

Understanding the Homeland Security Advisory System

The world has changed since September 11, 2001. We remain a nation at risk to terrorist attacks. The new Department of Homeland Security has established a color-coded advisory system

to keep Americans informed of homeland terrorist attack risk and some simple guidelines in response to each color coded level.

GREEN – Low Condition

- Enjoy individual freedom; participate freely in travel, work and recreational activities.
- Be prepared for disasters and family emergencies.
- Develop a family emergency plan.
- Know how to turn off your power, gas and water.
- Know what hazardous materials are stored in your home and how to dispose of them if necessary.
- Support the efforts of your local fire fighters, police and emergency medical service.
- Know what natural hazards are prevalent in your area and what measures you can take to protect your family.

BLUE – Guarded Condition:

Continue all precautions from lower green level and:

- Continue normal activities but be watchful for suspicious activities. Report criminal activity to local law enforcement.
- Monitor local and national news for terrorist alerts.
- Review family emergency plans.
- Increase family emergency preparedness by purchasing supplies, food and storing water.
- Be familiar with local natural and man-made hazards in your community.
- Increase individual or family emergency preparedness through training, maintaining good physical fitness and health, and storing food, water and emergency supplies.
- Update immunizations.

**DIAL 9-1-1
TO REPORT ANY EMERGENCY**

YELLOW – Elevated Risk

Continue all precautions from lower green and blue levels and:

- Continue normal activities but be watchful for suspicious activities.
- Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement.
- Take a first aid course.
- Become active in your local neighborhood association.
- Network with your family, neighbors and community for mutual support during a disaster or terrorist attack.
- Learn what critical care facilities are in your community and report suspicious activity at or near those sites.

ORANGE – High Risk

Continue all precautions from lower green, blue, and yellow levels and:

- Resume normal activities but expect some delays, baggage searches and restrictions at public buildings and facilities.
- Continue to monitor world and local events as well as local government threat advisories.
- Report suspicious activities at or near critical facilities to state and local law enforcement by calling 9-1-1.
- Don't leave unattended packages in public areas.
- Inventory and organize emergency supply kits and discuss emergency plans with family members. Reevaluate meeting location based on threat.


RED – Severe Risk

Continue all precautions from lower green, blue, yellow and orange levels and:

- Report suspicious activities and call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Expect delays, searches of purses and bags and restricted access to public buildings.
- Expect traffic delays and restrictions.
- Avoid crowded public areas and gatherings.
- Do not travel into areas affected by an attack or to an expected terrorist target.
- Keep automobile tanks full.
- Be prepared to evacuate your home or shelter-in-place on order of local authorities.
- Discuss emergency plans with family members.
- Be alert to your surroundings, avoid placing yourself in a vulnerable situation and monitor the activities of your children.
- Maintain close contact with your family and neighbors to ensure their safety and emotional welfare.
- Closely monitor news reports and emergency alert system radio/tv stations
- Be suspicious of persons taking photographs of critical facilities, asking detailed questions about physical security or dressed inappropriately for weather conditions. Report these incidents immediately to law enforcement.

Helpful Phone Numbers and Websites

- City of Dearborn
Emergency Management Operations 943-2217
www.cityofdearborn.org
- Dearborn Fire Department
General Information 943-2217
www.cityofdearborn.org/fire
- Dearborn Police Department
General Information 943-2241
www.cityofdearborn.org/police
- Wayne County Sheriff's Department 224-2222
- Michigan State Police
General Information 256-2990
www.michigan.gov/msp
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) 965-2323
www.fbi.gov
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security 202-282-8000
www.dhs.gov
- Hazardous Materials Information 800-467-4922
- Ready.gov 800-237-3239
www.ready.gov
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 800-237-3239
www.fema.gov/areyouready
- American Red Cross (Detroit) 833-4440
www.semredcross.org
- Salvation Army (Dearborn Heights) 563-4457



MICHAEL A. GUIDO
Mayor

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Preparing for Emergencies

City of Dearborn





Dear Friends:

Being prepared for all types of emergencies is a good, common sense practice for you and your family. By being prepared, you can deal with the inconvenience of a short power outage caused by a summer storm, or handle several days in a shelter following a severe blizzard.



Living in Michigan, we know a natural disaster can occur in any season. While infrequent, we have had tornados, tree-toppling thunderstorms, ice storms, blizzards and even floods in Dearborn.

Our community also has major manufacturers, highways and train traffic, all of which are potential sources of accidents that could impact you and your family.

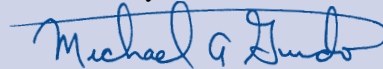
Dearborn public safety and public works personnel, as well as other appropriate city employees, constantly train and prepare to deal with natural disasters and accidents. I've been proud of how our city has responded in every emergency we've dealt with over the years. We also work hard to minimize the damage that could be caused by severe weather or accidents.

Since September 11, 2001, people also have been worried about the potential for emergencies caused by intentional actions. While that concern is understandable, you should remember that you are much more likely to be affected by severe weather than by an intentional act.

Emergency management experts say that if your household is properly prepared for a weather emergency, you will be ready for any other emergency circumstance.

I urge you to review the common sense tips in this brochure and to contact the resources we've listed for your convenience. Knowing how to handle emergencies will bring you and your family peace of mind now, and a sense of control if a disaster occurs in the future.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL A. GUIDO
Mayor

Are you and your family prepared if a disaster strikes?

What would you do if basic services – water, gas, electricity, and telephones – were cut off for long periods?

Whether faced with a family emergency or a regional disaster, the effort you have put into family preparedness and disaster planning will play a large role in how well you endure the event. The following steps can help you enhance your family's preparedness:

Identify the hazards

- Winter storm.
- Industrial accident.
- Flood.
- Tornado or severe thunderstorm.
- Hazardous material spill.
- Terrorist attacks.



Learn how the hazards can impact your family

Assess what the consequences might be for your family when disaster strikes. Consider the time of day, the day of the week, and time of year. Secure an out of town relative or friend who the family can contact or stay with if the need arises.

Identify steps you can take to minimize or prevent the hazard impacts

- Plans for home escape, neighborhood evacuation, and family communication.
- Training in CPR, basic first aid, and use of a fire extinguisher.
- Hazard-resistant construction materials.
- Flood proofing, landscaping, and site drainage practices.
- Warning system installation (e.g., smoke detectors).

Identify the equipment, supplies, procedures and practices you already have in place

- Camping gear (sleeping bags, cooking equipment, utensils, etc.).
- Fire escape plan.
- Extra food and water.
- First aid kit.



Listen for news about shelters

The Ford Community & Performing Arts Center may be opened as a shelter if an emergency requires Dearborn residents to leave their homes. In addition, the city has agreements with other public agencies to establish temporary shelters as required. Depending on the type of disaster, you may be able to stay in your own home, especially if you have prepared for an emergency.

Identify your shortfalls and develop a plan to eliminate them

Identify short and long term objectives. For the short term, focus on items that are low cost or easy to implement and that have high payoff. Emergency preparedness experts suggest:

- Install hazard warning systems such as smoke detectors.
- Develop fire escape and neighborhood evacuation plans.
- Develop a simple family communications plan such as a wallet card with common numbers to call and important insurance policy numbers.
- Attend CPR, basic first aid, and fire extinguisher training.
- Begin or expand your disaster supply kit. Start with basic necessities such as food, water, light sources, first aid supplies, clothing, and bedding.
- Host a neighborhood meeting to exchange preparedness information and ideas.

For the long term, focus on higher cost items or those that are more difficult to implement, including:

- Special tools and equipment.
- Expanded insurance coverage.
- Drainage improvements.
- Building retrofitting.



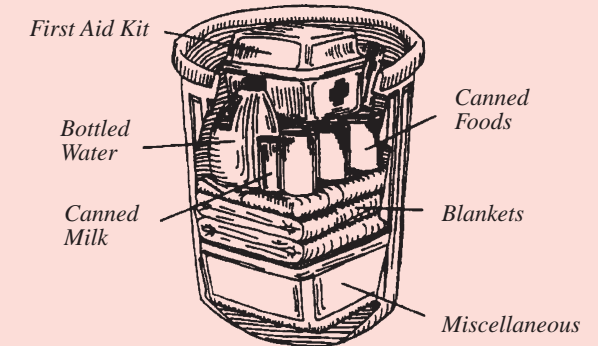
Train and maintain

- Conduct fire evacuation drills.
- Test smoke detectors.
- Test/recharge fire extinguishers.
- Test communications plans.
- Replace stored food, water, and medicines before the expiration date.
- Learn how to shut off your utilities.



The City of Dearborn distributed dry ice to residents during a power outage after a severe storm in 1998.

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT FOR YOUR HOME



It's never too early to prepare. Your disaster supply kit should include materials for three days.

Choose a storage location for your kit such as a closet or corner in the garage, under the bed, or even in a large box or plastic tub that can be covered with a tablecloth and used as an end table.

Layer supplies as shown, and check every six months for food expiration dates, children's clothing sizes, etc.

Start with what you already have. If you're a camper or backpacker, you already have a head start. Your tent, cook stove, and other gear can double as emergency supplies.

Food

- Canned foods for easy storage and long shelf life.
- Canned or dried juice mixes, powdered or canned milk, high energy food (peanut butter, nuts, and trail mix), cereals, and rice.
- Don't forget your pets! Store canned and dry pet food along with an extra collar and leash.
- Add a manual can opener, cooking and eating utensils, and basic food seasonings.

Water

- One gallon per person per day is recommended.
- Learn how to use the water from your hot water tank.
- Purify water by boiling it or by adding 16 drops of household bleach per gallon.

Other Items

You should include a first aid kit, battery-powered clock and radio, candles, matches, flashlights, trash bags, insurance policy numbers, fire extinguisher, duct tape, map of area, warm clothes, heavy shoes, heavy duty plastic sheeting, heavy gloves, household bleach and prescription drugs.