

GET READY! Kent County

Twelve Month Citizen Preparedness Program

Fact Sheet

JANUARY: STAY INFORMED and KNOW THE HAZARDS IN YOUR AREA

Disasters happen anytime and anywhere.

When disaster strikes, it is easier to cope when you are prepared. GET READY! Kent County recommends that you take the advice of your local Fire, Police, and Health Departments in response to local emergencies or hazards.

COMMUNITY & HOME HAZARDS

- Western Michigan residents endure many weather-related hazards such as thunderstorms, high winds, snow storms, extreme cold, extreme heat, and tornados.
- Other hazards may include fires, chemical accidents occurring at local industries, or environmental situations that affect public **health**. (for example: *E. coli* or Norovirus contamination)
- Complete a 'Home Hazard Hunt'!
 - Be sure your electric outlets are adequate to handle your appliance loads
 - Keep flammable liquids away from heaters, ovens, pilot lights and outlets
 - Have smoke detectors placed on each floor of your home, with at least one near your bedrooms (test monthly)
 - Keep a multi-purpose fire extinguisher (2-A:10-B:C Rated) in the kitchen and in the garage.
 - Candles and home heaters should never be left unattended.

STAY INFORMED

- Tune your radio to local media or watch local TV news stations for travel updates, weather forecasts, or site cleanup time lines.
- Do not call 911 unless you have a life-threatening emergency. Dial 211 for information on emergencies affecting the Greater Grand Rapids area.
- Learn about the NOAA Weather Radio and its alerting capabilities through www.noaa.gov. These radios can be purchased at Radio Shack.
- Keep a list of the non-emergency phone numbers of your local Fire and Police. The Kent County Health Department information line is toll free 888-515-1300

Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers can be purchased at home improvement stores and stores that sell small appliances.

What should I do during severe weather? Stay in your home unless directed to evacuate by your local fire or police department.

How do I know if it's safe to travel? Tune in to local radio or TV news stations for travel updates.

Tips for success!... Keep emergency kits on hand at home and in your car!

(see September and October Fact Sheets for details on kits)

Most Important Emergency Supplies... Water, blankets, flashlights with extra batteries, a shovel, and a first aid kit; ...and don't forget your cell phone and charger/car charger.

For more information ...

Visit the *Get Ready! Kent County* website, www.accessKent.com/getready, www.michigan.gov, www.redcross.org/prepare and www.bemittenready.com



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