



READY RACINE



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National Preparedness Month

This September marks the ten year anniversary of 9/11 and we ask you to take time to remember those lost as well as time to make sure you are prepared for future emergencies. As a result, County Executive Jim Ladwig has joined in proclaiming September as "National Preparedness Month" in Racine County and urges citizens to prepare themselves and those in their care for an unexpected emergency.

Emergencies can happen anytime and anywhere. No one is immune, although we can take steps to prevent or minimize serious damage and injury. But are you prepared? Could your family go without electricity, water service, and access to a supermarket or local services for a few days? Preparedness begins with these three easy steps: Get a Kit. Make a Plan. Be informed.

Get a Kit

Keep enough emergency supplies on hand for your family – water, non-perishable food, first aid, prescriptions, flashlight, and a battery-powered radio. If you own pets, remember to include their food and supplies in your supply kit.

Make a Plan

Discuss and agree on an emergency plan with your family. You can download a template from Ready.gov/makeaplan. Make sure you check in on family, friends and neighbors, especially those who have functional needs.

Be Informed

Learn about specific hazards in our area; attend our annual storm spotter seminar and sign up for a CPR/First Aid class or our popular Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course. And encourage other families to remember, and prepare.

As FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate reminds us, "Individuals and families are the most important members of the nation's emergency management team. Being prepared can save precious time if there is a need to respond to an emergency."

Preparedness is a shared responsibility; it takes a whole community. This year's campaign focuses on turning awareness into action by encouraging all individuals and all communities nationwide to make an emergency preparedness plan. ❖

Seven habits of highly prepared people

1. Driving with a half tank of gas or more. When you see it getting to the half mark, fill 'er up!
2. Know your neighbors and know which ones to trust with your spare house key.
3. Keep your cell phone charged and carry your cell phone charger in your car.
4. Have a land line phone at home and have an old phone that does not require electricity to work.
5. Check your emergency supply bin every month (car, home and work). Crank your radio, check the bins for water intrusion or pests, replace old food items.
6. Test your emergency contacts. Call them every month and make sure all your family members have the same numbers.
7. Make sure everyone knows what to do in an emergency, so you can leave your house with the confidence that everyone will know what to do, even if you are not there.

Sure, there are more things to consider, but if you start these simple habits, you will be far less stressed when something actually does happen...and isn't that a good habit to have?!

By Sue Fisher

http://suesenews.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html

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Yorkville UMC receives preparedness grant

Yorkville United Methodist Church is the recipient of a grant from the Union Grove Area Fund. Brian McMahon, U.G. Area Fund Board Chairman, presented a check for \$4,500 to Trustee Co-Chairs Bill Beck and Cory Bartlett on August 11. Also attending the presentation was David Maack, Emergency Management Coordinator for Racine County.

Receipt of the grant completes Yorkville UMC's fundraising efforts for installation of a new well. The church plans to qualify its facility as a disaster relief site, and having an on-site water supply is required (current water source was shared with an adjacent property). An existing generator will supply power to the building and to the well in the event of major power outages.

When the church becomes an approved site to be utilized in the event of disaster, its service could range from working with the Red Cross or other organizations as a base for distributing goods and services, to actually housing residents during long-term power outages or loss of property. Yorkville UMC is a member of Tri-County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster). Pastor Susan Leih is active in that organization and is in the process of learning more about what the church's role could be in the event of disaster.



Union Grove Area Fund

The Union Grove Area Fund was established in 1995 with a \$100,000 bequest from the estate of James R. Reitsma, a local dairy farmer. Reitsma's purpose for his donation was to support and enhance the fire/rescue squad services for the Union Grove area, and to improve safety and welfare for the community. ❖

Citizen Corps corner

Moira Moon



I am often asked "What is CERT?" and my answer is always the same - it is a program that helps empower individuals. It is pro-active, teaching people what to do, and just as important, what not to do in an emergency situation.

When an emergency occurs, be it a fire, a flood, an accident, it is human nature to want to help out. But if you are not trained and try to help, you can become part of the problem. This is a wonderful opportunity for people to learn the correct way to give assistance and not get in the way of first responders when they arrive, but in fact, help these professionals by relating what they have done and what they have seen.

It is 20 hours jam packed with lessons in triage, light search and rescue, fire suppression, first aid and so much more. At the end of the class there is a mock incident when lessons learned, can be put to use and afterward there is a group discussion with feedback on the incident. The classes are taught by professional first responders and the feedback we get from them is just amazing.

We had one young woman who took the class as a teenager and about a year later there was a flood in her neighborhood. While her neighbors did not know what to do, her training kicked in and she helped them turn off their power (because of the class she knew where to find the main "shut-off" on the outside of a house), get their families and pets out of the house, spoke to WE Energies for them and quite basically saved the day for a lot of families. She even got an award for it.

This is the kind of feedback we get that makes us realize how worthwhile our program is. ❖



Local groups prepare for worst

David L. Maack, CEM, CPM, WCEM

Last year I was invited to a Safety Summit that was coordinated through the SC Johnson Flight Center, in conjunction with the local EAA Young Eagles program. The summit was focused on the aviation industry and I found it very interesting.

As a follow up to that summit, the SCJ Flight Center invited us to participate in a tabletop exercise centered on an accident involving one of their planes.

The interaction was positive and we were able to better understand each others responsibilities. In addition, it was helpful putting names to faces. The emergency management community has a saying, "During the disaster is not the time to exchange business cards."

The SCJ Flight Center has committed to fostering a positive, working relationship with emergency management and the first responders in Racine County. Recently it hosted three days of training at Batten International Airport in Racine.



Working with Kellogg Community College, the SCJ Flight Center brought in a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) mobile trainer, utilizing a high tech mobile aircraft fire simulator.

The simulator uses safe, controllable, environmentally acceptable propane fuel to provide a variety of realistic aircraft fire scenarios, including flammable liquid spills,

engine fires, interior cabin, Class C Interior Cockpit Fire, wheel brake fires and APU fire.

The Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility, under the leadership of Warden Paul Kemper and Captain J. Kerner, invited local emergency responders to participate in a tabletop exercise involving a train derailment impacting their facility.



Corrections staff discussed how they would respond to the situation and anticipated potential issues such as the need to evacuate the facility. Local emergency responders addressed what their concerns would be and explained how they would respond to an incident like this.

Cooperation and communication was stressed by all participants and a follow-up exercise is planned for next spring. ❖

AWR-175 - Information Security for Everyone (Training)

The **AWR-175 - Information Security for Everyone** online course is designed to teach the principles and practices that all computer users need to keep themselves safe, both at work and at home. Course topics include how to secure both clean and corrupted systems, protecting your personal data, securing simple computer networks, and safe Internet usage. Learn how to: Secure a clean computer, secure a corrupted computer, protect your computer and its contents, secure computer networks, secure electronic communications, maintain privacy guidelines while surfing the Internet, and how to practice safe Internet usage.

<http://www.teexwmdcampus.com/index.k2>



New emergency response vehicle?



Every Emergency Management Agency should have an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) that can withstand powerful winds, including tornadoes. Right?

Recently I had the opportunity to see one of these vehicles up close when the Milwaukee Public Museum featured the **Tornado Intercept Vehicle (TIV)**, in conjunction with its showing of the IMAX film *Tornado Alley*.

The **TIV** has bullet-resistant windows, a 60-gallon fuel tank, armor and a military-style turret. It weighs in at 15,000 pounds. Armed with a 70mm camera, the TIV is designed to withstand gale force winds, torrential rains and unrelenting hail.

While not a practical tool for EM, the TIV is impressive, if not a bit intimidating. ❖



FBI launches child ID mobile app

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has launched its first mobile application—the Child ID App. This free mobile app provides a convenient place to electronically store photos and vital information about one's children that can be easily provided to authorities if a child goes missing.

The app allows users to send information—including pictures or other physical identifiers such as height and weight—to authorities with a few clicks. It also provides tips on keeping children safe and guidance on what to do in the first few crucial hours after a child goes missing.

The Child ID App is currently available for use on iPhones. The FBI is planning to expand the tool to other types of mobile devices in the near future.

The FBI's new Child ID App can be downloaded for free from the App Store on iTunes at:

itunes.apple.com/us/app/fbi-child_id/id446158585?ls=1&mt=8.

The FBI's Child ID App
Putting Safety in Your Hands

A child goes missing every 40 seconds in America. Many never return home.

The FBI's new Child ID App can help.

Simply download the free FBI mobile application from the App Store on iTunes, add the latest photos of your child, enter key information about him or her, and update it regularly.

In the unlikely event that your child goes missing, you can quickly e-mail the photos and information to authorities. The app also includes safety advice and checklists for parents. And please be assured, no information about you or your child will be collected or stored by the FBI or iTunes.

Put your child's safety in your own hands. Download the FBI's Child ID App today.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association partners with EM

THE BEGINNING

Just after the 1965 Palm Sunday tornado outbreak (271 killed, 1500 injured), and when accurate tornado forecasts and weather radars were primitive, the Weather Bureau created a program to collect storm reports from the general public. They needed more eyes to scan the sky, as too many people were dying, because they did not recognize the hazards and weather warnings were not getting timely distribution. This program was called SKYWARN.

TODAY

Today SKYWARN is a nation wide volunteer network of "storm spotters" who are trained to Identify, Evaluate, and Report severe weather events. These volunteers come from all walks of life, but are frequently fire or police personnel, emergency response groups, ham radio operators, weather watchers, and concerned citizens. A keen interest in weather and community service is a common bond.

They support their local communities and governments by providing the now National Weather Service (NWS) with ground-truth reports in real time of tornadoes, large hail, property damage, flooding, snow fall amounts, etc.



Storm reports are relayed by phone, internet, and 2-way radio. Currently there are just over 300,000 trained weather spotters nation wide and some 150 Skywarn groups that partner with their local NWS office.

LOCALLY

Here in southeast Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association (MASA) represents a local chapter of this national program and has been providing community outreach since 1995. According

to its executive director, Skip Voros, it is one of only a dozen Skywarn groups nation wide to receive nonprofit and I-R-S tax exempt status, and the NWS' distinguished *Public Service Award*.

He notes, "We provide severe weather awareness and storm spotter training via public speaking programs, educational seminars, handouts, booklets, fliers, on-line links, and two-way radio communications. To keep our 1500 associates current we also use local, regional, or national E-mail lists. And our social networks *Twitter*, *Facebook*, and *YouTube* provide impressive growth and reach. To support our goals and mission we utilize financial and equipment donations"

FREQUENT Q & A:

HOW DO I BECOME A SPOTTER? Attend the annual spring training classes. They provide the basics and contact information. Check our Milwaukee Skywarn homepage for a statewide list. Also review our collection on on-line training links. Renew your training at least every two years.

WHERE DO I STORM SPOT FROM? You can storm spot from any location; at home, work, or on the road. Having a safe location to move to and/or mobile escape routes are essential. Personal safety, accurate reports, and communication devices to relay your reports are essential.

STORM SPOTTER OR STORM CHASER? Spotters typically will remain in their community and from their home, work or vehicle, submit reports. Chasers drive hundred miles to intercept forecasted storms for scientific research, take pictures, or storm chaser tours. Chasing is dangerous and requires knowledge of storm behavior to be safe. Scripted TV shows are not realistic.

SKYWARN AND HAM RADIO? A large percentage of storm spotters are licensed ham radio operators. During selected severe weather events they activate the radio networks to submit reports to the NWS. Their radio frequencies can be heard on any programmable police scanners.

WHO ACTIVATES THE SPOTTERS? The NWS may request spotter activation, but it is up to the groups and individual spotters as to when they activate. Public safety agencies and ham radio groups have different activation requirements.

Milwaukee Skywarn Web site portal:
www.mke-skywarn.org

Contact Skip Voros:
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