim of container</li> <li>- No dirt or leaves</li> <li>- No loose brush at the curb</li> </ul>
Leaves, acorns, weeds, hay mulch, thatch, pine cones, needles, non-woody plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must be bagged; 50 lb. limit per bag</li> <li>- Paper or clear bags preferred</li> <li>- No more than 50 bags per week</li> <li>- Place at curb, separate from garbage, on Sunday night preceding yard waste week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No grass</li> <li>- No logs or stumps</li> <li>- No Loose items in cans</li> <li>- No dirt</li> </ul>

Although no logs, large branches, or trees will be accepted during emergency brush week, these items can be brought to the Landfill, the Manorville Compost Facility, Holtsville Ecology Center, or Percy Raynor Park at no charge. The Brookhaven Landfill is open from Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Manorville Compost is open from Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Holtsville Ecology Center is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Percy Raynor Park is open from Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Town has now resumed regular Monday-Thursday The Town encourages residents to place their trash in a spot that is visible and not blocked by storm debris.

### Highway Department

According to John Rouse, Highway Superintendent, over 300 Town employees from the Highway, Parks and Waste Management Departments and contracted vendors have been deployed in the effort to clear the roads. There are also twenty, two-man sidewalk crews deployed providing an additional 40 workers with chain saws to help remove trees and branches.

The Highway Department has responded to over 1,700 requests for removal of down trees and currently reports 431 trees that cannot be removed due to LIPA wires entangled in those trees. Nearly all non-LIPA related trees have been pushed out of the road, providing vehicle access for residents and emergency service vehicles. The Highway crews will be working extended hours until the process is complete.

### Insurance Claims

Due to the extensive property damage throughout Brookhaven Town, GEICO and Allstate insurance companies have Catastrophic Response Teams located at Brookhaven Town Hall, located at 1 Independence Hill in Farmingville, NY. Allstate has opened their mobile office in Town Hall and GEICO opened their mobile office in the parking lot of Town Hall. Residents who are coming to Town Hall to meet with GEICO or Allstate representatives are asked to bring their insurance policies along with a list of damages. It is also recommended that photos of the damage be provided.

## **Town Facilities**

When Supervisor Lesko visited Davis Park marina today, he was pleased to see that Town employees did an outstanding job of completely rebuilding the dock. Davis Park Marina will reopen Thursday morning.

All Town beaches on both the Bay and Sound have reopened for swimming as well as the Centereach and Holtsville Pools. All Town Recreation Centers, including Henrietta Acampora in Blue Point, the Mastic Recreation Center, the New Village Recreation Center in Centereach, the Robert E Reid center in Shoreham, and St. Michael's in Gordon Heights are now open.

Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh said, "I am glad so many of our residents remain safe and unharmed by the recent hurricane. Catastrophe averted Long Island. I was able to meet so many of our residents on my recent tour of the Third Council District and listen to all their concerns. I hope we are all back to normal as quickly as possible."

Councilwoman Connie Kepert said, "The men and woman of the Town's Highway, Waste Management, Parks, Fire Prevention, Building departments and all of our employees have gone above and beyond to help our residents get through the difficult aftermath of Hurricane Irene. They along with our Red Cross Volunteers, and Emergency and Fire Services have my sincere admiration and thanks." "The employees of the Town really came together to give the Town residents a first quality response" commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "Throughout this entire event I have been on the ground in the community providing updates to the residents by any and all means necessary because in turbulent times people need to be kept abreast of the situation with helpful information."

Councilman Tim Mazzei said, "We continue to see the devastating effect Hurricane Irene had on our local communities including flooding, power outages, and infrastructure damage. All levels of government are working together to help Brookhaven recover. Rest assured we will not stop until the job is done."

Councilwoman Jane Bonner said, "I have been through my district with the Supervisor and we are working directly with our Highway Department to give our residents needs immediate attention. We will also be closely monitoring the efforts of LIPA until all of our residents have their power restored. I thank those who have been effected by the hurricane for their patience under very difficult circumstances and I thank all the Town employees for their hard work throughout the storm and clean up effort."

Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld said, "On behalf of our residents in Three Village & Greater Port Jefferson, our Town Highway, Town Waste Management, Town Parks departments deserve great praise for their tireless efforts to clear our roadways and make it safe to drive where trees blocked safe passage. Where trees are still entangled in utility lines, LIPA must remediate those sites first. Although more residents have power every hour, LIPA's responsiveness, and in particular keeping our residents in the dark with information, remains an open wound for our community and we will not let up until everyone has their electric power restored by LIPA, the state power authority, and their contractor National Grid. While we appreciate LIPA's work in adding yet more emergency response work crews to our area - while our residents do not have power or an answer as to 'when' they will - this remains an exasperating experience for those left in the dark."

For more information about the Town's response to Hurricane Irene, call (631) 451-TOWN or visit Brookhaven's website at [www.brookhaven.org](http://www.brookhaven.org). Customers can call LIPA at (631) 755-6900 for updates and to report an outage or downed wires.

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