

# PRESS RELEASE

## Morris County Storm: General Update

Saturday, March 3rd, 2018



Good afternoon and greetings from the Morris County Emergency Operations Center,

We recognize that the storm we experienced yesterday caused a difficult day for many of our residents, and we know that these efforts will continue throughout the weekend. With many residents, housing facilities, and businesses still without power, this storm has brought many challenges.

Please know that across all disciplines, the emergency response community, as well as the road and tree crews, have been working around the clock dealing with an increased call volume. Our primary focus yesterday was the emergency events. The county's professional 911 operators handled 5,782 calls between 6 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. today.

We had many hazardous conditions involving live wires which needed to be prioritized and dealt with as soon as possible. We had many major roadways compromised that needed to be opened as well. The high winds continued to create emergency incidents and increased response efforts. While one emergency was resolved, many more were added.

In addition, the high winds created an unsafe and prohibited atmosphere for JCP&L to put workers in bucket trucks for restoration efforts. We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation throughout this event.

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Morris County Administrator John Bonanni and Morris County Sheriff James M. Gannon, along with his command and support staff, joined the Morris County OEM team at the Morris County Emergency Operations Center. The Sheriff provided officers to many of our Morris County municipalities to support local law enforcement so they could deal with the significantly increased call volume, and that support continues.

We also were supported by the New Jersey State Police, State Office of Emergency Management, and the Morris County Park Police. The focus for today has been damage assessment and working with Jersey Central Power and Light on the power restoration process.

Please know the Morris County Emergency Operations Center is monitoring all Morris County storm related activity, and we will continue to work closely with JCP&L to prioritize our issues across the county. Many people will continue working diligently throughout the day and weekend for our residents.

**Below are a few things that can assist us as operations continue today:**

- **Please DO not call 911 unless you have a true emergency.** Our 911 professionals are not in a position to engage you in conversation with regard to when power will be restored.
- Register your power outage via the JCP&L site. This should take place regardless if you are aware of other outages in your area. Every outage should be registered so it can be tracked. To report outages, **call 1-888-LIGHTSS (888-544-4877)**, go to [www.jcp-i.com](http://www.jcp-i.com), or click on the "Report Outage" link on [www.firstenergycorp.com](http://www.firstenergycorp.com).
  - Morris County Municipal Coordinators in all of our Morris County municipalities have identified warming stations for residents should they be necessary. Please check your local municipality's website for site location and hours of operation.
  - As of this morning, there were some 48,000 JCP&L customers without power, including some customers in most of the county's 39 towns.