



# *News Update*

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## Dutchess County Emergency Operations Center

Creek Road ♦ Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Phone: 845/473- ♦.us

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Date: **March 7, 2011**

For Further Information Contact:

**Colleen Pillus, Public Information Officer**

**(845) 473-5328**

### *Flooding Update from Emergency Operations Center*

*Poughkeepsie*...The Dutchess County Emergency Operations Center was activated last night at 10:30pm to monitor storm conditions and impacts. Emergency Response Coordinator Dana Smith, Emergency Manager Ken Davidson and representatives from the Dutchess County Sheriff, American Red Cross of Dutchess County, New York State Police, Dutchess County Department of Public Works and other agencies are coordinating efforts to assist local communities in the response to heavy rains and flooding.

*Current update information:*

#### **Road conditions:**

- All Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) crews have been dispatched to deal with downed trees and other road closure conditions. DPW is coordinating efforts with Central Hudson to deal with downed power lines to allow roads and lanes to reopen.
- Motorists are urged to exercise cautions on roadways as conditions are changing rapidly.

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**Dutchess County waterways:**

- Ed Hoxsie, Executive Director for Dutchess County Soil & Water Conservation District, is monitoring water levels from the Emergency Operations Center.
- The Wassaic Creek Ten Mile River is currently experiencing the most serious flooding. Ten Mile River is currently just under 10 feet, flood level is 9 feet.
- The Wappinger Creek is rising faster and higher levels than anticipated for the storm event. Currently, the Wappinger Creek's level is more than 11 feet, which is considered to moderate flood stage. Water levels are still rising.
- The Fishkill Creek is experiencing rising water levels and is approaching flood stage. The Fishkill Creek does not currently have a United State Geological Survey (USGS) gauge, creating challenges in monitoring water levels and providing early notification for flooding. Several inches of water are reported in the Elm Street area of Village of Fishkill. Jackson Street in the Village of Fishkill is also reporting flooding.

**Power Outage Status:**

- Central Hudson has reported just under 10,000 customers without power in Dutchess County.
- New York State Gas & Electric has reported limited, sporadic customer outages.

**Shelters & Reception Areas:**

- American Red Cross opened an emergency shelter at new Amenia Town Hall located at 4988 Route 22 in Amenia last night to after the Hamlet of Wassaic was evacuated. 32 people were accommodated at the shelter overnight. The shelter currently remains open.
- The Town of Northeast has opened a local warming center at the American Legion located at 155 Route 44 in Northeast. Residents are encouraged to bring some recreational items to fight boredom, any necessary medications as well as food items.
- The Town of Pine Plains has opened a local warming center at the Community Center located at 85 South Main Street in Pine Plains.

- Dutchess County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is on standby to provide assistance as needed to the American Red Cross for shelter operations.

**Emergency calls:**

- Nearly 500 dispatches have been received by the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response 911 Dispatch Center since 10:30pm last night.

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