



Auglaize County EMA/LEPC Special Delivery



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*Auglaize County Emergency Management Agency
Local Emergency Planning Committee*

Auglaize County EMA/LEPC

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Greetings All,

Your Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) has been planning and gathering information for this publication over the past several months. It is our goal to publish a quarterly publication that will provide you with important public safety information, seasonal safety tips and how to react to weather related emergencies, along with safety information relating to our local industry and transportation system. We feel that it is the responsibility of the LEPC to keep you, the public, informed of what is going on around you, in your neighborhood, throughout your community and across Auglaize County in regard to planning for emergencies and how to react to them should they take place.

The LEPC is made up of public safety personnel, representatives from the Auglaize County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), industry, local and county government officials and citizens like you from across Auglaize County. The LEPC currently consists of twenty-three members who give of their time in an effort to plan and provide training for local emergencies in conjunction with the Auglaize County EMA. We feel strongly that a large part of our responsibility is to keep you informed of what hazards exist in your communities, how to plan for emergencies and where to seek help and/or shelter should a disaster happen.

We hope you find this pub-



Wetlands in Auglaize County

lication interesting, helpful, and a source of safety planning information. Should you ever have questions regarding emergency planning in your community please feel free to contact your local Public Safety Officials or the Auglaize County EMA. We also ask that you please contact us through the EMA office if there is specific safety related information that you would like us to publish.

Sincerely,
LEPC Chairman
Kendall Krites

information pertaining to emergency preparedness, taking action, and staying safe.

*DaNeen Bryan
LEPC Vice Chair*

Springtime brings warmer weather, longer days, new growth, and the return of the sweet sounds of our song birds. Springtime also brings

thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes, and floods. All of these weather conditions may cause many forms of life's perils. The Auglaize County Local Emergency

Planning Committee (LEPC) is very pleased to offer our 2010 Spring Newsletter, providing the citizens of Auglaize County with valuable

Spring Weather



Have your home inspected to make sure it is properly grounded for lightning strikes.”

Spring THUNDERSTORMS are always accompanied by lightning AND can cause destructive winds, tornadoes, heavy rain, hail, and flash flooding. Lightning causes more damage in a typical year than floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes combined. In case of thunderstorm:

ARE YOU INSIDE? Stay inside and postpone outdoor activities. Unplug electrical devices not necessary for obtaining weather information. Avoid using appliances and telephones except in an emergency. Do not take a bath or

shower during a thunderstorm.

ARE YOU OUTSIDE? Seek shelter in a sturdy building or a vehicle with a hard top. Avoid touching metal objects such as bicycles, fences, golf clubs, and lawnmowers. Don't go near tall trees, poles, hills, wires, or metal pipes. In water, get to shore immediately and seek shelter. In woods, take shelter in a low area under thick, shorter trees. In the open, head for low grounds (such as a valley or ravine) and crouch down. If golfing, leave the course immediately.

In a group, don't huddle – spread out!

DON'T WAIT! PREPARE FOR THUNDERSTORMS: Install a lightning protection system, which provides a safe path for grounding electric current. They are not noticeable and do not attract lightning. Install surge protectors to shield electrical equipment and appliances. These range from surge protectors for each item to those that protect the entire house. Have your home inspected to make sure it is properly grounded for lighting strikes.

Tornado Facts

As the severe weather season approaches, take some time to make a safety plan for your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Planning ahead will lower the chance of injury or death in the event severe weather strikes.

Tornadoes develop from severe thunderstorms. They are usually preceded by very heavy rain and/or large hail. A thunderstorm accompanied by hail indicates that the storm has

large amounts of energy and may be severe. In general, the larger the hailstones, the more potential there is for damaging winds and/or tornadoes.

The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or more. Damage paths have exceeded the width of one mile and 50 miles long. Tornadoes generally move from southwest to northeast, but have also been

recorded traveling in any direction. The forward speed of a tornado varies from 30 mph to 70 mph.

Even though Ohio had tornadoes in November of 2002 and 2003, the peak tornado season for Ohio is generally April through July. Tornadoes usually occur between 2 p.m. and 10 p.m., but have been known to occur at any hour.



Funnel cloud over Auglaize County

Disaster Preparedness – Get a Kit

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least three

days. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours, or it might take days. In addition,

basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be cut off for days, or even a week or longer.



Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust Mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers

Keep important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container.

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from local EMA Office
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Alternatively, in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children.



Don't forget your pets! Visit www.avma.org for information.



Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has a cell phone, coins, or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact.

Make a Plan

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and

what you will do in different situations.

Family Emergency Plan

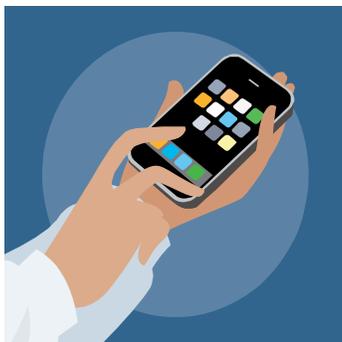
- Identify an **out-of-town contact**. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an **out-of-town contact** may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.
- Be sure every member of your family **knows the phone number** and has a cell phone, **coins**, or a **prepaid phone card** to call the emergency contact. If you have a cell phone, program that person(s) as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in your phone. If you are in an accident, emergency personnel will often check your ICE listings in order to get a hold of someone you know. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you've listed them as emergency contacts.
- Teach family members how to use text messaging (also known as SMS or Short Message Service). Text messages can often get around network disruptions when a phone call might not be able to get through. Subscribe to **alert services**. Many communities now have systems that will send instant text alerts or e-mails to let you know about bad weather, road closings, local emergencies, etc.

Planning to Stay or Go

Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the first important decision is whether you stay where you are or evacuate. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and

available information, including what you are learning here, to determine if there is an immediate danger. In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and

what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for information or official instruction as it becomes available.



Emergency Information

Find out what kinds of disasters, both natural and man-made, are most likely to occur in your area. Further, identify what plan is in place to notify residents

in case of severe weather conditions, etc. Methods of getting your attention vary from community to community. One common method is to broadcast via

emergency radio and **TV broadcasts**. You might hear a special siren, or get a telephone call, or emergency workers may go door-to-door.

Emergency Plans

Use the **New** Online Family Emergency Planning Tool created by the Ready Campaign in conjunction with the Ad Council to prepare a printable Comprehensive Family Emergency Plan:

<http://ready.adcouncil.org/beprepared/fep/index.jsp>

Use the **New** Quick Share application to help your

family in assembling a quick reference list of contact information for your family, and a meeting place for emergencies:

<http://ready.adcouncil.org/beprepared/quickshare.html>

You may also want to **inquire about emergency plans** at places where your family spends time: **work,**

daycare and school. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one. Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together in the event of an emergency. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family, loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead, and communicate with others in advance.



Be Informed

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as making an emergency supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency.

However, there are important differences among potential emergencies that

will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. Learn more about the potential emergencies, and the appropriate way to respond to them. In addition, learn about the emergency plans established in your area by your state and local government.

Emergency preparedness is no longer the sole concern

of earthquake prone Californians and those who live in the part of the country known as "Tornado Alley." For Americans, preparedness must now account for man-made disasters as well as natural ones. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

Replace your detectors after every 10 years of operational life which helps ensure the reliability of your detectors to maximize the protection of your family and property.

Time to Change Batteries!

Your Auglaize County LEPC encourages you to check the operation of all your Smoke Detectors and your Carbon Monoxide Detectors in your home. Check that the detector works properly and change the batteries in your detectors twice a year, every time you change your clocks. Likewise, consider or research the age or manufac-

ture date of your detectors. We recommend that you replace your detectors after 10 years of operational life which helps ensure the reliability of your detectors to maximize the protection of your family and property.

Finally, please consider covering the two contacts on the top of your 9 volt battery with a small piece

of electrical tape or the original plastic contact cover if you discard the old battery in the trash. It is possible, [and] it has been documented, that a fire can result from a small amount of residual energy still present in the battery which can cause heat buildup if the contacts touch other batteries or pieces of metal in the trash bag or can.



Tornado Safety Tips



Whether practicing in a tornado drill or sheltering during a warning, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans to **DUCK!**

- D - Go **DOWN** to the lowest level
- U - Get **UNDER** something
- C - **COVER** your head
- K - **KEEP** in shelter until the storm has passed



- Take responsibility for your safety and be prepared before a watch or warning is issued. Meet with household members to develop a disaster plan to respond to tornado watches and warnings. Conduct regular tornado drills. When a tornado watch is issued, review your plan – don't wait for the watch to become a warning. Learn how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Despite Doppler radar, tornadoes can sometimes occur without any warning, allowing very little time to act. It is important to know the basics of tornado safety. Know the difference between tornado watches and tornado warnings.
- Tune in to one of the following for weather information: NOAA Weather Radio, local/cable television (Ohio News Network or the Weather Channel), or local radio station.
- If you are a person with special needs, register your name and address with your local emergency management agency, police and fire departments before any natural or man-made disaster.
- NOAA Weather Radio has available an alerting tool for people who are deaf or have hearing impairments. Some weather radio receivers can be connected to an existing home security system, much the same as a doorbell, smoke detector or other sensor. For additional information, visit: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/special_need.htm.
- The safest place to be during a tornado is a basement. If the building has no basement or cellar, go to a small room (a bathroom or closet) on the lowest level of the structure, away from windows and as close to the center of the building as possible.
- Be aware of emergency shelter plans in stores, offices and schools. If no specific shelter has been identified, move to the building's lowest level. Try to avoid areas with large glass windows, large rooms and wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways or shopping malls.
- If you're outside or in mobile home, find shelter immediately by going to the lowest level of a nearby sturdy building. Sturdy buildings are the safest structures to be in when tornadoes threaten. Winds from tornadoes can blow large objects, including cars and mobile homes, hundreds of feet away.
- If you cannot quickly get to a shelter, get into your vehicle, buckle your seatbelt and try to drive to the nearest sturdy shelter.
- If you experience flying debris while driving, pull over and park. Choose to either stay in your vehicle, stay buckled up, duck down below the windows and cover your head with your hands, or find a depression or ditch, exit your vehicle and use your arms and hands to protect your head. Never seek shelter under highway overpasses and bridges.

PUBLIC INFORMATION; For more information about the Auglaize County Local Emergency Planning Committee please contact Auglaize County Emergency Management Agency, 209 S. Blackhoof St., Wapakoneta, OH 45895, 419-739-6725.

LEPC Authorization - The Auglaize County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is authorized by state and Federal Law and by appointment issued by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) from a list of persons submitted and recommended to the SERC by the Auglaize County Commissioners in accordance with provisions for the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3750.03(B).

LEPC Purpose - A primary purpose of the Auglaize County LEPC is to develop emergency response and preparedness plans for the planning district of Auglaize County and to establish procedures for conducting public information and education responsibilities; receive and process request for information from the public; notify the public of all LEPC activities and meetings; print and distribute the emergency plan and make it publicly available; receive reports and information as specified in ORC Chapter 3750.
