



LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

ALL HAZARD PREPAREDNESS GUIDE FOR CITIZENS

LEPC
...safety in knowledge®

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY

Local officials and relief workers will respond after a disaster, but they may not be able to reach everyone right away. **This is why it is critical to be prepared to survive on your own for a minimum of three days in the event of an emergency.** This may mean providing your own shelter, food, water, first-aid, sanitation and other basic needs.

While we can't control natural disasters, emergencies or unexpected attacks, we can be prepared, and we can protect ourselves and our families. In this guide, you'll learn some of the fundamentals of being prepared if an emergency strikes, including:

- Different types of emergencies
- How you'll be notified of an emergency
- What plans are in place to deal with emergencies
- How to create an emergency plan
- How to prepare an emergency kit

For further information on what to do in the event of an emergency, visit www.redcross.org, www.pema.pa.gov, www.health.pa.gov, www.readypa.gov, www.cdc.gov

For more local information please contact
Warren County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) or
Warren County Department of Public Safety
100 Dillon Drive Youngsville PA 16371
814-563-2220 or by email at wc911mgmt@warrencountypa.gov

Be sure to keep this helpful reference tool in a handy place for quick reference.

Every day some part of Warren County could be affected by one or more of the following emergencies:

Fires	Tornadoes
Thunderstorms	Winter Storms/Snow Squalls
Hazardous Spills	Flooding
Power Outages	Extreme Heat/Cold Emergencies

Preparing for a disaster that is most likely to happen here will help you be prepared for any disaster. Remember anything can happen at any time. Think **Y**ou're **O**n **Y**our **O**wn (**yoyo**) until help arrives.

BE PREPARED

BE READY

BE SAFE

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

Prepare Now For A Sudden Emergency

Learn to protect yourself and cope with an emergency by **planning ahead.**

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning!

Keep in touch with your neighbors and look out for each other.

Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility.

If you have a special need or are a person whose needs may not be fully addressed by traditional service providers or may not comfortably or safely access and use the standard resources offered before, during and after an emergency, you are to notify the Department of Public Safety NOW, in advance of any emergency by calling 814-563-2220. All information will be kept confidential.

How You May Be Notified Of A Possible Emergency

All Hazard Alert Radio

These special radios provide the earliest warning with an alarm that will alert you in case of anticipated hazardous weather. These radios will also alert you to hazardous materials incidents and amber alerts. These radios can be purchased at most any department store.

Local Commercial Radio and Television Stations

Know your designated Emergency Broadcast System stations (EBS).

EBS Radio Stations **WNAE 1310 AM** or **WRRN 92.3 FM**

EBS Television station is: _____
KNOW YOUR STATION!

All Hazard Sirens

Located at most fire departments throughout the county are sirens that will alert residents of an impending hazard. These all-hazard sirens are not like the normal siren you hear when alerting responders of a fire or EMS response. The all-hazard siren will be a different sound than the normal fire department siren and last approximately three minutes. If this different siren is heard you should immediately go inside and turn on you radio or TV to listen for instructions on what emergency officials suggest for you to do.

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

WEA is a public safety system that allows customers who own compatible mobile devices to receive geographically targeted, text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area.

Strictly follow instructions from local emergency officials!

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Your Emergency Checklist

- Assemble emergency supplies.
- Plan and practice the best escape routes from your home.
- Know your meeting place.
- Plan for transportation if you need to evacuate to a Red Cross shelter.
- Find the safe spots in your home for each type of emergency.
- Have a contact person.
- List emergency phone numbers near the phone.
- Plan & Practice together. Discuss how you and your family will respond to each emergency.
- Know your work, school and child care emergency plan.

For your safety and comfort, you need to have emergency supplies packed and ready in one place before disaster hits.

Plan on enough to be on your own for at least three days

- Assemble the supplies you would need in an evacuation, both medical and general supplies
- Store them in an easy-to-carry container such as a back pack or duffle bag that is labeled with your contact information

MEETING PLACES

OUTSIDE HOME _____

AWAY FROM HOME _____

- Important family documents such as marriage license, birth certificates, drivers license, insurance cards and documents, immunization records, credit cards and extra cash. These should be kept in a waterproof container at home and at a location away from home, like a safe-deposit box or out-of-town family member or friend
- First-aid kit
- Prescription medicines, list of medications including dosage, list of allergies for each family member
- Extra eyeglasses and hearing aid batteries
- Extra cash
- Water – 1 gallon of water per person per day for drinking
- Food that needs no refrigeration or cooking
- Flashlight and portable radio with extra batteries
- Filter mask or cotton t-shirt to help filter the air
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Manual can opener, plastic utensils, paper plates
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape for shelter-in-place
- Change of clothing, rain gear, sturdy shoes and personal hygiene supplies for each family member
- Items unique for family needs, such as toys and games for children, baby supplies for infants and toddlers
- Pet supplies as needed for each pet

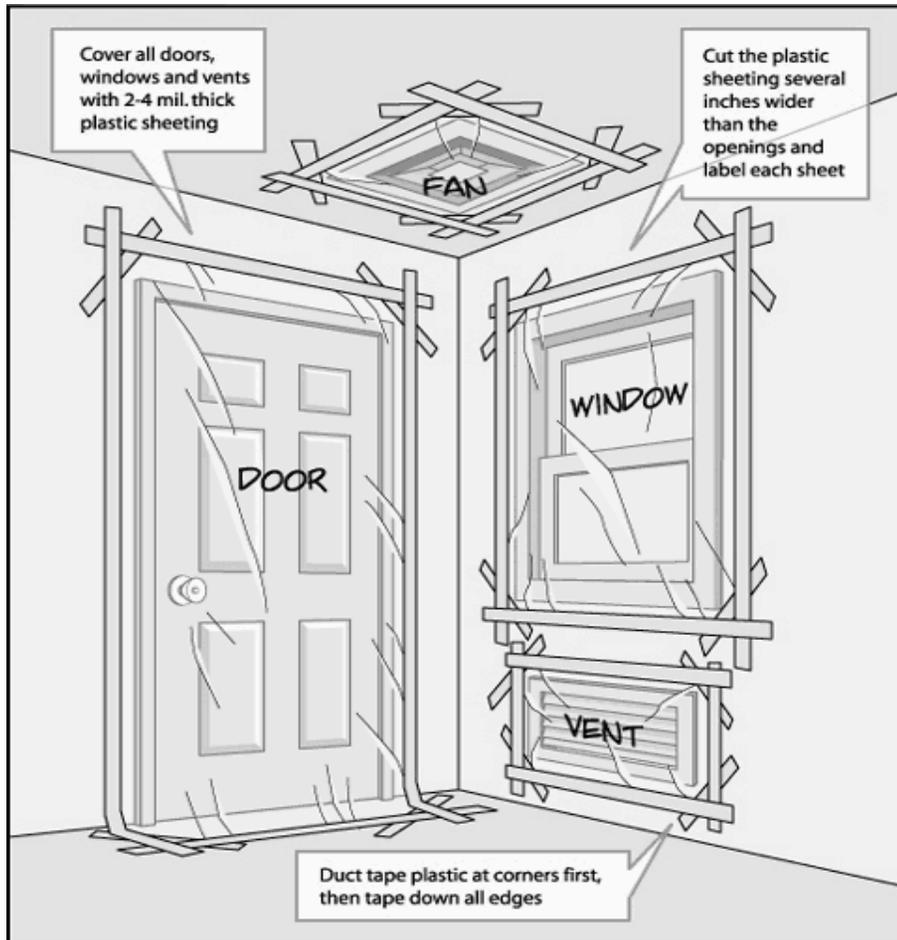
Shelter In Place

During a chemical emergency you may be told by local officials to shelter in place.

This means staying where you are and making yourself as safe as possible until emergency passes or you are told to evacuate.

In this situation it is safer to remain indoors than go outdoors where the air is unsafe to breathe.

Our safe room inside our home is _____



If You Are Told To Shelter In Place

- Close all windows and doors in your home.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.
- Go to an above ground room (not the basement) with the fewest windows and doors.
- Take your Disaster Supplies Kit with you.
- Wet some towels and jam them in the crack under the door. Tape around the doors, windows, exhaust fan or vents. Use plastic bags to cover windows, outlets and heat registers.
- If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window blinds or curtains. To avoid injury, stay away from the windows.
- Stay in the room and listen to your radio until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate.

SHELTER IN PLACE

Going To A Shelter May Be Necessary

Warren County Red Cross will be in charge of shelters.

Red Cross shelters may be opened if:

- A disaster affects a large number of people.
- The emergency is expected to last several days.

Be prepared to go to a shelter if:

- Your area is without electrical power.
- There is a chemical emergency affecting your area.
- Flood water is rising.
- Your home has been severely damaged.
- Police or other local officials tell you to evacuate.

Services provided at a Red Cross shelter:

- Food.
- Temporary shelter.
- Basic First Aid.

To learn about Red Cross shelters serving your area:

- Listen to your battery powered radio.
- Check with the Warren County Chapter of the American Red Cross at 814-723-6000.

ALL AMERICAN RED CROSS EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE.

If You Need To Evacuate

- Try to car pool if possible.
- If you must have special transportation, call the American Red Cross or your local officials.
- Wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Take your Emergency Supplies Kit.
- Lock you home.
- Use the travel routes specified or special assistance provided by local officials. Don't take short cuts, they may be unsafe.
- Notify shelter authorities of any special need you may have. They will do their best to accommodate you and make you comfortable.

If you are sure you have enough time.....

- Shut off water, gas and electric *if* instructed to do so and if you know how to. Gas must be turned back on by a professional.
- Let others know when you left and where you are going.
- Make arrangements for pets. Animals other than working animals may not be allowed in public shelters.

One emergency we could all face at any time is a home fire. A home fire could be a special challenge for one with physical limitations. However, there are some things we can do to improve our safety:

Before A Fire

- ✓ Plan two escape routes out of each room. If you cannot use stairways, make special arrangements for help in advance. Never use elevators.
- ✓ Sleep with the bedroom door closed. This gives you extra minutes of protection from toxic fumes and fire.
- ✓ Have one smoke detector for each level of your home, including the basement and outside each sleeping area.
- ✓ Test your smoke detector battery regularly, and as a reminder, change your batteries on the same day each year. Vacuum it occasionally to remove dust.
- ✓ Make sure everyone can easily unlock and open doors and windows for escape.
- ✓ Keep at least one multipurpose (ABC) fire extinguisher in your home. Install it in an escape route. Make sure everyone knows how to use it.

In Case OF Fire

- ✓ Remain calm.
- ✓ When in doubt get out & stay out!!
- ✓ Drop to the floor and crawl. Most fire fatalities are due to breathing toxic fumes and smoke. The cleanest air is near the floor. Breathing toxic fumes and smoke is more dangerous than the risk of injury in getting to the floor quickly.
- ✓ Feel any door before you open it. If it is hot, find another way out.
- ✓ If your smoke detector goes off, never waste time to get dressed or collect valuables or pets. Get out of the house immediately.
- ✓ DO NOT TRY TO FIGHT THE FIRE! Call for help from a neighbor's phone.
- ✓ If your clothes catch on fire, drop to the floor, roll to suffocate the fire. Keep rolling (running from the fire only "fans" the flames and makes it worse.)
- ✓ If you are in a wheelchair or you can not get out of your house, stay by the window near the floor. If you are able to signal the need for help.
- ✓ Visit <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire/prevent-home-fire.html> for more information on creating home fire escape plans.

FLU OUTBREAK PLANNING

What You Should Know

- ✓ Pandemic influenza (flu) is a worldwide outbreak of a new flu virus that there is little or no immunity (protection) in human population. Pandemic flu can spread easily from person-to-person, cause serious illness and death. When new pandemic flu spreads it creates a public health emergency. This emergency will not be like anything we've faced before. A pandemic will last longer, make more people seriously ill and may cause more deaths than any other health crisis in our time.
- ✓ A long-lasting and widespread outbreak of the disease could mean changes in many areas of our lives. Schools might need to be temporarily closed. Public transportation could be limited and air flights may be cancelled. Because so many people will be ill, many employees will not be able to go to work and many business and public services may have to close or limit hours.
- ✓ It is very important to plan ahead. Federal, state and local governments are taking steps to better prepare for and respond to a pandemic. Individuals also need to take action to be better prepared.

What You Can Do

- ✓ Stay healthy by eating a balanced diet, exercising daily, getting enough rest and drinking fluids. And get your seasonal flu shot.
- ✓ If you are sick, stay at home and away from others to avoid infecting others. Don't send sick children to school.
- ✓ Cover or sneeze into the bend of your elbow or a tissue. Properly dispose of used tissues.
- ✓ Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with warm soapy water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- ✓ Seek care if you have influenza-like illness.

DURING A FLU OUTBREAK

Throughout a pandemic flu you may be asked or required to do things to help hold back the spread of the disease in your community. If local public health officials or your healthcare provider ask you to take certain actions, follow those instructions.

Here are some examples of what you may be asked or required to do.

- When you are sick, stay home. Children should not go to school if they are sick. Staying home will be absolutely necessary during a pandemic flu to limit the spread of the disease.
- Even though you may be healthy, you may be asked to stay away from gatherings of people such as sporting events, movies and festivals. During a pandemic flu, these kinds of events could be cancelled because large gatherings of people help spread the flu virus.

PROPER HAND WASHING TECHNIQUES

Hand washing is the single most important element in preventing the spread of the flu.

Wash hands for 20 seconds with hot, soapy water (20 seconds = singing "Happy Birthday" twice.)
Rinse them with hot water and pat dry with a clean paper towel or air dryer.

An alcohol-based hand sanitizer will also work when allowed to air dry after application.

FLOODING

Find out the history and risk of flooding where you live and what you can do to protect your home by calling:

- Warren County Department of Public Safety 814-563-2220
- Warren County American Red Cross 814-723-6000

FLOOD WATCH means that flooding is a possibility, not a certainty during the next 12-36 hours.

FLOOD WARNING means that flooding is imminent, occurring or expected to happen soon.

Buy Flood insurance by contacting FEMA at www.floodsmart.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362



Flood Safety Rules

- Go to high ground immediately. If you are already on high ground, stay there unless you are told otherwise.
- Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, streams and drainage channels.
- Avoid already flooded areas.
- **Don't ever walk or drive through flooded areas or standing water. Swiftly flowing water can wash you and your vehicle from the roadway. Also, the roadway may not be intact under the water.**
- If you are caught in rapidly rising water, abandon your vehicle immediately and seek higher ground, rapidly rising water may engulf a vehicle and its occupants and sweep them away.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Only secure your home if you have time.

If there is time to secure your home

- Tie or bring in outdoor items. Move essential items to the upper floors.
- In case water supply becomes unusable, fill sinks, tubs and containers with fresh water. (First sterilize tubs and sinks with bleach solution and thoroughly rinse them). **DO NOT USE WATER THAT MAYBE CONTAMINATED.**
- Do not return home until told to do so.

TORNADOES

A tornado is a rapidly spinning, fast-moving, funnel shaped cloud. Most tornadoes occur during late spring and summer, in late afternoon. But they can strike anywhere, at any time.

TORNADO WATCH is issued when conditions are just right for a tornado to develop. You should keep an eye/ear on the television or radio to be aware as changes occur.

TORNADO WARNING is issued when a tornado has been sighted by a trained spotter or is radar indicated. Immediately take safety precautions. For more information, www.weather.gov/ctp/



Photo: Erik Krantz

Tornado Safety Rules

At home:

- Go immediately to the basement, it offers the greatest safety. If there is no basement, go to the center part of the house, on the lowest floor, in a small room such as a closet or bathroom. Keep away from windows.
- Get beneath a sturdy piece of furniture, such as a desk or table.

In a car:

- Don't try to drive out of a tornado.
- Plan ahead so that you are not caught in the situation of being in a car with no nearby sturdy/substantial shelter when tornadoes are most likely to occur. Check the forecast early on and throughout the day, including watches/warnings!
- Get out of the car immediately. Look for shelter or lie in a ditch or ravine as a last resort. Be aware that ditches or low-lying areas may collect significant amounts of water and be subject to flooding.
- Don't go beneath a bridge or highway overpass.

Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable and should be evacuated. Trailer parks should have a community storm shelter and a warden to monitor broadcasts throughout the severe storm emergency. If there is no shelter nearby, leave the trailer and take cover on low, protected ground.

Safety rules To Remember After A Tornado

- Leave the building if you smell gas or chemical fumes.
- Watch for fallen power lines or broken gas lines. Report them immediately.
- Wear sturdy shoes when walking in areas with debris.
- Stay away from disaster areas.

WINTER STORMS

Winter storms can bring a variety of dangerous weather conditions including blizzards, ice storms and bitter cold.

WINTER STORM WATCH means that significant snow/ice accumulations are possible.

WINTER STORM WARNING means that significant snow/ice accumulations are imminent.



Winter Storm Safety

At home

- Make sure you always have enough heating fuel.
- Winterize your home by insulating walls, installing storm doors and weather-strip doors.
- Wrap pipes in insulation or newspaper to keep them from freezing.
- If you rent ask your landlord about making these changes.

In your vehicle

- Stay in your car or truck, disorientation occurs quickly in wind-driven snow and cold.
- Run motor about 10 minutes every hour for heat. Open window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon dioxide poisoning. Make sure exhaust pipe is not blocked.
- Make yourself visible to rescuers by attaching a colored cloth to your antenna or door.
- Exercise from time to time by vigorously moving arms, legs, fingers and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

If your heat goes off

- Close off unused rooms.
- Use blankets to seal off any drafts.
- Dress in layers of loose lightweight warm clothing.
- Keep hands and feet warm. Wear a hat to reduce heat loss.
- Wake up often to warm up. Take turns sleeping, if necessary.
- Exercise lightly to warm up – avoid sweating to avoid getting chilled.

THUNDERSTORMS

Thunderstorms are one of the most common and most noticeable weather hazards. They can happen world-wide, produce deadly lightning, damaging winds, large hail, flash flooding, and tornadoes. A typical thunderstorm produces a brief period of heavy rain and can last from 30 minutes to an hour.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH means the potential exists for the development of severe thunderstorms which may produce hail and damaging winds.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING means that a thunderstorm is occurring or is imminent and winds can be expected to exceed 58 mph and/or large hail of 1 inch in diameter or greater is expected.



Thunderstorm Safety Rules

Indoors

- Stay off all landline and cellular phones.
- Stay away from windows.
- Use flashlights if power goes out.
- Discontinue use of phones & electrical equipment. You may want to unplug appliances and computers.
- Avoid taking a bath or shower.

While Driving

- Reduce speed.
- Pull to shoulder of the road, stay away from trees and stay inside vehicle.
- Turn on emergency flashers.
- Do not touch metal objects inside the vehicle, but do remain in a vehicle with doors closed and windows up

Outdoors

- Find shelter and stay low. The shelter must be enclosed on all sides (no picnic shelters/pavilions!).
- Keep away from tall objects, trees, metal objects and water.
- Boaters and swimmers get to land as soon as possible.
- If you are in a group – spread out and stay as low to the ground as possible with the least amount of your body touching the ground as you can

HOW TO REPORT INFORMATION ON A CRIME

Help the police protect you and your property by placing criminals where they belong.

The members of the Warren County Crime Stoppers are residents working with law enforcement officers and the courts to help stop crime in your community.

You can call:	EMERGENCY CALL	911
Crime Stoppers Hotline	1-800-83-CRIME (27463)	
PA State Police	814-728-3600	
Warren County Sheriff's Office	814-723-7553	
Warren City Police Department	814-723-2700	
Conewango Township Police Department	814-726-0725	
Youngsville Borough Police Department	814-563-7555	

Your information may help the police and the courts stop a criminal from committing another crime.



WHEN TO CALL 911

What is 911?

9-1-1 is a three-digit telephone number that you can call 24 hours a day for police, fire, or emergency medical services.

When to call 911

In an emergency (when you believe that the immediate response of the police, a fire truck or an ambulance is needed).

- When you see fire or smoke.
- When you see a crime is being committed or has just occurred.
- When you believe that an ambulance is needed because someone is hurt or sick.
- When someone is trying to get in your house or prowling around your house or a neighbor's house.
- When a child is approached by a stranger.

When NOT to call 911

- To obtain weather reports.
- To report utility problems
- To ask for directions or road names.
- For general information pertaining to police reports, jails.
- Keys locked in vehicles, unless an infant or small child is locked inside.
- To request an ambulance for non-emergency routine transports.

What do I need to do when I use 911?

Remain calm and be prepared to provide the following information:

- What kind of emergency you have or what kind of help you need.
- Where is the emergency?
- The telephone number you are calling from.
- If you are reporting a medical emergency be prepared to provide the following additional information.
 - What is wrong with the patient?
 - Age of patient.
 - Is the patient conscious?
 - Is the patient breathing?

Helpful Tips

1. Post your address, phone number and the closest intersection to your home by each telephone for anyone (baby-sitter, friend, visitor, and family members) to be able to give the vital information needed for quick response.
2. Be sure your house number is visible from the street or clearly posted where your driveway joins the main road.
3. Be sure to explain to your children what is and is not an emergency! If they are ever in doubt tell them to call 9-1-1.

PERSONAL EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Planning ahead and making sure that you have all of the essential contact information that you and your family may need in an emergency can provide much needed peace of mind when an emergency happens. It is recommended that you fill out this chart for each family member.

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Allergies _____

Medications _____

Important Medical Information _____

Out-of-area contact _____ *NAME/PHONE/EMAIL*

Family physicians _____

Veterinarian _____

Employer contact & emergency information _____

School contact & emergency information _____

TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Warren County Department of Public Safety 814-563-2220
wc911mgmt@warrencountypa.gov

Warren County American Red Cross 814-726-6000
www.redcross.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency www.fema.gov
www.ready.gov

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency www.pema.pa.gov
www.readypa.gov

Pennsylvania Department of Health www.healthpa.gov

Center for Disease Control (CDC) www.cdc.gov

NOTES
