



## PAVING THE WAY FOR REBUILDING

*The Christie Administration Remains Committed To Rebuilding Safer, More Resilient Communities In The Aftermath Of Superstorm Sandy*

In addition to completely destroying thousands of homes throughout New Jersey, Superstorm Sandy also rendered many others unsafe. These structurally unsound houses jeopardize public safety and have resulted in a need for demolition.

Approximately 3,000 demolitions are taking places across the state, especially in towns across Ocean, Monmouth and Middlesex counties. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is taking the lead in providing demolition guidance to municipalities and helping to coordinate home demolitions that are being conducted through FEMA's private property debris removal program. More information on demolition guidance can be found here:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/special/hurricane-sandy/docs/demolition-guidance.pdf>

A flurry of demolitions is expected over the remainder of the summer. In particular, demolitions are occurring or planned shortly in some of the hardest hit towns, including Brick, Toms River, Mantoloking, Tuckerton, Berkeley, Little Egg Harbor, Keansburg and Union Beach.

The DEP has taken a number of key actions to ensure rebuilding occurs quickly, including:

- Adopting a permit by rule process that eliminates the need for DEP permits for property owners who elevate their properties to state standards based on the most up-to-date FEMA flood mapping;
- Adopting rules that streamline DEP permits for various types of vital rebuilding projects, an action that will aid reconstruction of impacted homes and businesses, assist the recovery of marinas and shellfish industries, help make coastal areas more resilient in future storms, and expedite dredging of storm-impacted private lagoons and marinas.
- Working with local governments to provide guidelines for the safe demolition of structures as well as providing demolition outreach to municipalities;
- Developing the system that safely and quickly removed more than 8 million cubic yards of land debris from storm-affected communities in the months after the storm, making demolition of severely damaged homes possible;
- Implementing the system that has removed more than 80,000 cubic yards of debris from New Jersey waterways, one of the largest undertakings of its kind ever in the nation;
- Extending an emergency order to allow local governments to rebuild impacted public infrastructure such as roads, bulkheads, and bridges.

In addition, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has multiple programs and grant opportunities to assist homeowners who have chosen to rebuild or remain in their homes, including:

- The "[renew Jersey Stronger](#)" Housing Assistance Initiative:

- The \$600 million [Homeowner Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation \(RREM\) Program](#), which provides eligible homeowners up to \$150,000 grants to help repair, elevate or rebuild their primary residences;
- The \$180 million [Homeowner Resettlement Program](#), which encourages eligible homeowners to remain in the nine counties that were most affected by the storm by providing \$10,000 grants to resettle in their existing primary home or in the same county.

For more information on DEP Sandy Recovery initiatives, visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/special/hurricane-sandy/>