USE SMOKE DETECTORS
CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS
and weather monitors
THEY MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management / Local Emergency Planning Committee

PLANNING FOR AN EMERGENCY

Auglaize County Commissioners
John Bergman
Hugh A. Core
Ivo Kramer
Phone Numbers
For Life Threatening Emergencies Only
(Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS)

9-1-1

OTHER NON-EMERGENCY
AUGLAIZE COUNTY PHONE NUMBERS

EMA/LEPC 419-739-6725
SHERIFF 419-738-2147
Highway Patrol 419-738-8010
Ohio Poison Control 800-589-3897
St. Marys Police 419-394-2325
St. Marys Fire 419-394-2361
Wapakoneta Police 419-738-2222
Wapakoneta Fire 419-738-2014
New Bremen Police 419-629-3371
New Bremen Fire 419-629-3101
Minster Police 419-628-2377
Minster Fire 419-628-4093
Cridersville Police 419-645-4111
Cridersville Fire 419-645-4000
St. Johns Fire 419-738-7638
Wayne Township Fire 419-568-2061
Uniopolis Fire 419-738-8350
Buckland Fire 419-657-2250
Buckland Police 419-657-2144
New Knoxville Fire 419-753-2050
New Knoxville Police 419-753-2404

CERT
Community Emergency Response Team
What happens when there is a disaster? Everyone is over whelmed—including the first responders to the event. The Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is developing a team of citizens in the county to assist the first responders. The agency will be conducting classes to make sure that the citizens are prepared to help protect themselves, their family, neighbors, neighborhoods, and their community in an emergency situation. For more information, please contact the Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Speakers are available to groups and organizations that wish to have a more in-depth understanding of Auglaize County’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management/Local Emergency Planning Committee and specific capabilities.
Because disasters are difficult, if not impossible to predict, personal and community preparedness is our greatest insurance policy. Personal commitment and involvement will enable you, your family, and your community to be prepared when disaster strikes.
Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
209 Blackhoof Street Room 206
Wapakoneta, Oh 45895
419-739-6725 Office
419-739-6726 Fax
Protecting Yourself from Terrorism

The Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (EMA) is a joint county-wide cooperative agreement between the Auglaize County Commissioners, City of St. Marys, City of Wapakoneta, six villages, and fourteen Board of Township Trustees.

The EMA conducts various public awareness campaigns with local organizations and schools to promote safety in the home, school, and workplace. The Agency also works with area businesses to develop safety plans for both the employee and the customer.

Funding for the Agency comes from all political subdivisions within Auglaize County based on per capita. The Federal Government provides reimbursement funding for all administrative costs up to 50%. There are also several grants awarded throughout the year as we qualify.

We have been very privileged in Auglaize County to have excellent public safety agencies. The law enforcements, life squad units, fire departments and our Hazardous Materials Team are filled with dedicated men and women who give their time to make this a great and safe county to live in. My goal is to help coordinate these agencies to make this county and its 47,000 citizens as safe as possible.

With best regards,
Dennis Mallory
Coordinator
**INTRODUCTION**

If a tornado, winter storm, flood or other disaster ever strikes your community, you may not have access to food, water, and electricity for days or even weeks. By taking a little time now to plan for emergencies, you can provide for your family.

Disaster by definition is any event that causes great harm or damage; this can be either a personal event or a large scale public occurrence. Everyday people wake up, go to work or school, farm their land, involve themselves in daily routines and anticipate few interruptions. But, every so often, the unexpected will happen: a personal emergency, a fire, a flood, a snow storm, a chemical spill on a highway, a tornado, and even the newest threats of terrorism. Routines change drastically, and people are suddenly aware of how fragile their lives can be.

This booklet was developed by the Auglaize County HS&EMA /LEPC to provide information to help families prepare for all types of disasters. It provides some general precautions and safety measures. It will help you prepare for the unexpected.

Getting ready doesn’t mean you’re living in fear—just that you are doing all you can to take good care of your family. Knowing you’re prepared for an emergency can help you and your family stay calm—and act effectively.

**Terrorism**

Terrorism has become a fact in today’s world. The tactics used by terrorists to attain their goal may include: bombing, arson, hijacking, ambushes, kidnapping, hostage taking, assassination, and environmental destruction. The purpose of these acts is to destroy public confidence in the ability of government to protect its citizens. In order to insure large-scale dissemination of information about the act of terror, the news media will be relied upon by the terrorists to spread the word of their actions. In order for terrorism to remain a viable news media event, it must, over time, escalate its attacks on society. Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical, and Explosives (B-NICE), or weapons combining these, may be used to maintain this news media viability. These may be directed at buildings and population centers, or used for large-scale environmental contamination.

**Terrorism:** A violent act dangerous to human life, a violation of the criminal laws of the United States, or any segment, to intimidate or coerce a government, the population, or any segment thereof. An act of terrorism is when a terrorist event has been declared a terrorism act by the FBI. Upon that declaration, the Federal responsibility to manage the incident relies on the FBI and FEMA.
Prepare a Disaster Supplies Kit

Assemble supplies you might need in an evacuation. Store them in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or duffle bag. Include:

- A supply of water (one gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date, and replace every six months.
- A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food, and a non-electric can opener.
- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- A first aid kit and prescription medications.
- An extra pair of glasses.
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries.
- Credit cards and cash.
- An extra set of keys.
- A list of family physicians.
- A list of important family information; for example, the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers.
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.

Car Kit

- Flashlight
- Shovel
- Radio
- Battery
- Blanket
- Plastic Bags
- Socks/Mittens/Hats
- Sand (for traction)
- Small Tools
- Booster Cables
- Games and Puzzles

Community Preparedness

The Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is ready to assist you when disaster strikes. The department is made up of two divisions, Emergency Management and the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Persons from both divisions work together along with several well trained first responders, to provide for the safety of the Citizens of Auglaize County and those who visit our county.

OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (EMA)

The responsibility of the EMA is to plan ahead for community disaster incidents: Tornadoes, Floods, Winter Storms, Earthquakes, and man-made or chemical related events. To achieve this, the EMA must have an Emergency Operations Plan for the entire County and all jurisdictions. This plan must be updated and exercised annually.

The Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency coordinates with State and Federal agencies to provide the most up-to-date, extensive and thorough training for Auglaize County emergency responders. The Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency’s personnel are trained in Planning, Preparedness, Mitigation, and Response by the Ohio Emergency Agency (OEMA), the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA), and the Ohio Fire Marshall’s Office. We also provide business and industry seminars, public education seminars, and public officials seminars.
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
LEPC

The objectives and responsibilities of the Auglaize County LEPC includes developing and exercising a hazardous materials response plan, receiving and processing information regarding emergency releases of hazardous substances and implementing procedures for community right to know reporting. The county is required to have a Hazmat plan.

The purpose of this committee, as specified by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), is to minimize the loss of life and property in the event of a disaster. Meetings are open to the public and are attended by emergency responders, governmental agencies, local industry, and others who share a concern about chemical safety in Auglaize County. An educated and well informed community is the best defense in being prepared to survive any disaster.

EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

CALL YOUR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

- Find out which disasters could occur in your area.
- Ask how to prepare for each disaster.
- Ask how you would be warned of an emergency.
- Learn your community’s evacuation routes.
- Ask your workplace about emergency plans.
- Learn about emergency plans for your children’s school or day care.

MAKE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

- Meet with household members. Discuss the dangers of fire, severe weather, earthquakes and other emergencies.
- Discuss how to respond to each disaster that could occur.
- Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room.
- Learn how to turn off water, gas, and electricity at main switches.
- Post emergency telephone numbers near telephones.
- Teach children how and when to call 911, police, and fire.
- Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency information.
- Pick one out-of-state and one local friend to call if separated by disaster. Its often easier to call out of state then in the affected area.
- Teach children to make long distance phone calls.
- Pick two meeting places: A place near your home in case of fire, and a place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.
- Keep family records in water and fire-proof container.
Travel Tips: If you’re on the road, pay attention to weather reports and traveler’s advisories. If a severe storm is forecast, don’t travel. Respect winter driving times; there are only nine hours of daylight driving during mid-winter, and even less if a storm is imminent. If the road conditions are snowy, please allow extra time and notify someone at your destination of your travel route and departure time. Keep all windows clear, inside and out, and make certain that the windshield washer fluid unit in the car is full. Prepare an emergency kit for your car and keep it in your trunk. It should include the following:

- At least two blankets
- Waterproof matches and candles
- Extra clothing, particularly overshoes and mittens
- Steel shovel, sand and rope or cord for a life line
- Dry emergency rations, such as raisins, nuts and candy.
- Flashlight with spare batteries and emergency flares.
- Two garbage cans to be used as insulation against the wind if you are forced to get out of your car.
- Metal coffee can for storing small items and to melt snow for drinking.

Winterize your car and make certain your battery is ready to cope with the severe winter weather. Keep your gas tank at least half full.

If You’re Stranded: don’t panic, and don’t leave your car; your chances are better if you stay in the car. Be sure that the exhaust pipe is not clogged by snow. In case you’re stuck for a long time, run your engine and heater no more then 10 minutes every hour, and leave a downwind window open slightly for ventilation. Use floor mats, seat covers, and blankets for added warmth. Never eat snow; it will chill you; instead, melt it in a coffee can before drinking.

Livestock: If you have livestock, move them to a sheltered area before the snow storm. Haul extra feed to feeding areas. Make certain to heat water troughs; many animals die in the winter due to dehydration, and not due to exposure to the cold.

WHO’S IN CHARGE

No single person is in charge of all specific duties performed in response to an emergency situation. For each disaster, there will be many individual agencies performing their functions under the direction of their specific policies and under the guidance of their predetermined operational head.

Elected officials, such as the County Commissioners, Mayors of each individual village, City Managers, and Township Trustees are the policy making bodies, not operational and are ultimately responsible for protecting lives and property in an emergency or disaster situation within their jurisdiction. These officials are responsible because:

► They can authorize emergency expenditures to help eliminate or reduce the degree of long-term risk to human life and property from any type of hazard.

► They have the authority to make an emergency declaration (to request state assistance).

► They are responsible for all phases of disaster relief: the policy making, the restoration activities, and the continuing efforts to help the community return to normalcy.

Remember: The job of the Auglaize County Commissioners, the Mayors of each individual village, City Managers, and Township Trustees is policy making, not operational.
HOME AND WORKPLACE PREPARATION

Wood stoves and portable heaters: Both of these items require greater attention to safety precautions than do a central heating system.

If you own a wood stove, make certain that the chimney and stove pipe are clean, as it is best to do this at the beginning of the heating season. Dispose of any ashes in a tightly-lidded metal container. Do not use flammable liquids to kindle fires. Keep combustibles and furniture away from a woodstove.

If you use a portable heater, do not place it in an area that blocks the exit from room to room. If you are using a kerosene heater, make certain the wick is cleaned and adjusted according to manufacturers directions. Review operating and safety instructions that were included with the portable heater. NEVER put gasoline in the heater’s fuel tank.

When it snows If the snow storm is severe, stay indoors if at all possible. Don’t jam the phone lines—save them for emergency use. Listen to weather bulletins and information from state and local authorities. Know these winter storm terms:

Winter Storm Watch: Severe winter weather conditions may affect your area.

Winter Storm Warning: Severe weather conditions are imminent. Issued when a combination of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is expected to occur.

Snow Advisory: Issued when 3-5 inches is expected to fall within 12 hours.

Heavy Snow Warning: A snowfall of at least 4” in 12 hours or 6” in 24 hours.

Blizzard Warning: Issued for sustained or gusty winds of 35 mph or more, and falling or blowing snow, creating visibility at or below one-quarter mile. These conditions should persist for at least 3 hours.

Blowing and Drifting Snow Advisory: Issued when blowing snow will restrict visibility to an eighth of a mile or less.

Freezing Rain Warning: Issued when a quarter inch or more ice is expected to accumulate. Widespread damage is likely due to buildup of ice.

Wind Chill warning: Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be less than or equal to –34 degrees.
If you are instructed to do so by local authorities, turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve. Join with neighbors and volunteers to put sandbags or other protection in place. Stack sandbags away from the outside walls of houses to prevent floodwater from entering.

**If Indoors:** Turn on battery-operated radio or television to get the latest emergency information. Get your pre-assembled emergency supplies. Move to the second floor or roof. Wait for help.

**If Outdoors:** Climb to high ground and stay there. Don’t attempt to walk through even slow moving flood waters. Flood waters one foot deep can sweep you off your feet.

**If in a Car:** DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE ON A FLOODED ROADWAY! Turn around and go another way. If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

### WINTER SAFETY

**Home Protection:** During extreme cold weather, power outages, or blizzards, wrap water pipes with newspapers or blankets; each provides additional insulation and can help prevent the pipes from bursting. If you have water pipes on the outside of your residence, surround the pipes with bales of hay so that the pipes don’t freeze. If leaving your home for awhile, consider draining the water pipes, turning off the water heater and main supply, opening all faucets and draining toilets. Never set the thermostat below 55 degrees when your home is unoccupied. Assemble needed supplies before they are needed. Candles or matches, a transistor radio and battery operated clock, an ample supply of wood for fireplaces, and a lantern with extra batteries should be on hand if a winter storm strikes.

Additionally, non-perishable food (particularly that which can be eaten without heating), bottled soft drinks, juices and water are essential items; especially if the power is out and your water has been turned off. If you are medication, make sure you have an adequate supply; the drug store may not be accessible or open.
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous materials are common in our environment both in the workplace and in the home. These materials are used not only by heavy industry, but also by government, small businesses and by private citizens. If any material, either alone or in combination with other substances, has the potential to threaten human health, it is considered hazardous.

Hazardous materials are most commonly seen stored at business or industrial sites in tanks, drums, or cylinders, or being transported in bulk by either trucks, rail or water. Even everyday items such as gasoline, natural gas and chlorine can produce deadly results if handled improperly or spilled.

The key to safety is knowing what to do when an accidental release occurs. This pamphlet provides you basic information and guidance to protect yourself and others from hazardous materials if they are accidentally released in your community.

If there is an emergency, you will be informed by the news media and the local authorities. Tune to your local radio and TV stations to obtain information quickly and accurately. Follow their directions carefully and thoroughly. These stations should be part of the Emergency Alert System and work closely with the local authorities to broadcast the necessary information that you will need to know. Contact your local city or county government emergency agency for a listing of EAS stations in your area.

If you see an accident or incident that may involve hazardous materials, please notify the emergency authorities at “911” or your local fire and law officials, and briefly report what you have seen. Let them handle it from there. DO NOT approach a hazardous materials emergency scene. This is for your safety.

Turn On Weather Monitor

Every home should have a weather monitor. The newest versions are programmable and cost around $50.00. Plus the National Weather Service has given us permission to use their monitors for hazardous chemical releases and acts of terrorism that could seriously harm the residents. It is the only way you can receive warnings 24 hours a day and remains silent when no danger is present.

In Homes or Other Small Buildings: Go to the basement or a place in the middle of the house, such as a closet, bathroom or interior hall of the lowest floor and get under something sturdy.

In School: Remain calm and follow the instructions of the teacher or principal. Auditoriums or gymnasiums with wide, huge roofs that could collapse easily should be avoided.

In Mobile Homes or Cars: Leave them and find shelter nearby, lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine or culvert with your hands shielding your head.

Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls. Always protect your head from injury from debris and flying glass.

FLOODS AND FLASH FLOODS

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Most communities in the United States can experience some kind of flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms, or winter snow thaws. Floods can be slow or fast rising but generally develop over a period of days.

Flash Floods are usually the result of intense storms dropping large amounts of rain within a brief period of time. Flash floods occur with little or no warning and can reach full peak in only a few minutes.

A Flood Warning: Listen to the radio for further information. Fill bathtubs, sinks, and jugs with clean water in case water becomes contaminated. Bring outdoor belongings, such as patio furniture, indoors. Move valuable household possessions to the upper floors or to safe ground if time permits.
Weather Watches and Warnings

Know the difference between a **WATCH** and a **WARNING**:

A WATCH OR A WARNING CAN BE ISSUED FOR ALL TYPES OF WEATHER: TORNADOES, FLOOD, OR BLIZZARDS. WHATEVER THE SEASON, A **WATCH** OR A **WARNING** WILL ALWAYS MEAN THE SAME THING.

A **WATCH** IS ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WHEN PRESENT WEATHER CONDITIONS COULD PRODUCE SEVERE WEATHER.

A **WARNING** IS ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WHEN SEVERE WEATHER IS IMMINENT. EXAMPLE: A TORNADO HAS BEEN SIGHTED.

TORNADOES

Tornadoes can occur during any month of the year. The most prevalent time of the year that tornadoes occur is during the spring and early summer months, when conditions are opportune for them to develop. Tornadoes, which are severe storms often accompanied by hail and thunderstorms, have low pressure centers surrounded by air that can spin around at more than 200 miles per hour as it moves across land. The debris accumulated by a funnel cloud often causes as much injury and damage as the actual wind force generated by the storm. Most tornadoes move in the direction of southwest to northeast, and generally occur in the afternoon or early evening on a hot day.

Ohio has a special warning system that informs the public when a tornado could develop or has been sighted. Knowing the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning can save lives. **A Tornado Watch means that conditions are favorable for the formation of a tornado. A Tornado Warning means that a tornado has been sighted in the area, and citizens should take cover immediately.**

When a tornado warning has been issued, the following should be done immediately:

What are Extremely Hazardous Materials?

There are thousands of chemicals defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration as chemicals which represent a physical or health hazard. Approximately 360 of these substances are classified as “extremely hazardous.” Extremely hazardous substances can be in liquid, gas, or solid form. Exposure to these chemicals can cause serious illness or death. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act allows citizens and communities to focus on facilities which have extremely hazardous substances at or above federally established threshold planning quantities, for purposes of emergency planning and response. Although many of these chemicals are used everyday they may not be widely recognized as “extremely hazardous.”

(A common use is listed)

**Selected Examples of EHS Chemicals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical (fertilizer)</th>
<th>Chemical (insecticide)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ammonia</td>
<td>Nicotine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chlorodane</td>
<td>Nitric Acid (for etching steel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chlorine</td>
<td>Paraquat (herbicide)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chloroform</td>
<td>Phenol (disinfectant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formaldehyde</td>
<td>Sulfuric Acid (used in batteries)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydroquinone</td>
<td>Sulfur Dioxide (food additive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindane</td>
<td>Dry Cleaning materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warfarin</td>
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State and local governments have established minimal safety guidelines for your protection in the event of a hazardous materials accident. Emergency officials will provide timely, accurate information and instructions. Do as they say! The next page will list some guidelines for you to follow.
1. If you are told to protect your breathing:
   Cover your nose and mouth with a large wet bath towel or cloth.

2. If you are told to stay indoors:
   Remain indoors until further notice.
   Close all doors and windows. Use masking tape or a damp towel to seal the opening if possible.
   Turn off all types of ventilation, unless otherwise instructed.
   Do Not use fireplaces and close the dampers.
   Cover or refrigerate any uncovered food.
   Stay tuned to a local radio or television station for information.

3. If you are told to evacuate:
   Lock all doors and windows
   Turn off appliances (except refrigerator) and faucets.
   Leave pets inside with plenty of food and water.
   DO NOT take pets to a shelter. There are “shelters” set up in the county for people to take their pets if needed.
   Keep your car vents and windows closed. Do not use the heater or air conditioner. Drive the speed limit unless otherwise instructed. Drive safely!

4. Take the following items with you:
   - Clothes for a few days.
   - Medicine or prescriptions you may need.
   - Toiletries
   - Money, and important documents.
   - Baby Needs
   - Portable radio and batteries
   - Sleeping bag or blankets and pillows for each person.
   - Folding cot or lawn chair

   Listen to a local radio or television station.
   Follow all evacuation directions

5. If you have family in a nursing home or hospital:
   These facilities have their own evacuation procedures, **so please do not try and pick up your relatives.** Check with these facilities in advance to determine their evacuation procedures. Local radio and television stations will announce where patients are being moved to.

6. If your children are in school:
   If your children are in school during an accident, please **DO NOT try and pick them up.** They will be transported to pickup areas outside of the affected area, if necessary. Local radio and television stations will announce when and where parents can pick up their children. School personnel will supervise and care for the children until parents pick them up.

7. If you have livestock:
   - Place the animals in a closed or high location.
   - Leave plenty of water and food for several days.
   - Use stored feed if possible.
   - Tune to a local radio or television station for further instructions.

8. If you grow food products:
   - Do not eat or sell products
   - Protective actions (such as washing, discarding, etc) are specified to the crops affected and their maturity at the time of contamination.
   - Tune to a local radio or television station for additional instructions. For more information, contact your local agricultural extension agent.