

Emergency Service Times

March is Shelter Awareness Month

Know how to respond safely when instructions are given to evacuate or take shelter.

www.do1thing.us

Do One Thing This Month

- ___ Identify the best tornado shelter in your home and workplace.
- ___ Make a Go Bag for emergency sheltering.
- ___ Talk to your child's school regarding their sheltering procedures.
- ___ Have a leash or carrier to evacuate or contain your pet in an emergency.

Shelter: Shelter from the Storm

Choosing the best place in your home or workplace to shelter from a tornado isn't always easy. Many newer buildings don't have a really good shelter area. Use these rules of thumb to find the best tornado shelter possible:

- _ Stay away from windows and skylights
- _ Shelter "down and in" - Put as many walls between yourself and the outside as possible (think of the ceiling as a wall).
- _ Avoid rooms with large ceiling expanses
- _ Find an area that is large enough for everyone to stay comfortably for at least 45 minutes

If you are advised to evacuate, do so. If you are not advised to evacuate, stay inside and away from windows until the storm has completely passed.

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NEWAYGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES TIMES NEWSLETTER

You may notice that there is a change with the Newaygo County Emergency Service Times newsletter. The "Calendar of Events" has been moved to the first page.

Calendar of Events

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING TEAM MEETING

NEWAYGO COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

MARCH 16, 2010 @ 1300-1500

CONTACT ABBY MAREK 231-689-7354 FOR MORE INFORMATION

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING TEAM MEETING

NEWAYGO COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

APRIL 20, 2010 @ 1300-1500

CONTACT ABBY MAREK 231-689-7354 FOR MORE INFORMATION

March Action Points:

Regional ID Tags - As soon as your department completes the ID Tag Forms, the Emergency Services Intern will coordinate with your department to take your departments picture and print off two ID tags per first responder. This is a Regional and Countywide effort to assist with accountability, credentialing, and is a component of National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliancy. If you have not received your ID Tag forms, you will be receiving them shortly.



Shelter #2: Shelter in Place

In an emergency like a hazardous materials release you may be told to shelter in place. This means to make the place where you are a safe place to stay until the danger has passed. Shelter in place orders are given when it would be dangerous for you to leave your home or the building you are in.

Notification

In a hazardous materials incident, outdoor warning sirens may be sounded to alert residents in the area that it is not safe to remain outside. Emergency responders may go door to door in the affected area, or they may use loudspeakers from police or fire vehicles to give instructions. Information will also be given over television or radio using the Emergency Alert System.

What to do in a hazardous materials incident

The first thing to do when a chemical release or other hazardous materials incident occurs is to get information. If responders are not in the area giving instructions, turn on the television or radio to find out if your area is affected and what steps to take. Never call 911 to get information about an emergency. Only call 911 if you are injured or need assistance. If you are in an area affected by the chemical release, you will be told to do one of two things: Evacuate or Shelter in Place. Listen carefully to instructions.

If you are told to shelter in place you should close all doors and windows and shut off fans and air conditioners. Take your family to a room with as few doors and windows as possible. You may be told to put towels or tape around the cracks of the windows and doors. Follow emergency instructions carefully. Make sure you take a battery powered radio with you so that you will know when the danger has passed. Power in your area may be shut off during the incident.

Infectious Disease Outbreaks

During an infectious disease outbreak, people may be isolated or quarantined to prevent the spread of disease. The purpose of quarantine is to keep people who may have been exposed to a disease separate until it is known if they will get sick. Isolation means keeping people who are sick away from others. You may be isolated or quarantined in your home or in a hospital. Contact your local health department to find out about disease response plans in your community.

Shelter #3: Emergency Evacuation Shelter

Emergency evacuation shelters will be opened when people are evacuated from their homes. In most areas emergency shelters are operated by the American Red Cross.

At the Red Cross Shelter:

- Most Red Cross shelters are opened in school gyms.
- You will be given a cot to sleep on, but you may need to provide your own pillow or blanket.
- Bring ID if possible, and know your social security number. You may need to apply to FEMA for disaster assistance funding while still at the shelter.
- The Red Cross will not give any information about you to anyone without your permission.
- Meals and bottled water will be provided.

- Public officials will provide information about the disaster to the shelter.
- A nurse will be available to provide basic medical care.
- The Red Cross will try to help replace prescription medicines, but it will be much easier if you can bring your meds from home, or provide a list of what you are taking and how much.
- Weapons and alcohol are not allowed in Red Cross shelters.
- There is never any charge for emergency sheltering.
- Pets are not allowed at Red Cross shelters, but animal service providers may open pet shelters if homes are evacuated. Service animals are allowed in shelters.

Contact your local animal control office or humane society to find out about pet emergency shelter plans in your community.

Have a "Go Bag" ready for sheltering in place or evacuating. Some things to include are:

- Battery powered radio
- Flash light
- Blankets (lightweight "space blankets" are available at most places that sell camping supplies)
- Emergency information, including a list of any prescription medicines and insurance policies
- Personal items such as toothbrushes, soap, extra glasses, etc.
- Whistle
- First aid kit
- Diapers and baby formula
- Supplies for pets (leash, food, bowls, plastic bags)
- Change of clothing

Your Go Bag can be part of your home emergency kit, just make sure that it is in a bag or easy to carry container and that it is in an easy to get to location.

Pandemic Flu
 In a widespread disease outbreak like an influenza pandemic, the health department may not allow public gatherings, and may ask people to stay home as much as possible. School may be cancelled. You may be asked to shop for groceries only at certain times.

These facts only make suggestions, it is up to you to choose the best option for your household and take steps to be better prepared.

EMERGENCY FUNCTION UPDATES

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

FIRE SERVICES:

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:

PUBLIC WORKS:

PUBLIC HEALTH:

COMMUNICATIONS:

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

HUMAN SERVICES:

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT:

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE
TEAM AND MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS:

EDITOR'S NOTES

Newaygo County Emergency Services is trying to bridge the communication gap between individual departments and the rest of the emergency services community. A way to achieve this goal is to provide a newsletter with fun facts, calendar of events, and emergency service updates. Newaygo County Emergency Services is asking for each department to send your local events, and updates to be published in the Newaygo County Emergency Services Times. Our plan is to publish this publication monthly. So in order to meet this goal, each department is asked to send their information by the 15th of each month. Email this information to eocintern@co.newaygo.mi.us
Thank you, Editor Newaygo ES Times

Animal Health Network

Your Local Information Link for Animal Safety and Security

What is the Animal Health Network?

A state-adaptable, local network established by the local-level Extension educator who gains the commitment of local feed retailers to reach out to customers, both noncommercial and commercial livestock and poultry owners, with a State Department of Health Zoonosis Division or State Veterinarian written or approved message.

Who is Involved?

State Veterinarians, State and Local Extension Educators, Local Feed Retail Managers, and underserved populations of non-commercial livestock and poultry owners.

What does the Network do?

The Animal Health Network connects underserved populations of non-commercial livestock and poultry owners with vital animal disease related alerts and information. The goal of the network is to deliver the state veterinarian's message through the established Extension system at critical times to help protect America's food and agriculture infrastructure.

Why is the Network important?

Adoption of the Animal Health Network has the potential to reduce the vulnerability of the nation's food production sector by allowing early detection and rapid response to animal diseases in noncommercial herds and flocks.

How does the information get to livestock and poultry owners?

How was the Animal Health Network established?

The concept for the Animal Health Network emerged from a series of focus groups conducted in 2006 on how effectively communicate with underserved communities of backyard, non-commercial, and hobbyist livestock and poultry owners. Focus groups indicated the primary source of information for this population was word of mouth from trusted individuals, feed retail owners, and local Extension educators. It was also discovered that local feed retailers were more likely to participate in a local network maintained by their local Extension educator.

Animal Health Network
Communications Network

State Veterinarian

State & Local Extension

Local Feed Retail Managers

Underserved & Non-Commercial Livestock and Poultry Customers

