



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.

Tornado Awareness Week 2016

County Executive Jonathan Delagrave has joined with Governor Scott Walker in proclaiming the week of April 11-15, 2016 as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually. Racine County has seen 25 tornadoes since 1844 and a tornado which hit the City of Racine on May 18, 1883 is still listed as one of Wisconsin's top ten killer tornadoes.

STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL

On Thursday, April 14, 2016, two statewide tornado drills are planned. A mock tornado watch will be issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) at 1:00 pm. The NWS will then issue a mock tornado warning at 1:45 pm. This drill ends at 2:00 pm. For the first time, an evening drill is scheduled on the same day with a mock tornado warning to take place at 6:55 pm.

Every business, school and household are encouraged to have a NOAA Weather Radio and an emergency plan. During Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week, take the time to go over the procedures needed when severe weather strikes.

ANNUAL STORM SPOTTER WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

Racine County will hold their annual Severe Weather and Tornado Spotter Seminar on April 5, 2016 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the iMET Center (formerly CATI), 2320 Renaissance Blvd, Sturtevant. The seminar will feature Tim Halbach, National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist. There is no charge to attend but reservations are required. For reservations, go to <https://spotterseminar2016.eventbrite.com>

Children In Disasters

Recently the National Center for Disaster Preparedness (NCDP) released a study, "Children in Disasters: Do Americans Feel Prepared? A National Survey."

The purpose of the study was to learn more about people's opinions and attitudes toward disaster preparedness with a focus on children in disasters.

Findings from this national survey identified important insights into the lack of preparedness among American households as well as a lack of progress in integrating families and children into community disaster planning. Key findings

include:

- American household preparedness has improved only modestly since 2003. Nearly two thirds (65%) of American households do not have adequate plans for a disaster or have no plans at all (compared to 77% without adequate plans in 2003).
- Although Americans are in general confident in their community's ability to respond to disasters, 41% are not confident that their community has adequate plans in place for a disaster that occurs with no warning and 37% are not confident in their communi-

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Children in disasters cont.

ty's ability to meet the needs of children during disasters.

- Over a third of American households with children (35%) are not familiar with their child's school evacuation and emergency plans, and even more (41%) do not know to what location their children would be evacuated to during a disaster.
- In the event of a disaster, over half (51%) of Americans believe that help will arrive in under an hour.
- Individuals have high expectations for rapidly being reunited with their children and anticipate schools reopening quickly after a disaster. Over half (54%) believe that they will be reunited with their children within several hours. Additionally, over 40% expect that schools will resume

within a week after a major disaster.

ARE CHILDREN RESILIENT?

In 1983, the Milwaukee Journal's Green Sheet's longtime advice columnist, Lone Quinby Griggs, fielded a question from a mother distraught because someone knocked down her three year old's snowman.

Ms. Griggs advised that "*Children are resilient and may soon forget if an incident isn't kept alive by others.*" While that sounds great on paper, we have learned that when it comes to trauma, children are not as resilient as we thought.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children have unique physical and emotional needs when a disaster strikes. In addition to being placed at an increased risk of physical harm, children respond to illness,

injury, and treatment differently than adults do.

FEMA reports that children need a semblance of normalcy that comes from maintaining a normal routine and the stability of familiar surroundings. In times of crisis, this is often difficult to maintain so we must do everything we can to address that. There are three main priorities for helping children return to their normal routine and education:

- Provision of temporary housing, schools, and child care facilities where needed.
- Restoration of the child infrastructure in place in the community prior to the disaster.
- Provision of mental health services for children and caregivers as they recover from the disaster.

Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know

Chemicals can be found everywhere in our homes, schools, workplaces, stores and community. When used properly, they can make our life easier but when accidents happen, the results can be catastrophic. That happened in 1984 when a release of methyl isocyanate killed over 3000 people in Bhopal, India.

As a result of that tragic accident, congress passed the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know-Act (EPCRA). Thirty years after its passage, the Racine County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) continues working to make Racine County a safer community.



The a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is made up of various stakeholders including elected officials, police and fire, facility operators and community groups and their role is to coordinates hazardous material planning, preparedness, response, and mitigation issues at the local level.

EPCRA is a federal requirement for facilities that store hazardous materials to report the quantities of those materials.

Those reports are then used by emergency management officials and emergency responders for their response plans. The reports are due March 1 of each year. In Racine County, there are 152 Reporting Facilities and 69 Planning Facilities.



Protecting Yourself When Out

Racine County Emergency Management would like to remind you to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity. If you see something that doesn't look right or someone is acting suspicious, contact the local authorities.

Wisconsin participates in the "See Something Say Something" public awareness campaign, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This simple and effective program raises public awareness of indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime and emphasizes the importance of reporting suspicious activity to law enforcement.

If you see something suspicious, you should contact local law enforcement by dialing 9-1-1. Information can also be submitted through Wisconsin's "See Something, Say Something" campaign called WiWatch. Tips can either be submitted electronically and anonymously at www.wiwatch.org or by calling a law enforcement agent at 1-877-WI-

WATCH (1-877-949-2824).

RUN, HIDE, FIGHT

When out and about, avoid being a target. Be vigilant of your surroundings, use the buddy system when going out and let someone know where you are going. In populated places, be responsible for your personal safety. Make a mental note of emergency exits and locations of the nearest security personnel. Keep cell phones in your pockets instead of bags or on tables so you don't lose them during an incident. Carry emergency contact details and any special needs info with you at all times. If you do find yourself in a situation involving an active shooter remember to **RUN, HIDE, FIGHT!**

RUN

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Leave your belongings behind
- Keep your hands visible

HIDE

- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view

- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager

FIGHT

- As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger attempt to incapacitate the shooter
- Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter



Disaster Songs

A colleague was looking for some "disaster" related songs to put on her IPAD for an upcoming field deployment.

Readers of this newsletter know that we have been compiling songs to "crank" in the Emergency Operations Center so it should come as no surprise that we suggested a few songs that she should use.

Well in that process, we identified some more songs. They include:

- Fight Fire With Fire by Kansas
- Along the Watchtower by Jimi Hendrix
- Shake by Mercy Me
- Thunder on the Mountain by Bob Dylan
- You dropped a bomb on Me by Gap Band
- Let it Rain by Eric Clapton
- Brick House by The Commodores
- Flashlight by Parliament
- The Rain by Oran "Juice" Jones
- Somebody's Watching Me by Rockwell
- Blame It On The Rain by Milli Vanilli
- Fire By Ohio Players
- We Built This City by Starship
- Lights by Journey
- Message in a Bottle by Sting

What's on your playlist? Let us know!

Odds & Ends

TOP 10 BUSINESS THREATS

This year's global top 10 threats to business continuity are:

- Cyberattack
- Data breach (up one from last year)
- Unplanned IT & telecom outages (down one from last year)
- Act of terrorism (up five from last year)
- Security incident (up one from last year)
- Interruption to utility supply (down two from last year)
- Supply chain disruption (down two from last year)
- Adverse weather (down one from last year)
- Availability of key skills (new entry)
- Health and safety incident (new entry)

CYBER SECURITY TIPS

When in doubt, throw it out: Links in emails are often the way cyber criminals compromise your computer. If it looks suspicious—it's best to delete the email.

Get savvy about Wi-Fi hotspots:

Limit the type of business you conduct on public Wi-Fi. Bad guys may be able to see your passwords and

other information.

Keep security software current: Having the latest updates is the best defenses against viruses, malware, and other online threats.

Protect all devices that connect to the Internet: Computers and other web-enabled devices need protection from viruses and malware.

Manage your passwords: Create strong passwords that are at least eight characters long and use letters, numbers, and symbols.

Secure your mobile device: Be sure to set a screen lock that requires a password on your mobile device.

Protect your personal information: Limit the amount of personal information you post online.

RACINE COUNTY BEGINS COOP/COG PLANNING

Racine County hosted the Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities course sponsored by the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium. The course covered the need for succession planning, delegation of authority, redundant communications, and alternate facilities.

Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government (COOP/GOG) Plans are needed to ensure government agencies can operate during times of crisis. By planning ahead, departments can ensure that they will still deliver essential services to the community they serve.

Over the next several months, Racine County Departments will be completing COOP/COG plans for their respective areas.

IPAWS

Racine County will soon be able to issue alerts through IPAWS. IPAWS provides public safety officials with an effective way to alert and warn the public about serious emergencies using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and other public alerting systems from a single interface. This will be a great tool in the event that we have to inform the public about an emergency or crisis situation.



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@goracine.org
- Volunteering with Racine County Emergency Management

