



# The Avalon Home and Land Owners Association

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Scott Wahl noted that in May the Mayor presented a no cost plan for responses to emergencies in the Borough. In July a desk drill was conducted with the 16 communities in the county and the County participating. One month later hurricane Irene struck.

Two days before the storm hit Irene was forecast as a Category 2 hurricane. It was feared that wind and property damage would occur. As a result a phased evacuation was ordered with visitors leaving on Thursday and residents on Friday.

Flooding and other damage that was incurred during the storm was documented through photography. The lines of communication remained open and the Borough face book page received 312,814 posts and 40 feedbacks during the storm. In addition the

website received 19,734 unique hits during the storm and 52 updates were made in a 48 hour period. Use was also made of Channel 2, the 1630AM radio and the global connect reverse 911 calls. The County web site was hours late with its updates.

The Avalon Plan evolved around: Sequential evacuation;

A local bus company supplied transportation for those who needed it; Pets were accepted at the emergency shelter.

Because of factors beyond the Borough's control evacuees had to be placed at an alternative location and evacuees helped set up the facilities.

As a result of the Irene experience the Avalon program has been seen as a model for the State.

The Borough has been able to get a grant to acquire satellite phones which will enable communication to continue should other forms of communication be compromised.

The Borough has developed a new stand alone website — [www.avalonemergency.org](http://www.avalonemergency.org) — which will include advisories, evacuation information and suggestions as to which documents should be taken. A video will be produced for Channel 2 sometime in 2012.

It was stressed that any call for evacuation should be taken seriously since if conditions really get bad immediate help would not be forthcoming.