



READY RACINE

Winter 2019 Volume 14, Issue 1

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.

CAUGHT IN CROSSHAIRS OF POLAR VORTEX



Snow and cold put an end to a relatively mild winter and resulted in schools, businesses and government buildings shutting down at the peak of it.

Even the U.S. Postal Service, known for not letting “snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night” prevent them from delivering mail, took their carriers off their routes for two days.

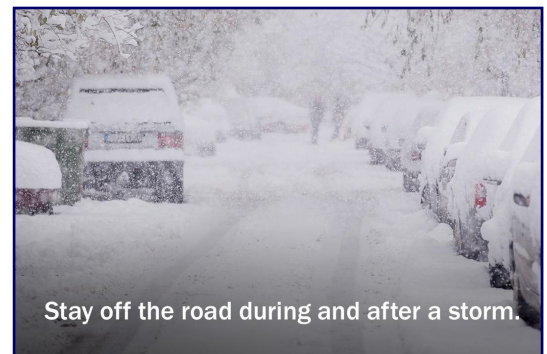
On January 30, a new coldest high of -10° and on January 31, a new record low of -23° was set. Even more troubling were windchills that hit -47°.

According to READY.GOV, winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from over-exertion.

Winter storms and blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds. As a result, winter storms are referred to as deceptive killers.

So, what should you do the next time winter weather strikes? Here are a few tips:

- Stay off roads.
- Stay indoors and dress warmly.
- Prepare for power outages.
- Use generators outside only and away from windows.
- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- Look for signs of hypothermia and frost-bite.
- Check in on neighbors.



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SPRING OUTLOOK

It's hard to believe, but Spring is right around the corner and you know the old adage, April showers bring May flowers!



Early in the spring, depending on melting snow and other factors, flooding from April showers do become a concern for us. Depending on the amount of snow left and some other factors, we could be facing spring floods.

Flooding is defined as a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods may result from rain, snow, and overflows of dams and other water systems.

Flash flooding is usually caused by heavy or excessive rainfall in a short period of time - generally less than six hours. This can impact you even if

you are not in a floodplain. If flash flooding is a risk in your location, then monitor potential signs, such as heavy rain.

Before spring floods occur, take some time to prepare you and your family:

- Learn and practice **evacuation routes**, have a shelter plan, and identify what your flash flood response will be.
- Gather supplies in case you must leave immediately, or if services are cut off. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the

Flood insurance is a drop in the bucket compared to the cost of flood damage. Check your coverage today.

#BeInformed Ready

needs of pets. Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.

- Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect and can protect the life you've built. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**.
- Look into a rider for your insurance policy to cover sewer back-up.
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery and if you have a sump pump, keep an extra motor on hand.

BEING PREPARED FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER

As we enter into the spring and summer months, there will be plenty of festivals, concerts and parades to enjoy. As a precaution, it is important that we remain vigilant, no matter where we are, but especially in large crowds.

This list from PoliceOne.com is a good guide on situational awareness tips and first aid basics.

- Know where all the exits are, identify chokepoints, have a backup
- Hit the deck if there is gunfire, then get off the floor to keep from being trampled.
- If you are going to be in a loud, dark place like a club, you need to make up for the sensory loss by scanning the crowd more often and knowing your exits.
- Keep your phone charged and on your person, not in your purse or

exit strategy.

hung-up coat. Prepare them for the shock and stress of the situation as best you can.

Those who are more prepared are less likely to panic or freeze. (Source: PoliceOne.com)

RUN/ESCAPE	HIDE	FIGHT
IF POSSIBLE	IF ESCAPE IS NOT POSSIBLE	ONLY AS A LAST RESORT

EMERGENCY PLANNING & COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW

In 1984, a deadly release of methyl isocyanate in Bhopal, India and a near miss in Institute, West Virginia in 1986, prompted Congress to pass the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know-Act (EPCRA) of 1986. EPCRA was created to help communities plan for chemical emergencies.

Facilities in the private and the public sector which use, store or produce hazardous chemicals in certain quantities must make an annual report to

its local fire department, the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the State Emergency Response Commission.

Those reports are due each March 1st and in Racine County, there are 151 Reporting Facilities and 65 Planning Facilities. That information is then used to develop hazardous material response plans including off site facility plans for facilities that use, store or produce extremely hazardous substances like chlorine, anhy-

drous ammonia, sulfuric acid and nitric acid to name just a few of the common chemicals found in Racine County.



2018 TOP 10 WEATHER EVENTS

Our friends at the National Weather Service put together their annual Top 10 weather events. Half of the incidents involved major flooding, a hazard which is becoming more commonplace. Here are the Top 10 in chronological order:

- January 22-23 Winter Storm
- April 13-15 Blizzard
- June 14-17 NW WI Flooding

- August 20-21 Dane Co Flooding
- August 26-27 EC WI Flooding
- August 27-28 SW WI Flooding
- August 28 Severe Winds and Tornadoes
- September 3-5 SW WI Flooding
- Extreme Monthly Temperature Trends
- Record Precipitation in 2018

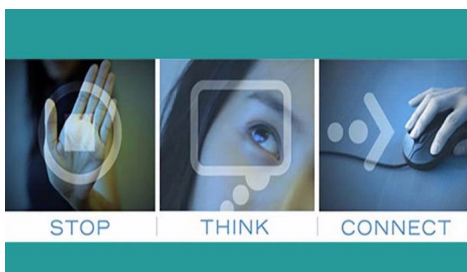
To check it out-go to: [http://](http://www.weather.gov/media/mkx/WCM/2018wisconsinvents.pdf)

www.weather.gov/media/mkx/WCM/2018wisconsinvents.pdf



DOXXING: AN ONLINE THREAT TO YOUR PRIVACY & SAFETY

Doxxing is sharing someone's private and personally identifiable information online to cause them harm.



Almost everyone has data online and is at risk. Perpetrators gather information in a variety of ways: accessing

social media profiles, simple internet searches, online directories, hacking and social engineering.

By utilizing a variety of methods, someone can potentially put together a fairly detailed picture of you, your family and your lifestyle. How you manage your personal information goes a long way toward keeping you safe. The following tips can assist:

- Think carefully before you post anything online.
- Update your software to minimize

vulnerabilities.

- Use a different email address and password for each online account you have.
- Search your name, email address and usernames online.
- Use alerts to monitor personal information posted online.
- Tighten social media security settings and delete old social media and email accounts you no longer use.
- Turn off geotagged when posting photos. (Source: Officer.com)

NEWS BRIEFS

SPOTTER SEMINAR

Learn all you can about tornadoes and severe weather by attending our Severe Weather Safety and Storm Spotting Seminar conducted by a meteorologist from the National Weather Service. The seminar will be held Tuesday, April 2, 2019 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Gateway Technical College-Great Lakes Room, 901 Pershing Dr, Racine. The training is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required! To register go to

<https://2019stormspotter.eventbrite.com>

ANNUAL REPORT

Our annual report is now online:

<https://racinecounty.com/government/ready-racine-county/news-events>

STORMREADY COUNTY

Racine County was recertified as a StormReady County. StormReady is a nationwide program that helps communities better protect their residents during severe weather from tornadoes to tsunamis. The program encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations. StormReady provides emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations. StormReady also helps establish a commitment to creating an infrastructure and systems that will save lives and protect property. Receiving StormReady recognition does not mean that a

community is storm proof, but StormReady communities will be better prepared when severe weather strikes.



RACINE COUNTY HOSTS TEEX TRAINING

Texas A&M's Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) provides training through the Homeland Security - National Emergency Response and Recovery Training Center (NERRTC). Since its inception, NERRTC has provided local jurisdictions with high-quality, hands-on, scenario-driven leadership training, exercises, and technical assistance.

Over the past ten years, Racine County has taken advantage of this training, bringing in classes on Incident Command, Incident Management Response, Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Protection.

Recently, the Racine Police Department hosted a two-day Medical Management of CBRNE Events course. Requested by our local public

health departments, the class drew participants from across Wisconsin. Utilizing a Human Patient Simulator for hands-on scenarios, the class was both interesting and informative and participants had a better understanding of how to recognize and respond to incidents involving Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives, (CBRNE) Events.

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://readyracineco.com>
- Download the Ready Badger App: <http://appfactoryuwp.com/projects.php>
- Visiting our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/readyracineco
- Submitting your questions and concerns to rcemergencymanagement@racinecounty.com
- Volunteering with Racine County Emergency Management

