



*External Affairs*

**Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency**

# Press Release

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## **RIEMA Urges Rhode Islanders to Prepare for Upcoming Severe Weather; Monitoring Tropical Storm Joaquin**

Cranston, RI – The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) urges Rhode Islanders to prepare for upcoming severe weather anticipated to impact the State of Rhode Island late Tuesday, September 29, into Wednesday, September 30. Additionally, RIEMA is also tracking Tropical Storm Joaquin, which recently formed in the Atlantic Ocean.

The initial storm front is expected to bring 1.5” – 2.5” of rain across the state late Tuesday and early Wednesday, with potential to create urban, street, and coastal flooding. Rains are expected to impact the Wednesday morning commute and drivers are urged to use caution and allow extra time to travel. There is also a High Rip Current risk along the Southern Rhode Island coast throughout the duration of these storms.

There remains uncertainty with the second round of heavy rains stemming from Tropical Storm Joaquin, which is currently located Northeast of the Bahamas. Current projections from the National Weather Service predict Rhode Island to experience heavy rains and strong winds associated with Joaquin on Friday. The track of this storm, which is widespread and uncertain at this time, will determine where the heaviest rainfall and winds will occur. We still can expect some heavy rainfall into Southern New England Saturday into Sunday from this system.

“We are very well in the midst of the Atlantic Hurricane Season,” said Director Peter Gaynor. “In Southern New England, we are prone to experiencing tropical storms and hurricanes around this time of year and therefore, we are prepared to deal with such weather. However, it’s imperative that Rhode Islanders are also prepared so that they are ready for both the upcoming severe weather, as well as Tropical Storm Joaquin. Now is the time to double check your disaster-supply kit and gather any additional items that you may need. We also encourage individuals, families, and businesses to take a look around their property and check for dangling or damaged tree limbs and safely remove them in order to avoid debris that could potentially damage your home or property.”

Below are additional tips on how individuals, families, and businesses can be prepared for severe weather:

- Gather a disaster-supply kit that includes water, food, flashlight, extra batteries, NOAA Weather Radio, first aid kit, and any necessary medicines and prescriptions.
- Develop a family communications plan in case you are separated during an emergency.

- Make sure all family members have an emergency contact list.
- Know your local emergency evacuation routes by visiting the RIEMA website at [www.riema.ri.gov/prepare/evacuation](http://www.riema.ri.gov/prepare/evacuation).
- Take down any outdoor decorations and bring in lawn furniture.
- Properly secure or bring in your boat.
- Clear leaves, sticks, and other debris from nearby storm drains in order to avoid clogging that could lead to street flooding.
- Visit [www.riema.ri.gov](http://www.riema.ri.gov) to Register with CodeRed and receive free emergency notifications from local and state officials.

RIEMA will provide additional updates on Tropical Storm Joaquin, as well as rainfall potential over the next several days via Twitter, Facebook, and the RIEMA website.

For additional preparedness information, visit RIEMA's website at [www.riema.ri.gov/prepare](http://www.riema.ri.gov/prepare).

For additional questions please contact RIEMA at (401) 946-9996.

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