



READY RACINE

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Racine County
Office
of
Emergency Management

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Mission

To assist the community in mitigating known hazards and in preparing for, responding to, surviving and recovering from both natural and man-made disasters.

National Preparedness Month

Where were you on 9-11? Did you watch the horrific acts of terrorism unfold on TV? Or did you receive a call like I did? "Are you watching?" asked the voice on the other end. "Watching what?" I asked.

I quickly turned on the TV and thought to myself, "What's next?" We had no idea whether or not our nation was under attack and if terrorists were prepared to carry out further attacks. Quickly we mobilized and did what we could based on what we were seeing. Needless to say we became more vigilant as the day unfolded and prepared for the worst.

Fifteen years later we have not forgotten because that date, 9-11, is seared in our memories. As a result, we remember those who lost their lives and we observe National Preparedness Month each September. We are reminded that it's not a matter of if disaster strikes but when. Whether it's flooding in northern Wisconsin and Louisiana, a mass shooting in all mall, earthquakes in Italy or tornadoes in the Midwest, disasters and emergencies do occur and often at the most inopportune times!

County Executive Jonathan Delagrave has joined with Governor Scott Walker in proclaiming September as National Preparedness Month and he urges all citizens and businesses to develop their own emergency preparedness plans and work together toward creating a more prepared society.

This year's theme is "Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today." Taking time now to discuss with family, friends and neighbors about what to do in an

emergency and then building an emergency kit for your home and vehicles.

Family Communications – If your family is like ours, we are rarely all together at the same time. Yet if something happens, how will we communicate? What will we do? Where will we go? We are often told that the first thing to fail is cell phones so then what?



In a disaster, it may be easier to communicate via text messaging than it is by calling someone. We also recommend having an out of state contact who everyone can check in with. Put together an emergency card with important names and phone numbers and make sure everyone has one. Include out-of-town family members or friends, as well as a central meeting place. You can download a card on our website www.readyracineco.com.

Create a Family Plan – Develop an emer-

Waterford Balloonfest

Last year, an early morning storm hit Waterford’s annual Balloonfest. While balloon pilots scrambled to take down balloons, a strong gust carried a deflating balloon across the launch field, pulling the truck it was tethered to, into some vendor tents. A video of the incident went viral.

Because of last year’s incident, Waterford Officials requested that Balloonfest organizers develop an emergency response plan and that Racine County Emergency Management assist in developing and facilitating a tabletop exercise for festival organizers, as well as local officials.

The tabletop exercise was held at the

Evergreen Elementary School in Waterford and the scenario centered on the impact extreme heat and severe weather might have on the event.

There were 18 participants including both the police chief and the fire chief and the robust discussion focused on the coordination and collaboration taken by both public and private entities to manage and mitigate the situation.

The exercise was conducted to validate local emergency plans and procedures to respond and support an incident that im-

pacts our citizens and a large contingency of visitors in attendance at a community event.

Participants found the exercise to be worthwhile and plans were made to conduct a follow-up exercise next year.



Racine County Selected To Attend Training

Racine County has been selected to attend the Community Specific Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD. Only a handful of communities are selected each year to participate in this training.

The last time Racine County attended this course was in 1998 when 77 county, city and community officials took part.

The Community-specific Integrated Emergency Management Course provides an in-depth exercise experience for participants from a single jurisdiction.

EMI instructors will visit Racine County and then build a realistic disaster exercise around our community’s hazards, the type of Emergency Operations Center (EOC) used here, and our emergency plans.

In 1998, the disaster exercise simulat-

ed a tornado “hitting” Racine County. Participants were placed in an EOC environment and responded as if it were a real event.

To add to the realism, phones rang, radio traffic was constant and Tvs broadcasted updates. During the de-

brief, we were asked how many would have been personally impacted by the tornado and one third of the hands went up.

It’s too early to tell what “disaster” they will “dream up” this time but rest assured, it will challenge participants as they “respond” to the scenario thrown at them.



Ready ✓

September is **National Preparedness Month**

Get A Kit **Make A Plan** **Be Informed** **Get Involved**

National Preparedness Month cont.

agency plan for the common hazards that may affect you and your family. These may include fires, chemical spills and severe weather. Know what to do and how to react to each hazard. Decide whether you will need to shelter in place or evacuate. Finally practice the plan.

Making a Kit – Depending on the situation, help may not be quickly on the way. Therefore, how will you

survive? What do you need to get by on your own for 24, 36 or 72 hours?

Basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may not work. That's why it is important to have your own fully-stocked disaster kit ready.

A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items that members of a household may need in the event of

a disaster. Supplies such as food and water should last for at least three days. Other items to consider include flashlights with fresh batteries, radio, medications and first aid kit, pet food and supplies, and other necessities. Also make sure you put an emergency kit in every vehicle as well that contains non-perishable food and water, jumper cables, and extra coats, blankets and gloves.

Fire Prevention Week October 9-15, 2016

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) announced "Don't Wait: Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years" as the official

theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 9-15, 2016.

The focus on smoke alarm replacement comes as the result of a recent survey conducted by NFPA, which showed that only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke



alarms are or how often they need to be replaced.

NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code®, requires smoke alarms be replaced at least every 10 years, but because the public is generally unaware of this requirement, many homes likely

have smoke alarms past their expiration date, putting people at increased risk in the event of a home fire.

According to an NFPA report, in one-fifth (20 percent) of all U.S.

homes with smoke alarms, the smoke alarms aren't working; three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without smoke alarms (38 percent) or with no working smoke alarms (21 percent).

A Plan of Escape

If a fire starts in your home, you may have only one to two minutes to escape. Your ability to get out safely depends on having working smoke alarms and planning ahead. The U.S. Fire Administration has tips for creating a fire escape plan:

- Walk through your home, and identify two ways out of each room. Make sure everyone in your home can escape from both

ways. This will help them prepare in case one way is blocked by fire.

- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they've escaped and where firefighters can see you and know you are out.

- Sound the smoke alarm, and practice your escape drill with everyone in your home.



Brief Kids on ICE Concepts

Looking for a way to make disaster preparedness fun for kids? Check out the new PSA from Save the Children and 20th Century Fox featuring characters from the movie *Ice Age: Collision Course!*

The children's rights organization and film distributor recently teamed up to encourage parents to **create In Case of Emergency (ICE) cards** for their children so

families can quickly reunite after a disaster.

In partnership with Scholastic, Save the Children recently released "Keep

the Herd Safe," which includes fun, educational classroom activities and worksheets, a family resource sheet, and Save the Children's My In Case of Emergency (ICE) Card.



The website also includes an animated public service announcement and the Prep Step song and music video. Visit www.scholastic.com/ice to download the materials today!

Have You Downloaded Ready Badger Yet?

Southeast WI Emergency Management Directors recently visited the UW Parkside APP Factory for a briefing on the new Ready Badger app.

ReadyBadger is the latest app developed by UW-Parkside's Computer Science students, who worked in conjunction with Southeast Wisconsin County Emergency Management representatives.

The app will allow anyone in the state of Wisconsin to find emergency preparedness information specific to a particular county. It also allows for the user to submit a digital dam-

age report in an effort to increase the speed with which County emergency managers can assess damages and respond to disasters.

The ReadyBadger mobile application can be downloaded for free in the Apple App Store and Android Google Play Store.

The UW-Parkside App Factory is a creative, professional, interdisciplinary group on campus that develops mobile apps for community clients throughout southeastern Wisconsin.

They provide conceptual design and prototype mobile app development services to help find solutions and strategies for technology challenges.

Students gain real world experience working with clients and working on live projects as part of internships or course credit.



STAY INFORMED

There are a number of ways in which you can stay informed and involved with Racine County Emergency Management. In addition to our quarterly Ready Racine newsletters, you can learn more about RCOEM by:

- Visiting our website: <http://www.readyracineco.com>
- Signing up for email communications by entering your information on our website
- Visiting our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/readyracineco
- Submitting your questions and concerns to rcemergencymanagement@racinecounty.com
- Volunteering with Racine County Emergency Management

