

## METUCHEN EMERGENCY ADVISORY AM RADIO STATION

*By Jim Graziano -Metuchen  
Emergency Management Coordinator*

Earlier this year the Borough of Metuchen acquired through Middlesex County a Homeland Security grant to be used for the purchase of a low power Emergency Advisory AM Radio Station. We have applied for and received from the FCC a license to operate on the frequency of 1580 AM. We are currently reviewing potential sites for the location of the transmitter and antenna. The site must be centrally located and free from obstructions over 25' tall such as trees, buildings, poles and towers. I expect to have the station up and running this fall.

Once operational the radio system will be capable of broadcasting emergency messages over a 3 to 5 mile radius area. The station will

operate 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Any home, automobile or portable radio that receives the AM band will be capable of receiving the signal from the station. Emergency Advisory Radio Stations are specifically designed to tell residents and area motorists what to do during severe weather, floods, fires, industrial or transportation accidents, terror threats, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, Amber alerts, school incidents, and other types of emergencies. Emergency managers including authorized representatives of police, fire and EMS can trigger broadcast sequences (prerecorded for anticipated emergency scenarios) via telephone. New messages can be incorporated immediately and can be recorded locally or via telephone/cell phone. Weather and federal emergency messages can be broadcast automatically as they are released.

Signs will be placed at strategic locations in town advising residents to tune to Metuchen radio 1580 AM for

borough information. A protocol will be developed to sound a certain signal on the fire siren (perhaps three short blasts) to alert residents to tune to the station. Press releases and other public notices will educate the public as to the existence and purpose of the station. Those who tune in will receive up-to-the-minute reports, alerts and instructions with the level of timeliness and detail that make these types of broadcasts valuable, especially when disaster strikes.

During non-emergency times, the borough can use the station to broadcast general community information and tell motorists and residents of street repairs, public notices and upcoming events. If we choose, we will even be able to bring in live audio from our cable TV station or broadcast from special events.

Below is a cut-out reminder that you can place by your radio or in an important place, to remind all residents of the radio frequency.

METUCHEN EMERGENCY ADVISORY RADIO STATION

# 1580 AM

Tune to this station in the event of an emergency or for general community information