



READY RACINE



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WI residents unprepared?

According to a recent survey, 80% of Wisconsin residents had not taken basic emergency precautions—such as making a kit of emergency supplies—and would not be prepared to respond if an emergency or disaster strikes.

Ready America encourages Americans to Prepare, Plan and Stay Informed. Every school, business and home should take the time to prepare for the many types of emergencies we could face.

To learn more about being prepared for all types of emergencies, go to our article, **10 steps to preparedness**, on page 3. And don't forget to check out www.Ready.gov ❖



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Scouts train for jamboree

David L. Maack, CEM, CPM
Racine County Emergency Management Coordinator

Boy Scout Troop 1025, composed of 45 Boy Scouts and adult leaders from Racine and Kenosha Counties who will be attending the Boy Scouts' National Jamboree this summer, recently participated in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.

The Scouts spent a weekend learning about emergency preparedness and disaster response. The boys worked in their patrols, and team building was emphasized. Like all CERT classes, the training ended with a realistic exercise in which the scouts responded to a "tornado" hitting a campsite at the Jamboree.



In addition to completing CERT training, they also worked on a special Jamboree Preparedness award and completed the Emergency Preparedness, First Aid and Fire Safety merit badges.

Fort A.P. Hill, a 76,000-acre facility, has hosted the national Scout jamboree since 1981. The Boy Scouts of America uses approximately 3,000 acres of land to support a city of more than 43,000 Scouts and leaders and comprising 18,000 tents and 3,600 patrol kitchens.

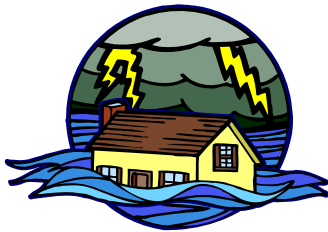
As you can imagine, emergency situations may arise, and this training will help the Scouts cope with any type of emergency and better equip them to respond, if necessary. ❖

Thunderstorms & lightning

All thunderstorms are dangerous. Every thunderstorm produces lightning. In the United States, on average, lightning injures 300 people and kills 80 each year. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms. Other associated dangers of thunderstorms include tornadoes, strong winds, hail, and flash flooding. Flash flooding is responsible for more fatalities—more than 140 annually—than any other thunderstorm-associated hazard.

Facts About Thunderstorms

- They may occur singly, in clusters, or in lines.
- Some of the most severe occur when a single thunderstorm affects one location for an extended time.
- Thunderstorms typically produce heavy rain for a brief period, anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour.
- Warm, humid conditions are highly favorable for thunderstorm development.
- About 10 percent of thunderstorms are classified as severe—one that produces hail at least three-quarters of an inch in diameter, has winds of 58 miles per hour or higher, or produces a tornado.



Facts About Lightning

- Lightning's unpredictability increases the risk to individuals and property.
- Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.
- "Heat lightning" is actually lightning from a thunderstorm too far away for thunder to be heard. However, the storm may be moving in your direction!
- Most lightning deaths and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors in the summer months during the afternoon and evening.
- Your chances of being struck by lightning are estimated to be 1 in 600,000, but could be reduced even further by following safety precautions.
- Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be attended to immediately. ❖

(source: fema.gov)

Citizen Corps corner

Cathy LaFaive-Markstrom



Greetings, Citizen Corps volunteers!

In case you've been wondering what we were up to in 2009, I have compiled an annual report. It wasn't until I compiled all of the stats that I realized how busy we at Southeast Wisconsin Citizen Corps are.

This past year:

- We have hosted 6 CERT classes and trained over 125 new CERT volunteers,
- Developed a database of over 400 Non-profit agencies in Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties,
- Hosted 2 Safety fairs, 1 for Racine and 1 for Kenosha County,
- Attended 2 county fairs, presenting CERT & Safety to Racine & Kenosha Counties,
- Engaged the public in 26 speaking engagements and presentations of the CERT program,
- Created over 20 new volunteer opportunities for CERTs in the community including:
 - Traffic control for 3 parades
 - Traffic control for Cops n Kids book giveaway
 - H1N1 clinics
 - Medicine Collection days for both Racine & Kenosha Counties
 - 211 volunteers
 - Traffic & crowd control for both safety fairs
 - Traffic & crowd control for the Spring Fling/Swapfest at VCRC.

On top of that we have a new monthly newsletter that goes out the first week of each month, more CERT classes and refresher trainings, plus we are working with other CERT programs in the area to develop a new CERT Olympics come fall!

Also, we are now on Facebook. Search for Southeast Wisconsin Citizen Corps. We post useful information there, as well as having links to sites where you can get more info or training, and we post volunteer opportunities as well as pictures of activities.

I have been asked many times where CERT volunteers can get additional CERT supplies. The simplest answer is anywhere. You can pick up most of the items on the emergency supply list at any store, but if you want stuff that is CERT-specific, one of the sites we use is <http://www.cert-kits.com/>.

And always, if you have any questions, comments, ideas, etc. you can email me at cmarkstrom@volunteercenterofracine.org. ❖

10 steps to preparedness

David L. Maack, CEM, CPM, WCEM

Newsweek magazine recently asked a survival expert to list 10 ways to prepare for disaster. Obviously I read his list with interest, and it got me thinking-what ten things would I list? Would they be the same, or would I come to different conclusions? While our lists are similar, I have tried to adapt my list to what I have experienced here in Racine County. Here is my list:

1. We need to anticipate that disasters do occur and will impact us. We have a saying, "It is not a matter of 'if' disaster will happen but 'when' disaster will happen." Disasters and emergencies often come with little or no warning. And when they do, will you be prepared? Would you know what to do? If you are prepared and know what to expect, you are in control of your personal situation and less likely to panic.
2. Learn about the disasters that can impact us in Southeastern Wisconsin and take the steps to prepare you and your family for them. Take our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, along with First Aid and other types of training.
3. Sit down with your family and conduct a home hazard hunt. Identify things that could be slip, trip or fall hazards and correct them. If you have fire hazards, remove them. Look at home improvements that may prevent wind and flood damage from occurring.
4. Flooding has affected hundreds of Racine County homeowners over the past three years. Look at raising your utilities off the floor and if there are items that could be damaged in your basement, raise them up also. Ensure that your sump pump works and that you have a battery back-up. Make sure you have adequate flood insurance, and it is helpful to have a rider to cover sewage back-up in your basement.
5. Get a disaster kit. With your family, identify everything you might need to survive for at least three days if you were trapped in your basement after a tornado. Don't forget about sanitation items and any other special needs you may have. Keep the kit simple and mobile.
6. After you put together your family disaster kit, make up "go bags" for each member of the family. These would be similar to your home

disaster kit but would include those items you may need if you had to leave your home on short notice, for example, because of a fire or a hazardous materials evacuation. Put important computer files on a jump drive and store it in the go bag. Make copies of important papers and list your medications, as well as having a small three-day supply stored in the kit. If you take our CERT training, you get a small duffel bag which would serve as a perfect go bag.

7. Rotate your items twice a year. Daylight savings time changes are good times to do this. While changing the batteries in the smoke alarms, rotate items in your disaster kit.
8. Make a plan. Here again, keep it simple and manageable. Involve the whole family in the planning process. Designate a meeting place both in the neighborhood and perhaps out of town. Develop a communication component. It is often helpful to have an out of state contact that family members could call to check in with.
9. Practice your plan. Conduct unannounced fire and tornado drills. The more you practice, the more it becomes second nature, the more prepared you will be and less likely to panic.
10. Set up a Neighborhood Watch group within your block and prepare together. In a disaster, neighbors helping neighbors can help relieve pressure on professional first responders who will be overwhelmed and stretched thin. It can also ensure that nobody "falls through the cracks" and that somebody is looking out for neighbors who may have special needs.

Nobody wakes up today and says, "We're going to have a tornado today" or "Today I think my basement will flood" or "Today's a good day to have a heart attack." These things happen, often quickly and without notice. Yet we do not have to be caught by surprise. While this list is not comprehensive, I think it gives the average person a starting point to being more prepared. ❖



Free Resources

FLOODS

The National Weather Service has some great information on flood safety:

<http://www.weather.gov/floodsafety/>

Driving into standing water NEVER a good idea:

<http://www.norman.noaa.gov/2008/04/flash-flood-safety-in-a-car/>

Flood Insurance information for residential and commercial situations:

<http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>



BUSINESS PREPAREDNESS

The Institute of Home and Business Safety offers free Open for Business®

Business Continuity Planning Tools to help reduce the potential for loss, should disaster strike, and reopen quickly should a business be forced to close. This creates savings for business and also benefits employees and customers who rely on businesses being open.

<http://www.disastersafety.org/text.asp?id=commlines>

Our friends at Ready.Gov also have templates available for business plans. For more information, check out:

<http://www.ready.gov/business/index.html>

Create a Sheltering-in-Place Plan for Your Properties

<http://www.lowesforpros.com/create-a-sheltering-in-place-plan-for-your-properties>

GENERAL PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) and Personal Disaster Preparedness Guide (PDPG)

<http://www.operationhope.org/smdev/lf1.php?id=187>

Winter storms, thunderstorms, flooding, tornadoes and lightning and extreme heat conditions can all have the ability to affect our family's food supplies. Check out the *FoodFacts* page from the FDA at

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm076881.htm#s1>

Is YOUR community *Storm Ready*? Racine County is! Visit <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/> and select the "Communities" item from the menu on the left side of the screen.

And don't forget Ready.Gov as a one stop shop for preparedness information. <http://www.ready.gov/> (Available in English, French and Spanish)

Our friends at Wisconsin Emergency Management have also put together a nice website at: <http://ready.wi.gov/>

The American Red Cross has a *Be Red Cross Ready* program, click on right side of page for interactive site training.

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/>

The Institute of Home and Business Safety offers free information and resources for both homeowners and businesses. Check out: www.disastersafety.org

Disaster City® Guide app for iPhone® launched

TEEX's Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) division has launched the first iPhone® application designed, tested and fielded by the agency. This Apple application is available at no cost on iTunes®. The Disaster City® Guide iPhone® Application provides users with basic information about what to do to prepare for and survive various disasters, including a flood, thunderstorm, hurricane, tornado and earthquake. The goal is to put valuable information into the hands of citizens so they can access it easily. Additional information is included about the critical training US&R provides at Disaster City®. One reviewer on iTunes® calls the application: "A great quick reference. Lots of useful information in one place."

Free Resources cont.

THE 2.0 WORLD

Are you looking to incorporate Social Media into your Family/Business Preparedness Planning? It's all the latest buzz...check out:

<http://mashable.com/2010/03/09/prepare-disaster-social-media/>

http://www.fema.gov/help/social_media.shtm

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Disasters-20-Conference-Social-Media-Use.html>

CHILDREN AND DISASTERS

There are several great resources available for the little ones:

The Racine County Coloring Book which offers tornado tips can be found on-line at:

<http://www.racineco.com/crepository/emergencyman/tornadocoloringbook.pdf>

<http://www.coloringpages24.com/nature/tornado/index-1>

http://www.fema.gov/kids/games/colorbk/racine_county.htm



Sesame Street (*Helping Children Understand Natural Disasters*), provides some tips for talking to children about natural disaster - and a little bit of insight to how they might see things.

http://www.sesameworkshop.org/newsandevents/sesameupdates/naturaldisaster_advice

Let's Get Ready-Planning Together for Emergencies is a fun, interactive site with games, and checklists.

<http://www.sesamestreet.org/ready>,

FEMA's site *Ready Kids* gives children the chance to Build a Kit, Make a Plan, and other activities.

The Florida Institute for Family Involvement has a publication *Disaster Preparedness for Families of Children with Special Needs*. There are useful checklists and other planning tools.

http://www.fifionline.org/resources/disaster_english.pdf.

Those with children in daycare/childcare settings may find some interesting information at:

<http://www.naccrra.org/disaster/>.

TRAINING

AWR-129-W Introduction to Homeland Security Risk Management

This awareness level web-based course is designed to help learners understand key risk management concepts and recognize how they apply to homeland security. The goal is to support State and local efforts to use risk to shape strategic, operational, and tactical decisions in homeland security. Learning objectives for this course include:

Defining the key terms, principles, and processes associated with risk management as traditionally used in other fields, recognizing how risk management applies in a homeland security context and recognizing the key components of an effective homeland security risk management program. The 2-hour course is available at no charge at www.LearnAboutRisk.com.

Railroad Training. CSX recently launched a free, online training program to educate emergency personnel on how to safely respond to incidents on and around railroad property and equipment. The site at www.csxsafe.com is the first of its kind launched by a U.S. railroad for this audience.

First Responder Safety at a Small Aircraft or Helicopter Accident

As small aircraft and helicopters have become more complex, technology has provided systems that have enhanced operational safety. In the event of an accident, many of these systems have presented additional hazards to first responders or any potential rescuer at an aircraft accident scene. The FAA, in cooperation with [General Aviation Manufacturers Association \(GAMA\)](http://www.gama.org), has developed training for safety at an aircraft accident scene. While the material was initially developed for firefighters, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and police, it provides useful information for any persons that may come across an aircraft accident.

http://www.faa.gov/aircraft/gen_av/first_responders/