

# Family Preparedness Guide



Prepared by Michigan State Police  
Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division

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## A Message from the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division

**E**mergencies can happen at any time. Being prepared saves lives! Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. The best way to make you and your family safer is to be prepared before an emergency occurs. We encourage everyone to:

- 1. Find Out What Could Happen**
- 2. Create an Emergency Plan**
- 3. Get a Kit**
- 4. Practice and Maintain Your Plan**

These simple steps can make a difference in ensuring your safety and the safety of your loved ones in an emergency situation.

The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is committed to its mission to foster, promote, and maintain partnerships to protect our state and homeland from all hazards.

We are pleased to provide you with this Family Preparedness Guide that will assist you in preparing your family to respond to and recover from all types of emergencies. This guide will help you develop an emergency plan, prepare an emergency supply kit, and learn about emergency preparedness for families, pets, the disabled, and elderly.

We encourage you to keep this manual handy as a reference tool and implement many of the suggestions found inside to better prepare your family for any emergency situation.

For more information refer to the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division Web site at: [www.michigan.gov/emhsd](http://www.michigan.gov/emhsd)

### Additional Resources

[www.michigan.gov/beprepared](http://www.michigan.gov/beprepared)

[www.michigan.gov/citizencorps](http://www.michigan.gov/citizencorps)

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

[www.dolthing.us](http://www.dolthing.us)

# BEFORE EMERGENCIES HAPPEN

An emergency can occur without warning, leaving little or no time for you and your family to plan. What would you do if basic services, such as water, gas, electricity, or telephones, were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. It is necessary for you to learn about the things you can do to prepare before an emergency occurs. Follow the steps listed in this guide to create your family's emergency plan.

**Knowing what to do is your responsibility and your best protection.**

# Steps to Preparedness

## 1. Find Out What Could Happen

- Meet with household members and discuss the dangers of possible emergency events, including fire, severe weather, and terrorism.
- Learn if your community has a warning signal: what it sounds like and what you should do when you hear it.
- Find out how to help elderly or disabled persons, if needed.

- Ask about animal care after a disaster. Animals may not be allowed inside emergency shelters due to health regulations.
- Find out about the disaster plans in your workplace, your children's school or daycare center, and other places where your family spends time.

## 2. Create an Emergency Plan

### Family Preparedness

- All family members must know their address and phone number.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1 for emergency help.
- Teach each family member how to use a fire extinguisher (ABC type) and show them where it is kept.
- Show each family member how and when to turn off the water, gas, and electricity at the main switches.
- Plan how to take care of your pets.

### Home Safety

- Find safe spots in your home where you can go for each type of emergency.
- Discuss what to do in an evacuation.
- Plan two unobstructed exits from every room, including the second floor and make sure everyone knows them.
- Teach children how to safely exit a window, including using an object to break glass and putting a blanket over the frame to be protected from shards of glass.
- Pick two places to meet when evacuating, such as:
  - Outside of your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
  - Outside of your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.

### Emergency Contacts

- Choose an out-of-town or out-of-state contact your family or household members will call or e-mail to check on each other during an emergency. Ensure everyone knows how to reach the contact person.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by each phone, including numbers for fire, police, ambulance, etc.

### Important Documents

- Make a list of personal property and photograph the interior and exterior of your home.
- Store important papers and valuables in a fire proof safe or cabinet.
- Maintain proper insurance and coverage of your home and its contents (flood, renters, fire, and earthquake).

### Safety Measures

- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Install battery-operated or plug-in (with battery backup) carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in your home, following manufacturer's instructions.
- Install window ladders in case you need to evacuate. Make sure all household members know where they are and how to use them.

## 3. Get a Kit

An emergency may require you to immediately evacuate, take shelter, or go without basic services for an extended period of time. Should an emergency occur, you will need a supply of essential items to last you at least three days. These items should be included in a readily accessible 72-hour emergency supply kit, stored in a 5-gallon bucket, duffel bag, or backpack. For items to include in your kit, refer to **"Prepare a 72-Hour Emergency Supply Kit"** included with this guide.

## 4. Practice and Maintain Your Plan

- Quiz your children every six months so they remember what to do.
- Conduct regular fire and emergency evacuation drills.
- Take a first aid and CPR class.
- Replace stored water and food every six months.
- Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries twice each year when you change your clocks in the spring and fall.

## Check Your Local School Emergency Plan

- You need to know if the school will send children home or keep them at school until a parent or designated adult can pick them up.
- Be sure the school has updated information about how to reach parents and responsible caregivers to arrange for pick up.
- Ask what type of authorization the school may require to release your child.
- Be aware, during times of emergency, the school telephones may be overwhelmed with calls.

# WHEN EMERGENCIES HAPPEN



**D**uring and after an emergency, it is important to stay calm. Even after an event, there may still be dangers. What seems like a safe distance or location may not be safe. **Stay tuned to your local radio and TV station and follow the advice of trained professionals.** Unless told to evacuate, avoid driving to allow emergency vehicles access. What you do next can save your life and the lives of others.

If you evacuate your home during an emergency, shelters, food, and clothing are commonly available through the American Red Cross. Seek medical care at the nearest hospital or health care provider.

During an emergency you might be cut off from food, water, and electricity for several days or more. If power is out, food stores may be closed and your water supply may not be accessible.

■ **Water:** If an emergency catches you without a supply of clean water, you can use ice cubes and the water in your hot-water tank or pipes. If it is safe to go outside, you can also purify water from streams, rivers, rainwater, ponds, lakes, natural springs, and snow by boiling (for 5 minutes), distilling, or disinfecting. To purify water with bleach, use 10 drops of bleach per gallon of water. Use only regular household liquid bleach that contains only 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite.

■ **Food:** During and after an emergency, it will be important that you keep up your strength by eating at least one well-balanced meal each day. Take vitamins, minerals, and/or protein supplements as needed.

## For People with Functional Needs

For the millions of Americans who have physical, medical, sensory, or other functional needs, emergencies such as fires, floods, and acts of terrorism present a real challenge. The same challenge also applies to the elderly and other special needs populations. Protecting yourself and your family when a disaster strikes requires planning ahead.

### ■ Create a Personal Support Network

- A personal support network can help you prepare for a disaster. They can do this by helping you identify and get the resources you need to cope effectively. Network members can also assist you after a disaster happens.
- Organize a network that includes your home, school, workplace, volunteer site, and any other places where you spend a lot of time.
- Your network should have people you trust and who can check to see if you need assistance.
- Your network should know your capabilities and needs, and be able to provide help within minutes.
- Do not depend on only one person. Include a minimum of three people in your network for each location where you regularly spend a lot of time.

### ■ Complete a Personal Assessment

- Decide what you will be able to do for yourself and what assistance you may need before, during, and after a disaster. This will be based on the environment after the disaster, your capabilities, and your limitations.
- To complete a personal assessment, make a list of your personal needs and your resources for meeting them in a disaster environment.
- Additional information and assessment questions can be found at: [www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/Preparing/A4497.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/Preparing/A4497.pdf)

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Working with neighbors in an emergency can save lives and property. Meet with your community members to plan how you can work together until help arrives. If you are a member of a neighborhood association or crime watch group, introduce emergency preparedness as a new activity. Know your neighbors' special skills and consider how you can help those with functional needs, such as people with disabilities and elderly persons.

### ■ Power Outage

- Remain calm.
- Assist family members or neighbors who may be in danger if exposed to extreme heat or cold.
- Locate a flashlight with batteries to use until power comes back on.
- Use extreme caution when using candles.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy and will not tip over easily. Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.
- Turn off major electric appliances that were turned on when the power went off. This will help prevent power surges when electricity is restored.
- Turn off sensitive equipment such as computers and televisions. These items could be damaged if there is a power surge when the electricity is restored.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to keep the cold in and the heat out.
- Use extreme caution when driving. If traffic signals are out, treat each signal as a stop sign. Come to a complete stop at every intersection and look before you proceed.
- Do not call 9-1-1 to ask about the power outage. Listen to the news for updates. However, report any downed power lines.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Avoid actions that can result in dangerous levels of carbon monoxide:
  - Do not use a grill indoors.
  - Do not use an unvented gas or kerosene heater.
  - Do not use a generator in the house or garage.
  - Do not use an oven or stove to heat your home.



## Evacuation and Shelter-In-Place

You may be directed to take specific actions during an emergency incident, such as a hazardous spill, explosion, or threatening natural disaster like a fire or flood. If you are notified of an incident, stay calm, listen to emergency personnel, and follow instructions immediately.

### Listen to Emergency Personnel

- Follow instructions provided by emergency personnel to remain safe.
- Emergency personnel are trained to respond to emergency situations.
- Information and instructions on what to do will be provided at the emergency site or through TV and radio stations.



### How to Evacuate Safely

- If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Stay calm. Do not panic.
- Travel on roads specified by local authorities.
- If no specific roads are suggested, head upwind or away from the incident.
- Bring your emergency supply kit with you.
- Lock your home.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a wet cloth if told to do so.

### If You Know You Have Time Before Evacuating

- Shut off water, gas, and electricity before leaving.
- Let your local contact and/or out-of-town contact know you are evacuating and where you are going.
- Take your pets with you or make arrangements for your pets ahead of time.

### How to Stay Inside Safely (or Shelter-in-Place)

- If told to stay inside, known as shelter-in-place, do so immediately.
- Close and lock windows and doors.
- Seal gaps under doorways and windows with wet towels and duct tape if told to do so.
- Turn off ventilation systems, water, and gas.
- Listen to your local radio and TV stations for further instructions from emergency officials.

### If You Have Pets

You should create an emergency kit for each of your pets as well. This kit should include:

- Identification collar, rabies, and vaccination tags.
- Crate, cage, or other pet carrier.
- Harness or leash.
- Any medications and be sure to check expiration dates.
- Sanitation (pet litter and litter box, newspapers, paper towels).
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, and behavioral problems.
- The name and number of your veterinarian and veterinary records. Most animal shelters do not allow pets without proof of vaccination.
- Food (three day supply in an airtight, waterproof container) and a manual can opener if needed.
- Water (three day supply in addition to water for yourself and your family).
- A picture of you and your pet together.
- Favorite toys, treats, or bedding.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets.

- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
- Ask your local animal shelter if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
- Ask friends and relatives outside of your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you cannot care for your animal(s) yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends, and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

Pets should not be left behind. If you have no other choice but to leave your pet at home, place your pet in a safe area inside your home with plenty of water and food. Never leave pets chained outside. A note should be placed outside of your home listing what pets are inside, where they are located, and phone numbers where you can be reached.



# RECOVERING FROM AN EMERGENCY

Recovery continues even after you return home, as you and your family experience the emotional and psychological effects of the event. Reactions vary from person to person, but may include:

- Restless sleep or nightmares
- Anger or wanting revenge
- Numbness or lack of emotion
- Needing to keep active, restlessness
- Needing to talk about your experiences
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss or gain
- Headaches
- Mood swings

These are normal reactions to stressful events and it is important to let people react in their own way. In particular, children may need reassurance and extra attention.

It is best to encourage children to share their feelings, even if you must listen to their stories repeatedly. This is a common way for children to grasp what they have experienced.





### Who is at Risk?

Children who have been directly exposed to a disaster, evacuated their home, observed injuries or death of others, experienced an injury themselves, or feared for their life, are at risk of developing depression or difficulties recovering from the event. They may experience loss or grief if a close family or friend dies or is seriously injured during a disaster. In addition, children continue to have ongoing stress long after the disaster occurs due to secondary effects of the disaster.

Secondary effects could include living in temporary housing, loss of social network, property loss, parents being without jobs, and costs the family will have to pay to return to normal. In most cases, these responses are only temporary; however for those directly exposed to the disaster, certain reminders of the incident, such as high winds, smoke, and sirens may trigger responses.

### Child's Emotional Needs

It is important to provide the child with guidance that will help reduce his or her fears. How adults react to an emergency provides children with clues on how they are supposed to act. Parents need to make sure the child is heard. If the child asks questions about the incident, those questions should be answered honestly but not in a way that could scare them. If the child is afraid to talk about what happened, allow him or her to draw a picture or reenact the scenario with dolls or action figures.

If parents are going to allow their children, especially young children, to watch TV or use the Internet after a disaster, then they should be present with the child. This will ensure that if images of the disaster are shown, parents can communicate and provide explanations to the child. Limiting a child's exposure to additional trauma, including news reports, is encouraged.

After a disaster occurs, children are most afraid the event will happen again and someone they know will be killed, they will be separated from their family, or they will be left alone.

### Helping the Child

In order to feel safe, children need to be reassured that everything is going to be okay through compassion and understanding.

- Hold and comfort the child.
- Calmly and firmly provide factual information about the recent disaster.

- Encourage the child to talk about their feelings and the parent should be honest about their own feelings as well.
- Help children learn to use words that express their feelings, such as happy, sad, angry, mad, and/or scared.
- Parents should spend some extra time with children at bedtime.
- Parents should also reestablish a schedule for the child involving school, work, play, meals, and rest.
- Assign the child specific chores so they feel as though they are helping to restore the family or community.
- Allow the child to assist in developing or revising the family emergency plan.
- Make sure the child knows what to do in case they hear smoke detectors, alarms, and local community warning systems (horns, sirens).
- Praise the child for their help and recognize responsible behavior.
- Reassure the child that the disaster was not his or her fault.
- Understand the child will need time to mourn his or her own losses.

If parents have tried to create a reassuring environment and the child still exhibits stress or appears to worsen over time, it may be appropriate to seek professional help. Professional help is easy to obtain. Parents can talk to their child's pediatrician or family doctor, a school counselor, a mental health provider specializing in child's needs, or a member of the clergy.



## Common Responses Children May Exhibit

### *Infant to 2 years*

- Young children retain images, sights, sounds, and smells that occurred during an event.
- Infants may be irritable, cry more than usual, and want to be held/cuddled.
- As the young child grows older, he or she may act out elements of the event that occurred numerous years earlier that were seemingly forgotten.

### *2 to 6 years*

- Preschool aged children often times feel helpless and powerless. They may feel fear and insecurity due to their lack of size.
- Preschoolers cannot grasp the concept of permanent loss. They see consequences as being reversible.
- Preschoolers may play out activities that involve aspects of the event in the weeks following the event and may reenact this incident many times.
- Some children may revert to thumb sucking, bed-wetting, clinging to parents, sleep disturbances, loss of appetite, fear of the dark, regression in behavior, and withdrawal from friends and routines.



### *8 to 10 years*

- School aged children can understand permanent loss.
- Some children become very preoccupied with details of the event and want to talk about it constantly. This preoccupation can interfere with the child's concentration at school thus resulting in a decline in his or her academic performance.
- Children may lose trust in adults because they were unable to control the disaster.
- Children may display a wide range of reactions to a disaster; some consist of guilt, feelings of failure, anger, or fantasies of playing the rescuer.
- A child may change from being quiet, obedient, and caring to loud, noisy, and aggressive.

- A child may change from being outgoing to shy and afraid.
- Some children may experience irritability, aggressiveness, clinginess, nightmares, school avoidance, poor concentration, and withdrawal from friends and routines.

### *11 to 18 years*

- As children grow older their reactions become closer to that of an adult.
- This age group combines childlike reactions with adult responses.
- This stage of life focuses on preparing the child for adulthood, and after experiencing a disaster, the "real" world may seem unsafe and dangerous.
- A teenager may feel overwhelmed by intense emotions but may still feel uncomfortable discussing their feelings with relatives.
- A teenager may have feelings of inadequacy or helplessness or spend an unusual amount of time fantasizing.
- It is not uncommon for a teenager to become involved with more risk-taking behavior (alcohol, drug use, reckless driving) or to have the opposite effect and become fearful of leaving home.
- Teenagers may experience sleeping and eating disturbances, agitation, increase in conflicts, physical complaints, delinquent behavior, and poor concentration.



# MICHIGAN HAZARDS

## Severe Weather

Michigan is vulnerable to a variety of types of severe weather including tornadoes, thunderstorms, flash floods, snowstorms, and ice storms. Because of this, it is important for you to understand the difference between a watch and a warning for severe weather.

- **Severe Weather Watch:** A severe weather watch means that severe weather may develop.
- **Severe Weather Warning:** A severe weather warning means a storm has developed and is on its way.

The safest place to ride out any storm is inside a secure building, home, or apartment building. You should:

- Listen to weather updates and stay informed.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- Keep your emergency supply kit handy, including a battery operated NOAA weather radio.
- Be ready to evacuate if necessary.

## Flooding

Flooding typically occurs when prolonged rain falls over several days, when intense rain falls over a short period of time, or when an ice or debris jam causes a river or stream to overflow onto the surrounding area. Flooding can also result from the failure of a water control structure, such as a levee or dam.

### ■ Know the Difference:

- **Flash Flood Watch:** A flash flood watch means that flash flooding is possible in or near the watch area.
- **Flash Flood Warning:** A flash flood warning means that flooding is occurring in the area or will be very soon.

## ■ Preparing for a Flood

- Plan what you will do and where you will go in a flood emergency.
- Make an itemized list of personal property well in advance of a flood occurring. Photograph the interior and exterior of your home. Store the list, photos, and documents in a safe place.
- Memorize the safest and fastest route to high ground.
- If you live in a frequently flooded area, keep sandbags, plastic sheets, and lumber on hand to protect property. Install check valves in building sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Know how high your property is in relation to nearby streams and other waterways.

## ■ When a Flood Threatens

- Listen to instructions from emergency officials.
- Leave areas that are likely to flood, including dips, low spots, and floodplains.
- Store a supply of drinking water in clean bathtubs and in large containers.
- If forced to leave your home and time permits, move essential items to safe ground.

## ■ During a Flood

- Avoid areas subject to sudden flooding.
- Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road. STOP! Turn around and go another way.
- Never try to walk, swim, or drive through floodwater. Even six inches of fast moving floodwater can knock you off your feet. A depth of two feet will float your car.
- Keep children from playing in floodwaters or near culverts and storm drains.

## ■ After a Flood

- Boil drinking water, if instructed, before using it. If fresh food has come in contact with floodwaters, throw it out.
- Use flashlights, not lanterns or torches, to examine buildings. Flammables may be inside.
- Do not handle or use live electrical equipment in wet areas. Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being returned to service.



Lightning can provide a spectacular display of light on a dark night, but this awesome show of nature can also cause death and destruction. Lightning is the visible discharge of electrical energy and is often accompanied by thunder, which is a sonic boom created by the same discharge. If you hear thunder, lightning is a threat even if the storm seems miles away. Lightning's electrical energy seeks a path to the ground and your home, trees, or even you, can be that chosen path. No place is absolutely safe from lightning; however, some places are much safer than others.

## ■ Safety Tips

- Do not wait for the storm to arrive before protecting yourself as lightning often precedes rain.
- If outdoors, get inside a safe shelter right away.
- The safest location from lightning is a large enclosed building, not a picnic shelter or shed. The second safest location is an enclosed metal topped vehicle, such as a car, truck, or van, but not a convertible, bike, or other topless or soft-top vehicle.
- If you are indoors, avoid water, doors, and windows. Do not use a landline telephone or headsets connected by wire to another device plugged into an electrical outlet.
- Turn off, unplug, and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools, and televisions. Lightning could hit wires outside the building and travel through wires and appliances into the house.
- Wait 30 minutes after you think lightning has passed before reconnecting appliances or resuming normal activities.
- If someone is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1 or send for help immediately. It is okay to give first aid without fear of being hurt as he or she will not carry an electrical charge.

A tornado is a column of violently rotating winds extending down from a thunderstorm cloud and touching the surface of the earth. Tornadoes most commonly occur during the months of May, June, July, and August, and in the late afternoon and evening hours. However, it is important to remember that tornadoes can occur at any time of the day and in almost any month during the year.

### Know the Difference:

- **Tornado Watch:** A tornado watch is issued when conditions exist for a tornado or severe weather to develop.
- **Tornado Warning:** A tornado warning is issued when National Weather Service (NWS) Doppler Radar indicates a thunderstorm is capable of producing a tornado, or when a tornado has been sighted by a credible source.



### When a Tornado Warning is Issued

- Quickly move to shelter in the basement or lowest floor of a permanent structure.
- In homes and small buildings, go to the basement and get under something sturdy, like a workbench or stairwell. If no basement is available, go to an interior part of the home on the lowest level. A good rule of thumb is to put as many walls between you and the tornado as possible.
- In schools, hospitals, and public places, move to designated shelter areas. Interior hallways on the lowest floors are generally best.
- Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls. Broken glass and wind blown projectiles cause more injuries and deaths than collapsed buildings. Protect your head with a pillow, blanket, or mattress.
- If you are caught outdoors, seek cover in a basement, shelter, or sturdy building. This is your safest alternative.
- If you are in the car and there is no shelter available, pull over and let your surroundings determine your next action to either:
  - Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, and cover your head with your hands and a blanket if possible; or
  - If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit the car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and shelter immediately.



Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a winter storm hazard:

- **Freezing Rain:** Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees, and power lines.
- **Sleet:** Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.
- **Winter Storm Watch:** A winter storm is possible in your area. Tune in to a NOAA Weather Radio, or local radio and TV stations for more information.
- **Winter Storm Warning:** A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.
- **Blizzard Warning:** Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater, and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.
- **Frost/Freeze Warning:** Below freezing temperatures are expected.

### If Travel is Necessary

- Use caution when driving in winter conditions. The highest rate of traffic crashes during winter weather is in the month of November when snow first starts falling in Michigan.
- Travel during the day and do not travel alone.
- Stay on main roads; avoid back road shortcuts.
- Inform someone of your destination and travel time. Bring a cell phone in case you must call for help.
- Keep a supply kit in your car with salt, sand, shovel, food, and blankets.

### If Traveling and the Power Goes Out

- Use extreme caution when driving.
- If traffic signals are out, treat each signal as a stop sign. Come to a complete stop at every intersection and look for oncoming traffic before proceeding.
- Do not call 9-1-1 to ask about the power outage. Listen to the news for updates. However, report any downed power lines.

### If Stranded in a Vehicle

- If you need assistance, attach a bright cloth to your antenna and turn on your emergency flashers when the engine is on. Remain in the vehicle.
- Run the motor 10 minutes each hour for heat. However, open the window slightly for fresh air and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.
- To keep blood circulating and to stay warm, exercise by moving arms, legs, fingers, and toes.

### Automotive Preparedness

- Ensure the vehicle is winterized by late fall. This includes having the proper mix of antifreeze and water in the cooling system, topping off the windshield washing solution, and checking the tire treads. Have a mechanic check the belts, hoses, tires, battery, and coolant.
- Keep the fuel tank near full, as low fuel levels can cause condensation to form, degrading fuel quality, and possibly causing the fuel line to freeze. Additionally, gas stations may be closed during a severe winter storm, so it is wise to fill up if warnings of an impending storm are being broadcast.

### Take Protective Measures

- Listen to the radio and TV for weather reports and emergency information.
- Be aware that icy roads and sidewalks can be very hazardous.
- Avoid walking under heavily iced tree branches or buildings with melting snow or ice. Large amounts of ice or snow could fall and strike you.
- Make sure you have a safe alternative heat source and a supply of fuel.
- Wear several layers of loose fitting, light weight, and warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear enclosed footwear that covers all of the foot, preferably with socks.
- Be cautious when considering leaving either your house or car in sub-zero or blizzard conditions – especially in unpopulated and/or unknown areas. You could easily become confused and lose your way. This could be life threatening.

## Automotive Supply Kit

Keep these emergency supplies in your vehicle in a portable container:

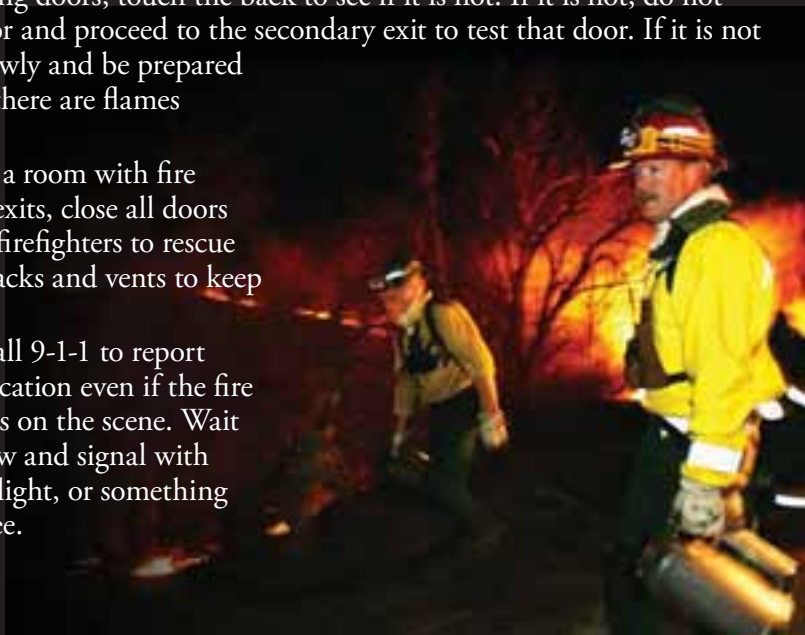
- A small battery powered radio (AM is sufficient) and extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Cellular phone
- Windshield scraper
- Blanket and extra clothes
- Tire repair kit and pump
- Phone book and phone list
- De-icer and extra antifreeze
- “Call Police” or other “Help” sign
- Jumper cables
- Tow chain or rope
- Fire extinguisher
- Maps
- Shovel
- Flares
- First aid kit
- Bottled water and nonperishable, high energy foods (granola bars, canned nuts, raisins, hard candy, trail mix, peanut butter and crackers)

### Prevention

- Install smoke detectors on every level. Check them monthly.
- Keep bedroom doors closed when sleeping to allow more time to exit during a fire. It takes 10 to 15 minutes for a flame to burn through a door.
- Teach all household members to stop, drop, and roll if they catch on fire.
- Dispose of barbecue briquettes and fireplace ashes in a metal container, not in plastic garbage containers or paper bags.
- Ensure all room exits are unobstructed.
- Store matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Use barbecue grills away from buildings and vegetation.
- Only use gasoline as motor fuel and never store it inside.
- Never smoke when drowsy or in bed.
- Plug only one heat producing device into each electrical outlet.
- Do not run electrical cords under rugs.

### In Case of Fire

- Yell to other members of the household alerting them of the fire.
- Go to the nearest exit and leave the house. Go directly to the safe meeting place your family chose and wait for others to join you. Never re-enter a burning building.
- If the room is filled or is filling with smoke, drop to your hands and knees, and crawl to the nearest exit or window. Since smoke and heat rise, the coolest and freshest air will be near the floor.
- Before opening doors, touch the back to see if it is hot. If it is hot, do not open the door and proceed to the secondary exit to test that door. If it is not hot, open slowly and be prepared to close it if there are flames outside.
- If trapped in a room with fire blocking all exits, close all doors and wait for firefighters to rescue you. Stuff cracks and vents to keep smoke out.
- If possible, call 9-1-1 to report your exact location even if the fire department is on the scene. Wait at the window and signal with a sheet, flashlight, or something people can see.



If you are notified or become aware of a technological hazard such as a hazardous spill/release, fire, or explosion, do not panic. If you need to leave the surrounding area or are directed to evacuate, do so immediately. Refer to Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place guidelines.

### Terrorism

Terrorist attacks have left many concerned about the possibility of future incidents in the United States and their potential impact. The goal of terrorists is to destabilize government and panic citizens. Terrorists try to keep citizens guessing about what might happen next, increasing worries. However, there are things you and your family can do to prepare for the unexpected. This can reduce the stress you may feel now and later, should another emergency arise. Being prepared ahead of time can reassure you and your family that you can have a measure of control even in the face of such events.

### What Can You Do?

- Prepare to deal with a terrorist incident by adapting many of the same techniques used to prepare for other emergencies.
- Take precautions when traveling by being aware of suspicious or unusual behavior.
- Do not leave luggage or other items unattended.
- Be familiar with the “Seven Signs of Terrorism.”
- Do not accept packages from strangers.
- Learn basic first aid – enroll in a First Aid/CPR course at your local American Red Cross.
- Volunteer to help your community prepare for and respond to emergencies through the Citizen Corps Program. To find the Council nearest you, go to [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov).

# SEVEN SIGNS OF TERRORISM

- 1. Surveillance:** Someone recording or monitoring activities. This may include the use of cameras (either still or video), note taking, drawing diagrams, annotating on maps, or using binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices.
- 2. Elicitation:** People or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities, or people. Elicitation attempts may be made by mail, fax, telephone, or in person.
- 3. Tests of Security:** Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.
- 4. Acquiring Supplies:** Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, etc. Includes acquiring military uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges (or the equipment to manufacture such items), or any other controlled items.
- 5. Suspicious Persons Out of Place:** People who do not seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment, or anywhere else. Includes suspicious border crossings and stowaways aboard ship or people jumping ship in port.
- 6. Dry Run/Trial Run:** Putting people into position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act. This is especially true when planning a kidnapping, but it can also pertain to bombings. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

**7. Deploying Assets:** People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is a person's last chance to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs.

## Seven Signs of Terrorism Video

To learn more about the Seven Signs of Terrorism, a video/DVD is available showcasing examples of the seven signs. The video is available in English, Spanish, and Arabic. To request a copy, visit [www.michigan.gov/emhsd](http://www.michigan.gov/emhsd)



## Report Suspicious Activity

if you  
**SEE**  
something  
**SAY**  
something™

If You See Something Say Something™ used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

- Every citizen plays an important role in preventing crimes, acts of violence, and terrorism by paying close attention to their environment.
- If you see something suspicious, like an object that does not belong or an individual behaving oddly, immediately notify law enforcement authorities.
- Remain vigilant of your environment by paying close attention to where you are and knowing how you would react if something happened.
- While entering buildings and moving around a facility, remember where you are located, what floor you are on, and where the nearest emergency exit is, including stairwells.
- Be on the lookout for indicators of suspicious activity, including the “Seven Signs of Terrorism.” Immediately notify law enforcement if you witness something suspicious or out of place.

## Reporting Suspicious Activity in Michigan

- If you notice any activity or behavior that seems suspicious or out of place, you should immediately notify law enforcement officials.
- For emergencies: Dial 9-1-1
- For non-emergencies, submit an anonymous tip:
  - Phone: 855-MICHTIP (855-642-4847)
- Online: [www.michigan.gov/michtip](http://www.michigan.gov/michtip)



## FAMILY HOME HAZARD HUNT

An important step in family preparedness is the identification of potential hazards in your home. Once the hazards are identified, it does not take much time or effort to make your home a safer place to live.

To get started, conduct a home hazard hunt using the checklist below. Involve the entire family, especially your children. Remember, a potential hazard is anything that can move, break, fall, or burn. After identifying what needs to be done, create a plan, and practice it.

### All Rooms

**Yes No**

- Ensure floor coverings (rugs, carpets) are properly secured to prevent tripping hazards.
- Separate draw cords on blinds and drapes to reduce strangulation hazards for children.
- Ensure room exits are unobstructed.
- Store poisonous cleaning supplies and medications in “childproof” cabinets.
- Replace glass bottles with clearly labeled plastic containers.

### Electricity

**Yes No**

- Avoid the use of extension cords. If used, ensure the correct wattage rating.
- Plug only one heat producing device into an electrical outlet.
- Ensure cords are not placed under rugs.
- Replace damaged cords, plugs, and sockets.
- Use bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps and fixtures.
- Check fuses/circuit breakers for the correct amperage ratings.
- Do not override or bypass fuses or circuit breakers.

### Kitchen

**Yes No**

- Wear snug-fitting clothes when cooking.
- Do not leave food unattended when cooking.
- Keep pan handles turned in while cooking.
- Keep a pan lid nearby in case of fire.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles.
- Keep cords from dangling.
- Keep sharp knives out of reach of children.
- Ensure outlets near kitchen sink are Ground Fault Interrupt (GFI) equipped.

## Garage/Attic/Shed

**Yes No**

- Do not store gasoline indoors where the fumes could ignite.
- Keep flammable liquids such as paints and thinners in their original containers and store on or near the ground away from sources of heat, sparks, or flame.

### Outside

**Yes No**

- Clear dry vegetation and rubbish from around the house.
- Use barbecue grills away from buildings and vegetation.
- Dispose of barbecue briquettes in a metal container, not paper or plastic bags.
- Check with the fire department before open burning or using a burn barrel.

### Clothes Washer and Dryer

**Yes No**

- Verify that appliances are properly grounded.
- Ensure lint filter is cleaned regularly and serviceable.
- Check vent hose and vent line to ensure they are clean and provide unobstructed airflow.

### Heating Equipment

**Yes No**

- Ensure fireplace inserts and gas/wood stoves comply with local codes.
- Clean and inspect chimney annually.
- Dispose of ashes in metal containers.
- Keep clothes, furnishings, and electrical cords at least 12” from wall heaters and 36” from portable heaters.
- Ensure furnace is serviced annually by a qualified professional.
- Set water heater thermostat at 120 degrees F.
- Elevate gas water heaters at least 18” above the floor.

### Smoking and Matches

**Yes No**

- Store matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- Use large, deep, non-tip ashtrays.
- NEVER smoke while in bed or when drowsy.
- Dispose of ashes and cigarette butts in a metal can at least daily.
- Check furniture for smoldering cigarettes, especially after gatherings.

## Smoke Detector

Yes No

- Install at least one smoke detector on each level.
- Test each detector at least once a month.
- Replace batteries in each detector twice each year when you change your clocks in the spring and fall.

## Fire Extinguisher

Yes No

- Verify that an all purpose fire extinguisher (Class ABC) is maintained and in an accessible location.
- Ensure all occupants know how to use a fire extinguisher.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen, garage, and basement.

## Carbon Monoxide Hazards

Yes No

- Install at least one carbon monoxide detector with an audible warning signal near sleeping areas and outside of individual bedrooms.
- Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting, and chimney systems at least once a year.
- Never use your range or oven to heat your home, and never use a charcoal grill or hibachi in an enclosed, unventilated area.
- Never keep a car running in a garage.

## Earthquake Hazards

Yes No

- Bolt heavy, tall, and upright furniture to wall studs.
- Lock or remove rollers on beds, furniture, and appliances.
- Secure hanging plants and light fixtures with one or more guide wires to prevent swinging into walls or windows and breaking.
- Secure kitchen and bathroom cabinets with “positive” (self-closing) latches.
- Secure items on shelves with quake mats, Velcro, or shelf barrier.
- Store heavy and/or breakable items on lower shelves.
- Strap water heater to wall studs.
- Use flexible connections on gas appliances.
- Check chimney for loose bricks and repair as needed.
- Check foundation for cracks and repair as needed.
- Bolt home to foundation to prevent shifting during earthquake.
- Secure mirrors and pictures to the wall or hang them with heavy wire, looped through eye screws or tongue-in-groove hangers.

## Emergency Supply List

### Prepare a 72-Hour Emergency Supply Kit

Water, food, and clean air are important things to have if an emergency happens. Each household should have a 72-hour emergency supply kit that is customized to meet specific needs. The kit should include essential items, such as a three-day supply of water and food, important family documents, and items that satisfy unique family needs.

#### Basic Items to Include:

- Water** - one gallon per person, per day, for at least three days
- Food** - at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food per person
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio** and **extra batteries**
- Flashlight** and **extra batteries**
- First aid kit**
- Whistle** to call for help
- Dust mask** to help filter contaminated air
- Sanitation items**, such as moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties
- Manual can opener** for food
- Clothing, shoes, and bedding**
- Important family documents**, such as copies of insurance policies, bank account records, and medical records
- Unique family needs**, such as daily prescription medications, infant formula, or diapers

#### Additional Items to Consider:

- Cash, coins, or traveler's checks
- Emergency reference materials, such as first aid book
- Disinfectant and household chlorine bleach
- Fire extinguisher
- Tools and supplies, such as pliers and work gloves
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Personal hygiene items and feminine supplies
- Eating utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Cell phone charger
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape for sheltering inside
- Pet supplies
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children

# Family Emergency Contacts

– Dial 9-1-1 for Emergencies –

## Family Meeting Places

Neighborhood Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Out-of-Town Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Local Contact

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Out-of-Town Contact

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Work Locations

Work Location One  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Location Two  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## School Locations

School Location One  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

School Location Two  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Physicians

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Insurance Agents

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Utilities

Electric Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gas Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cable TV Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Water Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

# Family Member Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Emergency Reference Numbers

– Dial 9-1-1 for Emergencies –

## Local Emergency Services

Police: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fire: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Michigan Poison Control Center

1-800-222-1222  
TTY-1-313-993-7152  
TTY-1-800-356-3232 (national)

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

1-800-232-4636  
TTY-1-888-232-6348

## National Pesticide Information Center

1-800-858-7378

## Agricultural Pollution/Spills Hotline

1-800-405-0101

## Michigan Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS)

1-800-292-4706

## U.S. Coast Guard – Great Lakes Search and Rescue

1-800-321-4400

## Consumers Energy

1-800-477-5050

## DTE Energy

1-800-477-4747

## DC Cook Nuclear Power Plant (Berrien County)

1-800-548-2555

## Palisades Nuclear Power Plant (Van Buren, Berrien, and Allegan Counties)

269-764-2333

## Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Plant (Monroe and Wayne Counties)

734-586-4327

734-586-4321

## Reporting Suspicious Activity in Michigan

Report any suspicious activity or behavior to law enforcement.

- For emergencies: Dial 9-1-1
- For non-emergencies, submit a tip:
  - Hotline: 1-855-MICHTIP (1-855-642-4847)
  - Online: [www.michigan.gov/michtip](http://www.michigan.gov/michtip)

## Other Emergency Contacts

Name: _____	Phone: _____
Name: _____	Phone: _____
Name: _____	Phone: _____
Name: _____	Phone: _____
Name: _____	Phone: _____
Name: _____	Phone: _____
Name: _____	Phone: _____
Name: _____	Phone: _____



