EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE ON CHAPPAQUIDDICK

PRESENTER

Chief Alexander Schaeffer

Edgartown Fire Department / Emergency Management

OBJECTIVE

Establish a clear understanding of storm response capabilities, community self-sufficiency, and infrastructure support on Chappaquiddick Island during severe weather events.

CORE MESSAGE

Isolation demands proactive planning—sheltering in place, community center capabilities, and resource management are critical to our island's resilience.

CHAPPAQUIDDICK ISLAND PREPAREDNESS

Severe Weather Constraints & Resident Readiness Standards

01 // TRANSIT & ISOLATION VULNERABILITY

Chappaquiddick Island faces unique geographical constraints during severe weather events. The primary transit link, the Chappy Ferry, is vulnerable and subject to abrupt suspension caused by high winds, astronomical tides, and storm surges.

02 // FINITE EMERGENCY RESOURCES

During island-wide storm events, emergency assets and mutual aid are finite and often heavily restricted. Because these finite emergency resources must be allocated appropriately to areas in greatest need, access to real-time data is critical for driving operational decisions.

03 // EVACUATION & SHELTERING PROTOCOLS

Given these realities, timely self-evacuation off-island is strongly recommended before a major storm hits. Once severe weather arrives, sheltering in place becomes the primary strategy for all homes located outside event designated high-risk flood zones. To prepare for prolonged isolation, Edgartown Emergency Management suggests an extended standard for resident readiness.

5-DAY

MINIMUM SUPPLY STANDARD

While standard FEMA guidance recommends a 3-day supply kit, Edgartown Emergency Management explicitly advises a 5-day minimum supply for all Chappy residents to account for potential ferry service interruptions and extended power disruptions.

STORM COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

Logistical Coordination & Multi-Tier Emergency Escalation

TIER 01 // NON-EMERGENCY FLOW

Resident to CCERT Line

When standard cellular network infrastructure remains active, residents should route non-emergency needs and local logistical inquiries directly to designated **CCERT Captains**.

Captains aggregate neighborhood reports to coordinate local support and streamline information passed to **Edgartown EM** for broader resource allocation.

TIER 02 // CRITICAL LIFELINE

Direct 911 Emergency Line

For immediate life-safety threats, medical crises, or active fires, residents must continue to utilize **911** directly.

911 dispatches pre-staged on-island assets—including the 4WD Ambulance and Fire Engine—for immediate local deployment.

BACKUP // GRID FAILURE MODE

Emergency Radio Network

If landlines, cellular towers, or primary communication networks fail, standard comms are considered non-viable.

Chappy CERT Captains will initiate emergency radio protocols to maintain a direct, continuous comms link with the **Edgartown EMD**.

CHAPPAQUIDDICK CERT FRAMEWORK

Neighbor-to-neighbor self-sufficiency and localized disaster response communication

1. Rapid Bilateral Flow

Direct situational reports between residents & Captains to inform Edgartown Emergency Management.

2. Triage & Check-Ins

Status updates on vulnerable residents, home safety, downed trees, and road conditions.

3. Resource Deployment

Information from CCERT Captains allows for resource allocation and proper emergency response.

DESIGNATED GEOGRAPHIC ZONES & VOLUNTEER CAPTAINS

ZONE 1: Cape Pogue

Volunteer Captains Unassigned

ZONE 2: North Neck

Captains: Woody Filley, Cynthia Hubbard

ZONE 3: Manaca

Captain: Mike Smith

ZONE 4: Caleb, Sampson Hill, Lower Litchfield

Captains: Mike Thompson, Peter Taft, Ann Rodney, Peter Vaz

ZONE 5: Slip Away Farm to Dyke Bridge

Captains: Luke Kenney, Bill McCauley, Lynne McCauley

ZONE 6: Firestation to Enos

Captains: Peter Callaghan, Tenley Callaghan

ZONE 7: Upper Litchfield to Bugle

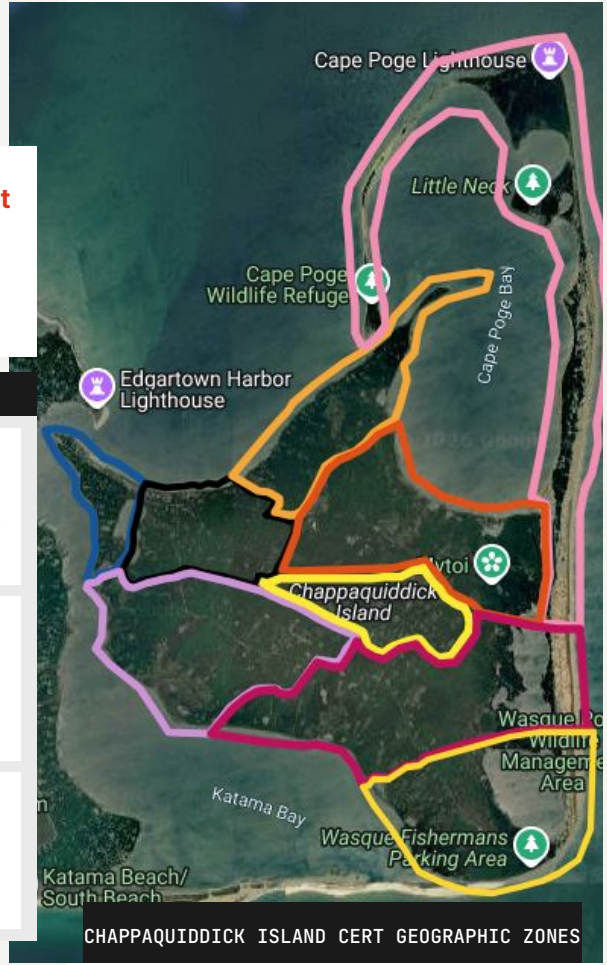
Captains: Laura Pla, Brendan O'Brien

ZONE 8: Wasque Watch to Quammox

Captains: Jay Hunter, Frank Nieuchouski

ZONE 9: Wasque

Captains: Kirk Oswald, Timothy Penicaud



CHAPPAQUIDDICK ISLAND CERT GEOGRAPHIC ZONES

EMERGENCY KIT & SHELTERING TIPS

Essential Supplies & Success Strategies for Extended Isolation

CATEGORY 01 // ESSENTIAL KIT

5-Day Core Survival Supplies

- **Water:** 1 gallon per person/day (minimum 5-day reserve).
- **Food:** Non-perishable, high-calorie, shelf-stable items & manual opener.
- **Power & Light:** Flashlights, extra batteries, solar/hand-crank power bank.
- **Medical:** Fully stocked first aid kit & 7+ day prescription refill buffer.

CATEGORY 02 // HARDWARE & TOOLS

Grid-Offline Equipment

- **Comms:** NOAA weather radio or VHF emergency radio.
- **Sanitation:** Household bleach, moist towelettes, heavy-duty trash bags.
- **Tools:** Multi-tool, duct tape, shut-off wrench for utilities.

Cell Phones: Fully Charge your device and consider a external backup battery.

CATEGORY 03 // ACTION TIPS

Shelter-in-Place Protocol

- **Pre-Fill Vessels:** Fill tubs and clean containers with potable water before loss of pressure.
- **Freeze Water Bags:** Fill freezer space to keep cold food preserved longer.
- **Establish Contact:** Check in with designated CCERT Captain prior to grid failure.
- **Secure Exterior:** Clear outdoor debris that could become dangerous projectiles.

WINTER & COLD EMERGENCY HOUSE MAINTENANCE

Critical Property Protection & Hazard Mitigation Protocols

CATEGORY 01 // HEATING & VENTILATION

Exhaust & Airflow Safety

- **Clear Heater Vents:** Keep intake and exhaust pipes completely free of snow and ice buildup to prevent CO poisoning.
- **Furnace Maintenance:** Inspect filters and clear surrounding area for continuous airflow during high usage.
- **Secondary Heating:** Safely operate space heaters away from flammables; clear wood stove chimneys.
- **Detector Check:** Verify carbon monoxide and smoke alarms are fully functional.

CATEGORY 02 // ROOF & EXTERIOR

Ice Dam & Structural Care

- **Ice Dam Prevention:** Rake roof edges after heavy snowfall to prevent ice ridge formation at overhangs.
- **Gutter Clearance:** Clear downspouts and gutters so melting snow can drain freely away from foundation.
- **Debris Removal:** Remove heavy icicles near entryways to avoid sudden impact hazards.

CATEGORY 03 // PLUMBING & FREEZE

Pipe & Water Defense

- **Drip Faucets:** Allow a slight trickle on exposed exterior-wall pipes during sub-zero drops.
- **Open Cabinet Doors:** Let warm interior air circulate around sink plumbing under exterior walls.
- **Know Main Shut-off:** Locate and test the home water valve for rapid isolation during pipe bursts.
- **Insulate Exposed Lines:** Wrap basement, crawlspace, and garage pipes with thermal foam.

WINTER & STORM PREPAREDNESS PROTOCOL

Fuel Readiness, Power Systems & Property Clearance

CATEGORY 01 // HEATING & FUEL

Fuel Top-Off & Storage

• **Heating Fuel Supplies:** Top off fuel tanks for home heating (oil, propane) ahead of severe weather or potential ferry interruptions.

• **Firewood Accessibility:** Bring an ample supply of firewood closer to the house, ensuring it remains dry and easily accessible in heavy snow.

CATEGORY 02 // BACKUP POWER

Generator Readiness

• **Power Verification:** Test and verify that all backup generators and power systems are fueled and fully operational.

• **Safety Clearance:** Ensure backup generators and exhaust pathways are placed far from structure openings and strictly clear of combustible materials.

CATEGORY 03 // SNOW & ACCESS

Access & Equipment

• **Plowing Contracts:** Contact private plowing companies early to confirm driveway clearing arrangements.

• **Equipment Checks:** Inspect snow blowers, ensure adequate fresh fuel mixes, and confirm all manual shovels are located and accessible.

PRE-STAGED EMERGENCY ASSETS & VEHICLES

On-Island Public Safety Readiness During Ferry Disruptions

OPERATIONAL TRIGGER

Anticipated Ferry Suspensions & Severe Storms

When severe weather threatens or the Chappy Ferry service is anticipated to be halted, Edgartown Public Safety proactively pre-stages dedicated emergency response equipment on Chappaquiddick Island and confirms that the Department is represented on the island by resident call membership.

This ensures immediate, uninterrupted public safety and medical response capabilities even when the island is physically isolated from the mainland.

STAGED ASSETS

Primary Fleet Deployment

- **4WD Ambulance:** All-terrain emergency medical transport equipped for rugged island roads.
- **Fire Engine:** Primary suppression asset staged indoors at the Chappy Fire Station.
- **Water Tanker:** Dedicated water supply for fire response independence.
- **Police Units:** Pre-positioned patrol assets for public safety and traffic control.





CHAPPAQUIDDICK EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

EMERGENCY SHELTERING & FACILITY ROLES

FIRE STATION: NOT A PUBLIC SHELTER

OPERATIONAL & REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS

The Chappaquiddick Fire Station **cannot** serve as a public shelter or warming center due to two critical mandates:

1. Immediate Deployment Requirements: Fire engines, Ambulances and emergency response vehicles must remain staged indoors for immediate operational response.

2. Pharmaceutical Security Standards: Strict regulatory and security standards govern active station facilities and temperature-controlled storage for ambulance pharmaceuticals, prohibiting general public access.

PRIMARY REFUGE: CHAPPY COMMUNITY CENTER

60

PERSON CAPACITY

Community resilience

Warming Center and Refuge Point, sized strictly to emergency square footage standards.

OPERATIONAL TRIGGERS & RESOURCES

Activation Conditions: Opens to the public when Chappy Ferry service is suspended, or as a warming/cooling center & power resource during extended grid outages.

Supply Cache: Chappy positioned Town emergency supplies include cots, blankets, emergency rations, and potable water.

SHELTER ACTIVATION PROTOCOL

Criteria & Phasing for Emergency Shelter Deployment

MODE 01 // PROACTIVE ACTIVATION

Pre-Event Deployment

Shelter facilities may be activated **proactively** prior to or at the onset of an event when forecast modeling and environmental data clearly indicate that specific geographical areas will be unable to sustain habitable conditions and the citizens at risk are without any place to go.

This trigger relies on anticipated severe weather impacts, mandatory evacuation orders, or forecasted loss of critical infrastructure where remaining in residence presents an immediate threat to life safety.

MODE 02 // REACTIVE ACTIVATION

Post-Event Need Assessment

Post-event shelter activation occurs following thorough rapid impact assessments conducted after a disaster or severe weather system passes.

Operations are initiated once field evaluations confirm that prolonged uninhabitable shelter-in-place options exist for residents.

Triggers include extended power outages during extreme temperatures, structural damage compromising residential integrity, or long-term isolation without utility restoration.

POINT OF DISTRIBUTION (POD) OPERATIONS

Severe Event Protocol & Inter-Agency Response

PHASE 01 // CATASTROPHIC ACTIVATION

In the event of catastrophic conditions—such as prolonged isolation, an extended power grid collapse, or severe structural damage across the island—the Chappy Community Center is proposed to shift its operational mode to serve as a primary Point of Distribution (POD), triggering full deployment of the Town cache.

PHASE 02 // CRITICAL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION

The POD is designed for critical supply distribution to affected residents, managing essential survival provisions:

- Distribution of potable drinking water for households experiencing failed well pumps.
- Distribution of shelf-stable Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs) and emergency food rations.

INTER-AGENCY ON-ISLAND COORDINATION

This massive logistical effort is not conducted in isolation; it relies heavily on coordinated inter-agency on-island support to maintain operations.

PUBLIC SAFETY ASSETS

Operations are managed alongside pre-staged Edgartown Fire Department and Police Department assets, including a four-wheel-drive Ambulance, Tanker, and Engine.

INFRASTRUCTURE & NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

The response is further bolstered by contracted heavy equipment and the organized neighborhood networks led by CCERT 'Captains'.

CHAPPY COMMUNITY CENTER: POWER RESILIENCE

INTERIM SOLUTION

Short-Term Mobile Unit Rental

Existing battery backup lacks capacity for multi-day outages. Emergency Management is working with the CCC to have the building ready to accept a mobile generator that could be pre-positioned prior to severe weather events.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUSTAINED:

- Space heating & essential warmth
- Battery powered equipment re-charging
- Continuous water pump operation

PERMANENT SOLUTION

Town objectives

To permanently resolve power vulnerabilities, a dedicated generator hookup and transfer switch is being researched and is intended to be installed at the CCC facility.

The Town is exploring ways to fund an emergency portable standby generator, to support the Chappy Community Center shelter operations.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Solidifies the Chappy Community Center as an equipped, fully resilient Emergency facility.

RESIDENT ACTION PLAN & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Effective emergency response relies on robust communication and proactive community action.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

TOWN TEXT ALERTS

Sign up for urgent weather updates & shelter announcements: Text **'Edgartown'** to **877-550-8627**.

Continuous Radio Monitoring

Monitor local channels on **WMVY 88.7 FM** and **WCAI 90.1 FM**.

Life-Safety Emergencies Only

Contact Public Safety via Dukes County Regional Dispatch dial **911**.

HOUSEHOLD ACTION CHECKLIST

01 5-Day Home Supply Kit

Prepare sufficient water, food, flashlights, batteries, and prescription drugs to outlast potential ferry and power disruptions.

02 Proactive Property Security

Secure property, outdoor items, and boats well in advance of any official storm warnings.

03 Community Support & Vulnerable Registration

Check on neighbors and ensure vulnerable residents are officially registered with the Council on Aging.

04 CCERT Captain Contact

Check in with your CCERT captain prior to event.