

Emergency Preparedness

Presented by Robert Lebo EMC Wysox Twp

Why Prepare Now for Emergencies

Emergency workers will help after a disaster strikes, but they may not be able to reach everyone right away. It is important to be ready to survive on your own for at least three days during an emergency.

Possible Emergencies

- Floods
- Fires
- Winter Storms
- Hazardous Materials
- Earthquakes
- Dam Failures/Ponds
- Natural Gas Emergencies
- Industrial Emergencies
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Influenza
- Nuclear Threat
- Terrorism
- Power Outages

Floods

Is the most common natural disaster in Pennsylvania. Can start slowly during a long period of rain, or if warm weather follows heavy snow fall. Others, like flash floods, can happen very quickly.

Fires

Fires can spread quickly, so they can become life threatening in two minutes and destroy a home in as little as five minutes. As the fire burns, poisonous gases are sent into the air that can make you feel drowsy and less control of your thinking and movements. The top reason people die in fires is from smoke inhalation, not burns.

Winter Storms

The National Weather Service refers to winter storms as the “deceptive killers” because most deaths are not a direct result of the storms. People are injured or killed in traffic accidents on icy roads or suffer from hypothermia due to being cold for a long period of time.

Earthquakes

Earthquakes are destructive natural disasters.

An earthquake is the sudden fast shaking of the earth caused by the breaking and shifting of rock deep underground. Most people think that they only occur in the west coast, but there are actually 45 states throughout the US that are at risk including Pennsylvania

Dam Failures/Ponds

When a dam or pond fails, huge amounts of water go downstream with great force.
Failures can happen with little warning

Hazardous Materials Incidents

Hazardous Materials Incidents can happen at an industrial site or may happen on a roadway, railway, waterway, or pipeline. Hazardous Materials travels our roadways every day.

Hurricanes/Tornadoes/ Thunderstorms

Hurricanes, Tornadoes, and Thunderstorms can cause a lot of damage and very dangerous weather emergencies. Tornadoes can happen suddenly and without warning.

Thunderstorms bring dangerous lightning, one of the main causes of weather-related deaths in the US every year. Hurricanes bring high water and flooding.

Influenza (Flu) Pandemic

Like the seasonal flu many people get every year, pandemic flu spreads by sick people coughing or sneezing and touching surfaces like doorknobs etc.

Terrorism

Terrorism is defined as the use of violence and intimidation to achieve a goal. Terrorists typically plan their attacks in a way that gets the greatest publicity (news coverage) for their causes and creates massive fear among the public.

Be Prepared at Home

If an emergency happens, it's important to have a plan of action for you and your family. Make an emergency contact list, and a plan for your family and have an emergency kit on hand are the most important things you can do to be prepared.

How To Make A Family Emergency Plan

- Talk to family members about different emergencies.
- Discuss how to respond to each emergency
- Discuss what to do in case the power is out or someone hurt
- Discuss what to do if your family is not together when an emergency happens.

How to Make A Family Emergency Plan – Cont.

- Put emergency contact numbers near all telephones.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1 to get help in an emergency
- Turn on the radio, weather radio or television for emergency information
- Pick two meeting places – a place near your home and a place outside your neighborhood – in case you cannot return home after an emergency

How to Make A Family Emergency Plan – Cont.

- Take a basic first aid and CPR class. Contact the American Red Cross for more information
- Keep important family documents and recent photos (including photos of pets) in a waterproof and fireproof safe and take them with you if you need to evacuate your home.

Home Emergency Kit Checklist

Your home emergency kit should have food, bottled water and supplies to live on for at least three days or longer. Keep your kit in the same place in your home and in an easy-to-carry container in case you have to leave quickly. Make sure that all your family members know where the emergency kit is kept.

Home Emergency Kit Checklist

- Bottled Water
- At least a three-day supply of foods that won't spoil
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Sturdy shoes or work boots
- Heavy socks
- Hats and gloves
- Extra clothing and blankets
- Rain Gear
- Cash

Home Emergency Kit Checklist – Cont.

- Tools and supplies
- For Children
 - Baby Formula/food for at least three days
 - Diapers
 - Bottles
 - Powdered Milk
 - Medications
 - Games/Activities
 - Special toys
 - Wet wipes
 - Blankets

Home Emergency Kit Checklist – Cont.

- Additional Items for Adults
 - One-week minimum supply of any prescription drugs
 - Denture needs
 - Contact lenses and supplies
 - Extra eyeglasses
 - Playing cards and books
 - Lip balm and sunscreen

Home Emergency Kit Checklist – Cont.

- If you have a person with Special needs make sure you bring any medical equipment and information on how it's used with you
- Don't forget your pets as well

Important Documents

- Recent family photos including photos of pets
- Copies of health insurance cards
- Copies of birth certificates
- Copies of drivers' licenses
- Copies of homeowner and car insurance policies
- Bank account numbers
- Cash
- Local and state maps
- Pre-paid phone cards

Be Prepared In Your Vehicle

Many times, an emergency may happen while you're driving, or may need to evacuate (leave) at a moment's notice. It's important to have an emergency plan for your vehicle

How to Prepare for an Emergency in your Vehicle

- Keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car.
- Have your emergency plan ready for communicating and getting back together with your family if you are separated
- Keep a full tank of gas in your car if an evacuation seems possible or likely. Gas stations may be closed in emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages.

How to Prepare for an Emergency in your Vehicle – Cont.

- If you are evacuating in your vehicle:
 - Leave early enough so that you are not trapped by severe weather or poor air quality
 - Follow recommended evacuation routes (avoid shortcuts as that may be blocked)
 - Watch out for downed power lines and washed-out roads and bridges – **NEVER DRIVE INTO FLOODED AREAS**

Vehicle Emergency Kit Checklist

- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery-operated radio
- Jumper cables
- Cell phone charger
- Snow shovel
- Matches and Candles
- First Aid Supplies
- Ice Scraper
- Sand
- Bottled water and food
- Anything else you may need for others in the vehicle

Planning for Special Needs

Some people may need extra planning before an emergency to make sure special needs are met when an emergency happens. This includes, but isn't limited to, young children, older residents and people who have special medical needs.

Special Needs Checklist

- Medications
- Medical Supplies
- IV and Feeding Tube Equipment
- Oxygen and Breathing Equipment

The background is a solid blue color with a subtle gradient. A thin, light blue curved line starts from the top left and arcs across the middle of the page. A larger, semi-transparent blue triangular shape is positioned in the lower right quadrant, pointing towards the center.

Don't forget your pets, service animals and
livestock in time of a disaster.

After an Emergency

After an emergency is over, there can still be danger. When you plan what you will do before and during a disaster, be sure to include a plan for afterward as well. What you do next can save your life and the lives of others.


After an Emergency Cont.

- Stay calm.
- Check the area around you for safety.
- Some natural hazards, like severe storms or earthquakes, may continue to happen over the next several days.
- Stay tuned to your local emergency station
- Wash small wounds with soap and water.
- Unless told by officials to evacuate your area, stay off the roads so emergency vehicles can quickly get where they need to go.
- Avoid using the telephone .
- Turn off sensitive electrical equipment to prevent them from being damaged when electricity is restored.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible
- Do not use the stove to heat your home

Children need attention after an emergency

- Encourage children to talk about their fears
- Reassure them with love
- Reassure them that they are safe and answer questions honestly
- Tell them, in simple language, what is happening.
- Hold and hug them often
- When they go back to school, encourage them to also talk about their problems with teachers or school counselors and to play games, and do all of the other things they did before the disaster.

Any Questions?



Thank You for Attending
Tonight