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**EDITOR’S NOTE: REVISIONS TO ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE**
Why Prepare for an Emergency or Disaster?

Emergency management (or planning) is the organization and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with aspects of emergencies. The goal of emergency planning is to reduce loss of life and property and to protect assets from all types of hazards through a comprehensive risk-based process.

WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY?

An emergency is an unplanned event that can threaten a community, disrupt or permanently shut down normal operations, cause physical or environmental damage, or cause deaths or significant injuries.

WHAT IS A DISASTER?

A disaster is a large-scale emergency, substantial enough to cause significant physical damage or destruction, loss of life, or drastic change to the environment. Disasters stem from emergencies and events such as tornadoes, wind storms, blizzards, floods, catastrophic accidents, fires or explosions.

THIS EMERGENCY PLANNING GUIDE WAS CREATED TO

- Help the community prevent, avoid or reduce the impact of an emergency or disaster.
- Ensure that residents have the tools to care for themselves, their families, their neighbors, and the community in general when emergencies or disasters happen.

It's not a matter of if, but when...
Emergency Planning Steps

Any emergency management program or planning guide must start by looking at what types of risks exist, and how likely are they to affect our community and our neighbors. The steps in the emergency planning process are:

**Mitigation** is the sustained action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects.

**Preparedness** is the process of being ready for an emergency before it occurs. It is important to not only plan, but to prepare as well. The key action is being ready to react and respond quickly.

**Response** includes the action of responding to an emergency.

**Recovery** is the process of returning to normal. Salvage, resumption of utility services, and repair are examples of recovery tasks.

MITIGATION

Mitigation is the work done to prevent, avoid or reduce the amount of damage that could result from an emergency or disaster. Mitigation activities take place before and after emergencies. An important part of the mitigation phase is identifying risks ahead of time. Physical risk assessment refers to the process of identifying and evaluating these risks. Such risks may include:

**Natural Hazards**

- **Meteorological** - Flooding, Severe Thunderstorm (Wind, Rain, Lightning, Hail), Tornado, Windstorm, Winter Storm (Snow/Ice)
- **Geological** - Earthquake, Seiche, Landslide, Subsidence/Sinkhole
- **Biological** - Pandemic Disease, Foodborne Illnesses

**Human-Caused Hazards**

- **Accidents** - Transportation Accidents (Motor Vehicle, Rail, Water, Air, Pipeline), Structural Failure/Collapse, Mechanical Breakdown
• **Intentional Acts** - Civil Disturbance (Riot), Bomb Threat, Lost/Separated Person, Child Abduction, Kidnapping/Extortion, Hostage Incident, Robbery, Sniper Incident, Terrorism (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives), Arson, Cyber/Information Technology (Malware Attack, Hacking, Fraud, Denial of Service, etc.)

**Technological Hazards**

• **Utility Outage** - Communications, Electrical Power, Water, Gas, Steam, Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning, Pollution Control System, Sewage System

• **Fire/Explosion** - Fire (Structure, Wildland), Explosion (Chemical, Gas, or Process failure)

• **Hazardous Materials** - Hazardous Material spill/release, Radiological Accident, Hazmat Incident off-site, Transportation Accidents, Natural Gas Leak Supply

**PREPAREDNESS**

Preparedness activities take place **before an emergency** occurs and include plans or preparations made to protect the public and to help response or rescue operations. Evacuation plans and emergency kits are examples of preparedness.

To better prepare for an emergency:

• Develop a communications plan for your family. Choose someone who does not live with you (preferably an out-of-town relative or friend) whom you and other family members can contact to check on each other if you are separated during a disaster. Carry that person's contact information in your purse or wallet.

• Make sure children know their last name, phone number, address, and number for the out-of-town contact person.

• Make sure every member of your family knows an alternate route home.

• If family members can't get home, designate a meeting place.

• Know your community's emergency evacuation route.

• Learn how to shut off utilities such as gas, electricity, and water.

• Assemble an emergency preparedness kit that will allow your family to camp out for three days. Assume you'll be without electricity and running water.

• Store your emergency supplies in sealed containers such as plastic tubs - taped shut.

• Keep cash on hand; automated teller machines won't be working if the power is out.

• Learn CPR and first aid to help with medical emergencies.
RESPONSE
Response activities take place during an emergency and include plans or preparations made to prevent further property damage. Response is putting preparedness plans into action. Seeking shelter from a tornado is a response activity.

RECOVERY
Recovery takes place after an emergency and includes actions taken to return to a normal or even safer situation following an emergency.
Community Analysis

**Ogden Dunes** is a town in Portage Township, Porter County, Indiana, United States. It is located on the shore of Lake Michigan, within the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and nearly surrounded by the city of Portage. It is named for multi-millionaire Francis A. Ogden, who owned the land there before his death in 1914. His main interest in the land was the sand which could be scooped up and sold, with more sand being replenished naturally over time.

Ogden Dunes is located at **41°37′27″N 87°11′29″W** (41.624250, -87.191338)

The town has a total area of 1.46 square miles (3.8 km²), of which 0.74 square miles (1.9 km²) (or 50.68%) is land and 0.72 square miles (1.9 km²) (or 49.32%) is water.

Ogden Dunes is located in Portage Township, one of twelve townships in Porter County, Indiana. The largest community in the township is the city of Portage (roughly 36,000 people).

The Town of Ogden Dunes does not have a grocery store, post office, restaurants, etc. Primarily a residential community, Ogden Dunes aims to protect the ambiance of its beach community roots and provide an elevated quality of living. The neighborhood does possess one gas station & convenience store on the south side of town.

Neighboring Ogden Dunes are several similar enclaves within the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore: Miller Beach to the west, Beverly Shores and Dune Acres to the east. Like Ogden Dunes, a considerable portion of the residences in these communities are occupied as summer or weekend homes by Chicagoans.

**Demographics**

As of the 2010 census of 2010, there were 1,110 people, 508 households, and 335 families residing in the town. The population density was 1,500.0 inhabitants per square mile (579.2/km²). There were 619 housing units at an average density of 836.5 per square mile (323.0/km²). Construction of buildings in the town is mixed; wood and brick and some steel and concrete. A large percentage of the homes are of wood construction with basements.

There were 508 households of which 58% were married couples living together, 8% had a householder with spouse, and 34% were non-families. 28% of all households were made up of individuals and 15% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.19 and the average family size was 2.67.

**Governance**

Government in the Town of Ogden Dunes consists of a Town Council, representing each of the five wards in community, and which serves as the legislative and executive body of the town. One of their members is voted by the council to serve as council president, who has the power to sign contracts, ordinances, etc., that have been approved by the board. The president also represents the council at government and community
functions. The council appoints administrative department heads, with one council member serving as a liaison to that department, rather than the council members acting as department heads.

**Municipal Services**

The Town of Ogden Dunes has a police department under the command of the Town’s Chief of Police. The Police Department consists of the full-time chief, a chief deputy, 2 patrol officers and a detective.

Fire service in the town is provided by a volunteer fire department. The Ogden Dunes Volunteer Fire Department was chartered from the Indiana Volunteer Fireman’s Association (IVFA) in 1955. The all-volunteer department provides fire, rescue, and BLS non-transport protection to the community. The department responds to fires, vehicle accidents, weather spotting, and public assistance calls.

**Utilities**

Water supply for the town is provided by the Indiana American Water Company. Portions of the town also have private wells.

Electric power is provided by Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO).

Sewage disposal in the town is provided by private septic systems serving each residence.

**Transportation**

Freight transportation, local, interstate and intrastate, is provided via rail lines. The rail lines cross the southern border of the town in an east-west direction. There are spur tracks that run into US Steel and Arcelor Mittal.

The South Shore Railroad provides commuter rail service running from South Bend, Indiana to Chicago, Illinois and is mainly used by commuters to the Chicago metropolitan area. Amtrak passenger trains travel past Ogden Dunes but do not stop.

While there are no inter- and intra- state highways running through the town, there are several located nearby. Interstate 94 runs east and west, with U.S. Highway 12 paralleling I-94 through the area. US Highway 249 intersects Highway 12 at the entrance to US Steel and the Port of Indiana. County Line Road, which parallels the western boundary of the National Lakeshore West Beach, connects US Highway 12 with US highway 20 running north and south.

Traffic congestion is extreme at early morning starting time and late afternoon quitting time, due to movement of steel and steel-related industrial employees using US Highway 12. Traffic congestion is also a problem along the Route 249/Route 12 connecting corridor during normal business hours due to the large number of semi-tractor trailers servicing the nearby steel mills and the Port of Indiana. Evacuation of the town for any purpose would be difficult because of heavy traffic and the limited means of egress.
Medical Services
There is no civilian hospital in the town. The closest medical facilities are the Portage Hospital/ER in Portage and Porter Regional Hospital in Chesterton/Valparaiso.

Emergency medical service in Ogden Dunes is provided by private ambulance services as well as the Fire Departments from Portage, Chesterton and Burns Harbor.

Education
Apart from the Sandpiper Cooperative Preschool located at the Ogden Dunes Presbyterian Church, there are no educational facilities in the town boundaries. All education services are provided by the Portage Townships Schools, which provides bus services for school-aged residents. Other students may attend local charter or private schools in the region.

Media
Comcast Cable TV and Direct TV provide cable TV for the community of Ogden Dunes. There are two regional newspapers that serve the town, the Northwest Indiana Times (NWI Times), and the Post-Tribune. Telephone service is provided by Frontier and cellular service providers.

There is very limited shelter provided by the Town in times of emergencies. The sole shelter would consist of the Town’s Fire Station/Meeting Hall. None of the Town's shelters qualify as fallout shelters offering protection from radioactive materials above that level normally found in commercial construction.

Outdoor Warning Sirens
Outdoor warning sirens are located throughout Porter County and are managed/maintained by the Porter County Emergency Management Agency. These sirens are intended to notify people outdoors of impending dangerous weather conditions (e.g. tornado warnings, high winds, etc.) or other dangerous civil emergencies (toxic chemical release as an example). When the siren is heard, residents should seek shelter and gather information from local radio, TV or the internet.

Porter County tests the Outdoor Warning Siren System on the first Tuesday of each month. The sirens are activated at approximately 11:00 AM for three minutes.
Assumptions

Vulnerability

The Town of Ogden Dunes is vulnerable to all types of disasters including tornadoes, severe windstorms, blizzards, electrical storms and erosion/flooding. Earthquakes, forest and brush fires are also a possibility. Chemical, transportation and radiological accidents as well as major structural fires, must be seriously considered as potential disaster possibilities.

The location of the town within established approaches to the major Chicago airports, as well as the Gary airport, suggests the further possibility of air crashes within town boundaries.

The following assumptions about disaster emergency situations may be made: (the sequence does not denote the order of importance of these assumptions.)

1. An emergency or disaster (natural, human caused or national security) can affect the town at any time.

2. A tornado, wind storm, electrical storm, severe ice and/or snow storm, blizzard, etc. affecting the Town can cause the loss of power, telephone service, and other utilities and result in a major threat to government operations and the health and safety of people within the Town.

3. Some advanced warning may be received in natural and human caused disasters. However, they can occur with little or no warning.

4. The resources normally available within the town may not be sufficient to respond to a major emergency and/or disaster. Outside assistance may be necessary but unavailable or limited in quantity. In an emergency or disaster simultaneously affecting other communities and/or the state, outside assistance may not be available. Therefore, local government must do the best it can with available resources to maximize the survival of people, prevent and/or minimize injuries and preserve property and resources within the town.

5. There may be interruptions in service of public utilities during a disaster emergency. Normal channels of communication may be disrupted or destroyed.

6. The heavy increase of daytime population would add to traffic leaving in the event of evacuation. The US Highway 149/US Highway 12 intersection could become a bottleneck due to traffic congestion in any kind of disaster situation due to heavy semi-trailer traffic due to the local steel mills.

7. Limited egress due to the closure of the main entrance and the adjoining service road.
Types of Risks

For emergency planning purposes, risks are generally divided into the categories listed below. In the guide that follows, the most probable, or likely events will be addressed in specific detail.

The most common categories of risk are:

Natural Hazards

• **Meteorological** - Flooding, Dam/Levee Failure, Severe Thunderstorm (Wind, Rain, Lightning, Hail), Tornado, Windstorm, Hurricanes and Tropical Storms, Winter Storm (Snow/Ice)

• **Geological** - Earthquake, Seiche, Landslide, Subsidence/Sinkhole, Volcano

• **Biological** - Pandemic Disease, Foodborne Illnesses

Human-Caused Hazards

• **Accidents** - Workplace Accidents, Entrapment/Rescue (Machinery, Water, Confined Space, High Angle), Transportation Accidents (Motor Vehicle, Rail, Water, Air, Pipeline), Structural Failure/Collapse, Mechanical Breakdown

• **Intentional Acts** - Labor Strike, Demonstrations, Civil Disturbance (Riot), Bomb Threat, Lost/Separated Person, Child Abduction, Kidnapping/Extortion, Hostage Incident, Workplace Violence, Robbery, Sniper Incident, Terrorism (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives), Arson, Cyber/Information Technology (Malware Attack, Hacking, Fraud, Denial of Service, etc.)

Technological Hazards

• **Information Technology** - Loss of Connectivity, Hardware Failure, Lost/Corrupted Data, Application Failure

• **Utility Outage** - Communications, Electrical Power, Water, Gas, Steam, Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning, Pollution Control System, Sewage System

• **Fire/Explosion** - Fire (Structure, Wildland), Explosion (Chemical, Gas, or Process failure)

• **Hazardous Materials** - Hazardous Material spill/release, Radiological Accident, Hazmat Incident off-site, Transportation Accidents, Nuclear Power Plant Incident, Natural Gas Leak Supply

• **Chain Interruption** - Supplier Failure, Transportation Interruption
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Meteorological
- Flooding, Severe Thunderstorm (Wind, Rain, Lightning, Hail), Tornado, Windstorm, Winter Storm (Snow/Ice)

Geological
- Earthquake, Seiche, Landslide, Subsidence/Sinkhole, Volcano

Biological
- Pandemic Disease, Foodborne Illness

Accidental
- Transportation Accidents (Motor Vehicle, Rail, Water, Air, Pipeline), Structure Failure/Collapse, Mechanical Breakdown

Intentional
- Civil Disturbance (Riots), Bomb Threat, Lost/Separated Person, Child Abduction, Kidnapping/Extortion, Robbery, Terrorism (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear), Arson

Technological
- Loss of Connectivity, Hardware Failure, Utility Outage, Explosion (Chemical, Gas or Process), Hazardous Material Spill/Release, Transportation Accidents, Natural Gas Leak
Risk Analysis

A risk assessment is a process to identify potential hazards and analyze what could happen if a hazard occurs. Risk analysis is performed to understand the nature of unwanted, negative consequences to health and to identify and consider the options for preventing or minimizing the consequences of such risks.

For purposes of this guide, risk is defined as the likelihood (probability) of the event happening and the impact (severity) it would have both people and property.

\[
\text{Risk} = \text{Probability} \times \text{Severity}
\]

There are numerous hazards to consider. For each hazard there are many possible scenarios that could unfold depending on timing, magnitude and location of the hazard. The chart below summarizes the most probable scenarios that may impact the town:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Human Impact</th>
<th>Property Impact</th>
<th>Vulnerability</th>
<th>Speed of Onset</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low, Moderate, High</td>
<td>Low, Moderate, High</td>
<td>Low, Moderate, High</td>
<td>Low, Moderate, High</td>
<td>Slow, Fast</td>
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<td>Landslide, mudslide, subsidence</td>
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<td>(example values)</td>
<td>(example values)</td>
<td>(example values)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow, ice, hail, sleet, winter storm</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Windstorms, tornadoes, dust storms</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Extreme temperatures (heat, cold)</td>
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<td>Lightening strikes</td>
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<td>Flood, flash flood, tidal surge</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>Drought</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Biological Hazards</td>
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<td>(example values)</td>
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<td>(example values)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandemics/infectious/communicable disease (avian flu/H5N1, etc.)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Foodborne illness</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Human-Caused Events</td>
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<td>(example values)</td>
<td>(example values)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazardous material spill or release</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation incidents (motor vehicle, railroad, watercraft, aircraft, pipeline)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Residential fire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildfire</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explosive/fire</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Building structure collapse</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intentional</td>
<td>(example values)</td>
<td>(example values)</td>
<td>(example values)</td>
<td>(example values)</td>
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<td>(example values)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Kidnap, child abduction, human trafficking, workplace violence</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism, civil disturbances</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road traffic, suspicious package, terrorist threat</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Technology-Caused Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unplanned power outage</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>Loss of water supply</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyber security ( denial of service, data corruption, hacking)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Emergency /Disaster Supply Kit

A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment’s notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days.

Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

BASIC KIT
A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

• Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
• Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
• Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
• Flashlight and extra batteries
• First aid kit
• Whistle to signal for help
• Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
• Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
• Wrench, pliers and other basic tools to turn off utilities
• Manual can opener for food
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- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY SUPPLIES
Once you have gathered the supplies for a basic emergency kit, you may want to consider adding the following items:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler’s checks and change
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container.
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted, nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children
- Batteries for hearing aids
- Plastic bucket with tight lid (make-shift toilet)
• Toilet paper and other paper products
• Work gloves
• Rope
Stay or Go: Shelter-in-Place or Evacuate

SHELTER IN PLACE
Whether you are at home, work or elsewhere, there may be situations when it's simply best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside. There are other circumstances when staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as "sealing the room," is a matter of survival.

Use available information to assess the situation. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to take this kind of action. The process used to seal the room is considered a temporary protective measure to create a barrier between you and potentially contaminated air outside. It is a type of sheltering-in-place that requires preplanning.

To "Shelter-in-Place and Seal the Room" (see diagram)

- Bring your family and pets inside.
- Lock doors, close windows, air vents and fireplace dampers.
- Turn off fans, air conditioning and forced air heating systems.
- Have your emergency supply kit available unless you have reason to believe it has been contaminated.
- Go into an interior room with few windows, if possible.
- Seal all windows, doors and air vents with plastic sheeting and duct tape. Consider measuring and cutting the sheeting in advance to save time.
- Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to seal gaps so that you create a barrier between yourself and any contamination.
- Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.

HOW AND WHEN TO TURN OFF UTILITIES
If there is damage to your home or you are instructed to turn off your utilities:

- Locate the electric, gas and water shut-off valves.
- Keep necessary tools near gas and water shut-off valves.
• Teach family members how to turn off utilities.
• If you turn the gas off, a professional must turn it back on. Do not attempt to do this yourself.

GAS SHUT-OFF
Locate main gas shut-off (usually outside house) at the gas meter. The valve is usually on a pipe coming out of the ground, going into the gas meter. Turn the valve crosswise to the pipe (see diagram). All the pilot lights in and around your home (stove, furnace, clothes dryer, water heater, etc.) will go out when you turn the valve off. You will need to have the gas company, or another qualified individual (plumber, contractor, or trained homeowner), relight every pilot when turning the gas back on. Forgetting to relight all the pilot lights could result in a dangerous gas buildup in your home. Remember, if you don’t smell gas or have severe damage to your home you should not have to shut the gas off.

Clear the area around the main gas shut-off valve for quick and easy access in case of emergency. A wrench (or specialty tool), for turning off the gas, should be attached to a pipe next to the shut-off valve or in another easily accessible location. You may want to paint the shut-off valve with white or fluorescent paint so that it can be located easily in an emergency.

ELECTRICAL SHUT-OFF
First locate all your home’s electrical panels. There may be more than one. Your house may be equipped with fuses or circuit breakers. If your house has fuses, you will find a knife switch handle or pullout fuse that should be marked "MAIN." If your house has circuit breakers, you may need to open the metal door of the breaker box to reveal the circuit breakers (never remove the metal cover). The main circuit breaker should be clearly marked showing on and off positions. Remove all the small fuses or turn off all the small breakers first, then shut off the "main." If you have any sub-panels adjacent to the main fuse or breaker panel or in other parts of the house, in an emergency be safe and shut them off too. Shorts can sometimes develop that cause a circuit to bypass the breaker or fuse.
WATER SHUT-OFF
Locate the main water service pipe into your house (probably in the front at the basement level). You will see a gate valve on the pipe. You may wish to paint the valve so it is easy to find in an emergency. You can shut off all water to your property by finding the water meter box (usually at the street or sidewalk). Open the cover with a long screwdriver or specialty tool. Be sure to identify this box and the water valve inside before the need to use them arises. Inside the water meter box you will see a valve that looks like the valve on your gas meter. Turn it just the same as your gas valve.

EVACUATION
Evacuations during a major disaster are common. Evacuations and evacuation procedures vary by location and the size and scope of the disaster. The amount of time you will have to evacuate depends on the disaster. Some disasters, such as snow storms, may allow several days to prepare. Hazardous materials accidents may only allow moments to leave. This means that preparation is essential since there may not be time to collect the basic necessities. Evacuations can last for several days. During this time you may be responsible for part or all your food, clothing and other supplies.

Preparing for Evacuation
Advance planning will make evacuation procedures easier. First, you should have your family disaster supply kit and plan ready. Additional steps that can aid preparedness include:

• Review possible evacuation procedures with your family.
• Ask a friend or relative outside your area to be the check-in contact so that everyone in the family can call that person to say they are safe.
• Find out where children will be sent if they are in school when an evacuation is announced.
• Plan now where you would go if you had to evacuate. Consider the homes of relatives or friends who live nearby, but outside the area of potential disaster.
• Contact the local emergency management office for community evacuation plans. Review public information to identify reception areas and shelter areas.
• Keep fuel in your car’s gas tank at all times. During emergencies, gas stations may be closed. Never store extra fuel in the garage.
• If you do not have a car or other vehicle, make transportation arrangements with friends, neighbors or your local emergency management office.
• Know where and how to shut off electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves.
Evacuating

When you are told to evacuate there are four steps you need to take:

1. If there is time, secure your house. Unplug appliances. Turn off the main water valve. Take any actions needed to prevent damage to water pipes by freezing weather. Securely close and lock all doors, windows and garage.

2. Gather food, water, clothing, emergency supplies, insurance and financial records.

3. Follow your local recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts, they may be blocked.

4. Listen to the radio for emergency shelter information.

5. Carry your family disaster supply kit.

6. Do not leave pets behind.

Returning Home

If the proper procedures are not taken, returning home can become a dangerous event. To ensure that you keep yourself and your family safe, be sure to take the following steps:

1. Do not return until the local authorities say it is safe.

2. Continue listening to the radio for information and instructions.

3. Use extreme caution when entering or working in buildings -- structures may have been damaged or weakened.

4. Do not take lanterns, torches or any kind of flame into a damaged building. There may be leaking gas or other flammable materials present. Use battery-operated flashlights for light. If you suspect a gas leak, do not use any kind of light or matches to light candles. The light itself could cause an explosion.

5. If you smell leaking gas, turn off the main gas valve at the meter. If you can open windows safely, do so. Do not turn on lights -- they can produce sparks that may ignite the gas. Leave the house immediately and notify the gas company or the fire department. Do not re-enter the house until an authorized person tells you it is safe to do so.

6. Notify the utility company or fire department if you see fallen or damaged electrical wires.

7. If any of your appliances are wet, turn off the main electrical power switch in your home before you unplug them. Dry out appliances, wall switches and sockets before you plug them in again. Call utility companies for assistance.
8. Check food and water supplies for contamination and spoilage before using them.

9. Wear sturdy shoes when walking through broken glass or debris, and use heavy gloves when removing debris.

10. After the emergency is over, telephone your family and friends to tell them you are safe.
Evacuation Routes

Primary Egress – Hillcrest Road south the US Highway 12.
Secondary Egress – Hillcrest Road south to railway access road, east to US Steel bridge.
Emergency Egress – Boat Club Road to US Steel bridge.
Snow and Ice

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that may last for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others may only affect a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

NOTIFICATION AND EARLY WARNING

Notification of a developing winter storms can be divided into four forms: outlooks, advisories, watches and warnings.

- **A Winter Storm Outlook** indicates winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2 to 5 days.
- **A Winter Weather Advisory** indicates that conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.
- **A Winter Storm Watch** indicates that winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.
- **A Winter Storm Warning** indicates life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately.

Preparing for a Winter Storm

- Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature of no lower than 55°F.
Extreme Temperatures

EXCESSIVE HEAT
Heat-related deaths and illness are preventable, yet annually many people succumb to extreme heat. An important goal of this guide is to provide easily accessible resources for members of the public, local health departments and other organizations, assisting ongoing outreach efforts to those most vulnerable to extreme heat events.

NOTIFICATION AND EARLY WARNING
Each National Weather Service Forecast Office issues some or all of the following heat-related products as conditions warrant:

- **Excessive Heat Outlooks** are issued when the potential exists for an excessive heat event in the next 3-7 days. An Outlook provides information to those who need considerable lead-time to prepare for the event.

- **A Heat Advisory** is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions. The general rule of thumb for this Advisory is when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 100° or higher for at least 2 days, and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°; however, these criteria vary across the country, especially for areas that are not used to dangerous heat conditions.

- **An Excessive Heat Watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event in the next 24 to 72 hours. A Watch is used when the risk of a heat wave has increased but its occurrence and timing is still uncertain.

- **An Excessive Heat Warning** is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions. The general rule of thumb for this Warning is when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 105° or higher for at least 2 days and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°; however, these criteria vary across the country, especially for areas not used to extreme heat conditions.

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**Stay Cool.**

- Stay in air-conditioned buildings as much as possible.
- Dust an air-conditioned shelter.
- Do not rely on a fan as your primary cooling device.
- Avoid direct sunlight.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Take cool showers or baths.
- Check on those most at risk twice a day.

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**Stay Hydrated.**

Because your body loses fluids through sweat; you can become dehydrated during times of extreme heat.

- Drink more water than usual.
- Don’t wait until you’re thirsty to drink more fluids.
- Drink from two to four cups of water every hour while working or exercising outside.
- Avoid alcohol or liquors containing high amounts of sugar.
- Remind others to drink enough water.

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**Stay Informed.**

Stay updated on local weather forecasts so you can plan activities safely when it’s hot outside.

- Check local news for excessive heat alerts and safety tips.
- Learn the symptoms of heat illness.
People aged 65 years or older are less likely to sense and respond to changes in temperature. People in this category must be given and reminded of the following information:

- Stay in air-conditioned buildings as much as possible. Contact your local health department or locate an air-conditioned shelter in your area.
- Do not rely on a fan as your primary cooling device during an extreme heat event.
- Drink more water than usual and don’t wait until you’re thirsty to drink.
- Check on a friend or neighbor and have someone do the same for you.
- Don’t use the stove or oven to cook—it will make you and your house hotter.
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Take cool showers or baths to cool down.
- Check the local news for health and safety updates.
- Seek medical care immediately if you have, or someone you know has symptoms of heat-related illness like muscle cramps, headaches, nausea or vomiting.

**EXTREME COLD**

Extreme cold is a dangerous situation that can bring on health emergencies in susceptible people, such as those without shelter or who are stranded, or who live in a home that is poorly insulated or without heat. During periods of extreme cold, people are advised to stay indoors during the storm. If you must go outside, walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways. Whenever temperatures drop decidedly below normal and as wind speed increases, heat can leave your body more rapidly. These weather-related conditions may lead to serious health problems.

Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack—a major cause of death in the winter. Use caution, take breaks, push the snow instead of lifting it when possible, and lift lighter loads.

Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly.

Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive: travel in the day; don’t travel alone; keep others informed of your schedule; stay on main roads and avoid back road shortcuts.

If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).
Conserve fuel, if necessary, by keeping your residence cooler then normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.

If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°F.

**Frostbite**
Frostbite occurs when the skin and body tissue just beneath it freezes. This can cause a loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, earlobes, face, and the tip of the nose.

In the event of frostbite, cover the exposed skin, but do not rub the affected area in an attempt to warm it up. Seek medical help immediately.

**Hypothermia**
Hypothermia occurs when the body reaches a dangerously low body temperature. Symptoms of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion.

If symptoms of hypothermia are detected take the person’s temperature. If it is below 95°F, seek medical attention immediately. Get the victim to a warm location. Remove wet clothing. Warm the center of the body first by wrapping the person in blankets or putting on dry clothing. Give warm, non-alcoholic beverages if the victim is conscious. Seek medical help immediately.
Tornadoes

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornados can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low hanging clouds obscure others. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible. Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still. A cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

TORNADO FACTS

- Tornadoes may strike quickly, with little or no warning, and they may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- The average tornado moves southwest to northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.
- The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 mph, but may vary from stationary to 70 mph.
- Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over water.
- Tornadoes are most frequently reported east of the Rocky Mountains during spring and summer months.
- Peak tornado season in the northern states is late spring through early summer.
- Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m., but can occur at any time.

WATERSPOUTS

A waterspout is a funnel cloud that forms over the lake when thunderstorms combine with strong, cold northeast winds rushing over its warm surface. While they're typically smaller, weaker, and considered to be less dangerous than land tornadoes, experts warn waterspouts can still overturn boats or do damage if they hit land.
NOTIFICATION AND EARLY WARNING

Notification of a tornado in the area is divided into two forms: tornado watches and/or warnings.

- A **Tornado Watch** indicates that the weather conditions support the formation of a tornado and that the public needs to remain alert. Keep listening to the radio and/or your local television station for updates until the storm passes. Keep a watchful eye on the skies to the south and southwest for tornado like formations, funnel clouds. If you see a forming funnel cloud, report it to the police department and seek cover.

- A **Tornado Warning** indicates that a tornado has been seen or radar has depicted one and it may strike your community.

During a tornado, your best protection from flying debris, falling objects or being just blown away is an underground shelter. If you have one, or a basement, instruct family members to go to it immediately and bring with you to the shelter your Emergency Plan and Emergency Supply Kit.

If your home has no basement, take cover in the center part of the house, or the lowest floor in small rooms such as a closet or bathroom, or under sturdy furniture. Stay away from windows to avoid debris.

PREPARATION

- Prepare the building by trimming dead branches and removing dead trees; clean gutters, drains and downspouts; ensure your roof is in good repair; secure anything that might be blown around or torn loose.

- Know where your main electrical, water and gas shut offs are located.
Thunder Storms and Lightning

All thunderstorms are dangerous. Every thunderstorm produces lightning. While lightning fatalities have decreased over the past 30 years, lightning continues to be one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. On average in the U.S., lightning kills 51 people and injures hundreds more. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms.

If thunderstorm and lightning are occurring in your area, you should:

• Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.
• Avoid contact with corded phones and devices including those plugged into electric for recharging. Cordless and wireless phones not connected to wall outlets are OK to use.
• Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
• Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands, do not take a shower, do not wash dishes, and do not do laundry. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
• Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
• Do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean against concrete walls.
• Avoid natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.
• Avoid hilltops, open fields, the beach or a boat on the water.
• Take shelter in a sturdy building. Avoid isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
• Avoid contact with anything metal—tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs, and bicycles.

After the storm passes remember to:

• Never drive through a flooded roadway. Turn around, don’t drown!
• Stay away from storm-damaged areas to keep from putting yourself at risk from the effects of severe thunderstorms.
• Continue to listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or to local radio and television stations for updated information or instructions, as access to roads or some parts of the community may be blocked.
• Stay away from downed power lines and report them immediately.
• Watch your animals closely. Keep them under your direct control.
Flooding

Flooding often occurs following a tornado, thawing snow, or several days of sustained rain. Flash floods occur suddenly, due to rapidly rising water along a stream or low-lying area.

NOTIFICATION AND EARLY WARNING

Notification of potential flooding falls into two categories: watches and warnings.

- A Flood/Flash Flood Watch indicates a flood or flash flood is possible in the immediate future.
- A Flood/Flash Flood Warning indicates that flooding and/or flash flooding conditions are occurring or will occur soon. Take immediate precautions.

STAYING SAFE

Indoors

- Turn off the power and water mains if instructed to do so by local authorities.
- Boil tap water until water sources have been declared safe.
- Avoid contact with floodwater. It may be contaminated with sewage or contain dangerous insects or animals.
- Continue listening to local area radio, NOAA radio or TV stations for the latest information and updates.
- Don’t use gas or electrical appliances that have been flooded.
- Dispose of any food that comes into contact with floodwater.

Outdoors

- Don’t walk, swim or drive through floodwater. Just six inches of fast-flowing water can knock you over and two feet will float a car.
- If caught on a flooded road with rapidly rising waters, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground.
- Don’t walk on beaches or riverbanks.
- Don’t allow children to play in or near flood water.
- Avoid contact with floodwater. It may be contaminated with sewage or contain dangerous insects or animals.
• Stay out of areas subject to flooding. Underpasses, dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc. can become filled with water.
Pandemic Outbreaks

BACKGROUND

A severe pandemic (defined as a worldwide epidemic) in a vulnerable population, such as the 1918 flu pandemic, represents a worst-case scenario for pandemic planning and preparedness. Pandemic concerns escalated due to the spread of avian influenza (“bird flu”) H5N1 virus, which had the potential to threaten human health, among animals in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. In 2009 a pandemic occurred from a new influenza virus called H1N1 (referred to as “swine flu” early on). This virus spread from person to person worldwide. The same is true with the Coronavirus, generally referred to as COVID-19.

Pandemic outbreaks are fast moving and vaccines may not be able to stop it. This natural occurring disaster is not one you should take lightly. In the event of a pandemic, because of anticipated shortages of supplies, health care professionals and widespread implementation of social distancing techniques, it is expected that the large majority of individuals infected with the pandemic illness will be cared for in the home by family members, friends, and other members of the community – not by trained health care professionals. Bear in mind that persons who are more prone to contracting illnesses includes people 65 years and older (now 60 with COVID-19), children younger than five years old, pregnant women, and people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE READY FOR A PANDEMIC OUTBREAK?

• Store a one month supply of water and food. During a pandemic, if you cannot get to a store, or if stores are out of supplies, it will be important for you to have extra supplies on hand.

• Have a supply of face masks (N-95 rating) to wear around those who may be ill or exposed to the illness.

• Periodically check your regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply in your home. Have any nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins.

• Talk with family members and loved ones about how they would be cared for if they got sick, or what will be needed to care for them in your home.

• Prepare a sick room for the home to limit family member’s exposure to the virus.

• Keep your hands clean. Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub (70% alcohol or better) or make your own natural hand sanitizer.

• If you are ill, stay indoors or keep your distance from others, now referred to as social or physical distancing (6 feet or more).
• Keeping your immune systems up by getting lots of sleep, having a good diet and taking antioxidants in protecting your health.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS
To decrease the chances of the virus spreading and infecting other household members as well as members of your community, it is important that every effort be made to limit exposure to the illness. Some considerations on how to prevent exposure to a pandemic outbreak are:

• Avoid close contact with those who are ill.
• Stay inside and avoid contact with others.
• Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes during any pandemic.
• Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing. Then immediately discard the tissue in the nearest trash can. Do not reuse or put it back in your pocket. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

Disinfection
Cups, glasses, dishes, all eating utensils, and thermometers must be disinfected after use by the ill person. The eating utensils can be disinfected either by use of a dishwasher or dishwasher with 1.5 tsp. of household bleach to one gallon (3.8 liters) of water. Remember that handling these items while they are still contaminated will lead to possible infection. Therefore, wear gloves while handling potentially contaminated items.

Surfaces in the room of the infected persons should be cleaned with a solution of bleach water as noted above or with Lysol® or Clorox® spray, wipes, or liquid. Pay particular attention to faucets, doorknobs, telephones, the refrigerator, the oven, and toilet flush handles. This should be done whenever these areas come in contact by an infected person. Linens and clothing need to be washed in warm water with detergent and preferably dried in a dryer. Designate a specific garbage bag for infected, disposable materials.

Isolation
If you develop flu-like symptoms, stay home and isolated from your household except to seek medical care. Remain at home until at least 24 hours after you are free of fever (100°F [37.8°C] or greater) or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. Seek medical care if you have signs of pneumonia or severe lung infection (difficulty breathing, wheezing, or a persistent fever over 102°F or 38.9°C).

If one of your family or household members becomes ill, they should be isolated in a separate room. If several members are sick, they can be isolated in the same room. When caring for those who are ill, you will need some appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including the following:

• Disposable vinyl, nitrile, or latex gloves or other reusable gloves that can be disinfected.
• Protective clothing (long sleeved coveralls with a waterproof apron) or a disposable surgical gown.
• Disposable shoe covers or those that can be disinfected.
• Safety goggles or face shield.
• Wear at least the minimum level of respiratory protection, which is a surgical mask or preferably an N95 respirator.
• These items must be removed in the proper sequence to avoid contaminating yourself.

If there are other cases of influenza in your neighborhood, it would be safest to keep your children in your yard or home away from others who may be infected. Plan in advance what will need to be done or who you can call upon if you are either alone, ill and incapacitated, or if the adults in the household become ill and incapacitated. Talk with family members and loved ones about how they would be cared for if they got sick or what will be needed to care for them in your home.

Schools and daycare facilities will likely close. Plan your childcare in advance and how you might function by working at home, for example, or how college-age family members can assist in child care during the time their colleges and universities are closed. Having multiple younger children from several households in one home for daycare is less than optimal due to the high risk of spreading the disease.

Limit your exposure to public places; this may include a grocery trip only once a week rather than every few days. In addition to the recommended food and water storage items, keep a supply of your prescription medications, nonprescription drugs, and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes, vitamins, rubbing alcohol, thermometers, garbage bags, and cleaning supplies. Keep your car filled with gas and have cash on hand in case banks are closed or services are limited. Use the over-the-counter medications as directed on the container.

Maintain social distancing and stay at least six feet away from others at all times, particularly in public. Avoid shaking hands and other forms of contact. Use proper cough and sneeze etiquette even if you are not ill. Be sure to teach your children the proper hand washing and cough and sneeze behaviors as well. If you are ill, you need to be isolated from those who are healthy, even in your own household.
Hazardous Material Spill or Release

**Prepare**
In the event of hazardous spills such as train derailments or tanker spills, you may be instructed by emergency personnel to shelter in place or to evacuate. *Always follow the directions given by emergency personnel.*

**During a Hazardous Materials Incident:**
Listen to local radio or television stations for detailed information and instructions. Follow the instructions carefully. You should stay away from the area to minimize the risk of contamination. Remember that some toxic chemicals are odorless.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IF YOU ARE:</th>
<th>THEN:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asked to evacuate</td>
<td>Do so immediately. If authorities indicate there enough time, close all windows, shut vents, and turn off attic heating and air conditioning fans to minimize contamination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caught Outside</td>
<td>Stay upstream, uphill, and upwind! In general, try to go at least one-half mile (usually 8-10 city blocks) from the danger area. Do not walk into or touch any spilled liquids, airborne mists, or condensed solid chemical deposits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In a motor vehicle</td>
<td>Stop and seek shelter in a permanent building. If you must remain in your car, keep car windows and vents closed and shut off the air conditioner and heater.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Close and lock all exterior doors and windows. Close vents, fireplace dampers, and as many interior doors as possible.

Turn off air conditioners and ventilation systems. In large buildings, set ventilation systems to 100 percent recirculation so that no outside air is drawn into the building. If this is not possible, ventilation systems should be turned off.

Go into the pre-selected shelter room. This room should be above ground and have the fewest openings to the outside. Seal the room by covering each window, door, and vent using plastic sheeting and duct tape. Use material to fill cracks and holes in the room, such as those around pipes.

If authorities warn of the possibility of an outdoor explosion, close all curtains and shades in the room. Stay away from windows to prevent injury from breaking glass.

Remain in the room, listening to emergency radio broadcasts until authorities advise you to leave your shelter.
Transportation Incidents

TRAINS
As more trains move through Northwest Indiana, concerns over their hazardous cargoes increase. If an oil train catches fire, the emergency response plan includes evacuating homes and letting the trains burn out, instead of fighting the blaze.¹

Since January, 2010 there have been at least six serious hazmat incidents on Indiana railroads.² Fortunately, none so far has involved crude oil. The worst accident of this period was a train derailment in Ligonier, Indiana in March of 2012. A Norfolk Southern train carrying 200,000 of molten sulfur derailed and caught fire, causing more than 100 people to be evacuated from the surrounding area due to the toxic smoke.

Three of the six incidents were in Northwest Indiana:

- A CSX train in Portage derailed in June of 2010 and spilled 20,000 pounds of Polymeric Beads in super sacks.
- An Indiana Harbor Belt train derailed in Hammond in December of 2011, spilling 250 gallons of diesel fuel.
- Three trains collided in Westville in January of 2012, caught fire, and spilled gallons of flammable alcohols, causing 54 people to be evacuated.

"Defensively, to let something burn is usually the softest for the environment. If we start adding a bunch of foam, a bunch of water to a product and its goes into city sewers, lakes, streams, rivers, waterways, the environmental impact could last for years. If it’s one car involved, we could have the resources to help start putting that fire out. If it’s multiple cars, we don’t have close to the resources to do that."

_Auburn, Indiana Fire Chief Mike VanZile_

¹ _Indiana Derailment Emergency Response Plan: Evacuate homes and Let It Burn_, Roger Straw, November 14, 2014, WANE-TV.

² _Evacuations likely if an oil train derails_, Adam Widener, November, 2014, Benicia Independent.
Residential Fires

Each year more than 2,500 people die and 12,600 are injured in home fires in the United States, with direct property loss due to home fires estimated at $7.3 billion annually.

To protect yourself, it is important to understand the basic characteristics of fire. Fire spreads quickly; there is no time to gather valuables or make a phone call. In less than 30 seconds a small fire within the home can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house or for it to be engulfed in flames. In just two minutes, a fire can become life-threatening. In five minutes, a residence can be engulfed in flames.

Heat and smoke from fire can be more dangerous than the flames. Heat is more threatening than flames. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. In five minutes, a room can get so hot that everything in it ignites at once: this is called flashover. Inhaling the super-hot air can sear your lungs.

Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire uses up the oxygen you need and produces smoke and poisonous gases that kill. Breathing even small amounts of smoke and toxic gases can make you drowsy, disoriented and short of breath. The odorless, colorless fumes can lull you into a deep sleep before the flames reach your door. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by a three-to-one ratio.

IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

• Crawl low under any smoke to your exit - heavy smoke and poisonous gases collect first along the ceiling.

• When the smoke alarm sounds, get out fast. You may have only seconds to escape safely.

• If there is smoke blocking your door or first way out, use your second way out.

• Smoke is toxic. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.

• Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
EMERGENCY PLANNING GUIDE

- If there is smoke coming around the door, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- If you open a door, open it slowly. Be ready to shut it quickly if heavy smoke or fire is present.
- If you can’t get to someone needing assistance, leave the home and call 9-1-1 or the fire department. Tell the emergency operator where the person is located.
- If pets are trapped inside your home, tell firefighters right away.
- If you can’t get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around doors with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1 or your fire department. Say where you are and signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- Consider escape ladders if your residence has more than one level, and ensure that burglar bars and other antitheft mechanisms that block outside window entry are easily opened from the inside.

For Older Adults and People Access or Functional Needs
- Live near an exit. If you live in a multi-story home, arrange to sleep on the ground floor, and near an exit.
- If you use a walker or wheelchair, check all exits to be sure you get through the doorways.
- Make any necessary accommodations, such as providing exit ramps and widening doorways, to facilitate an emergency escape.
- Speak to your family members or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice it with them.
- Contact your local fire department’s non-emergency line and explain your special needs. Ask emergency providers to keep your special needs information on file.
- Keep a phone near your bed and be ready to call 911 or your local emergency number if a fire occurs.

FIRE PREVENTION
Most home fires occur in the kitchen while cooking and are the leading cause of injuries from fire. Common causes of fires at night are carelessly discarded cigarettes, sparks from fireplaces without spark screens or glass doors, and heating appliances left too close to furniture or other combustibles. These fires can be particularly dangerous because they may smolder for a long period before being discovered by sleeping residents.

Home fires are preventable! The following are simple steps that each of us can take to prevent a tragedy.
**Cooking**

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short time, turn off the stove.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of 3 feet around the stove.
- Position barbecue grills at least 10 feet away from siding and deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

**Smoking**

- If you smoke, smoke outside. Put your cigarettes out in a can filled with sand.
- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.
- Check for cigarette butts. Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast. Don’t put ashtrays on them. If people have been smoking in the home, check for cigarettes under cushions.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used, even if it is turned off. Oxygen can be explosive and makes fire burn hotter and faster.
- Be alert - don’t smoke in bed! If you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy, put your cigarette out first.

**Electrical and Appliance Safety**

- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately and do not run cords under rugs or furniture.
- Buy electrical products evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Use electrical extension cords wisely; never overload extension cords or wall sockets.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.

**Portable Space Heaters**

- Keep combustible objects at least three feet away from portable heating devices.
- Buy only heaters evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
• Check to make the portable heater has a thermostat control mechanism, and will switch off automatically if the heater falls over.

Fireplaces and Wood Stoves
• Inspect and clean wood stove pipes and chimneys annually and check monthly for damage or obstructions.
• Never burn trash, paper, or green wood.
• Use a fireplace screen heavy enough to stop rolling logs and big enough to cover the entire opening of the fireplace to catch flying sparks.
• Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the house or going to bed.
• Store cooled ashes in a tightly sealed metal container outside the home.

Children
• Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching children that fire is a tool, not a toy.
• Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, preferably in a locked cabinet.
• Teach children not to pick up matches or lighters they may find. Instead, they should tell an adult immediately.
• Never leave children unattended near operating stoves or burning candles, even for a short time.

More Prevention Tips
• Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
• Replace mattresses made before the 2007 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard. Mattresses made since then are required by law to be safer.
• Keep combustible and flammable liquids away from heat sources.
• Portable generators should NEVER be used indoors and should only be refueled outdoors or in well ventilated areas.
Wildfires

A wildfire, sometimes referred to locally as a brush fire, is an unplanned, unwanted fire burning in a natural area, such as a forest, grassland, or prairie. Wildfires can damage natural resources, destroy homes, and threaten the safety of the public and the fire fighters who protect forests and communities.

Wildfires can occur at any time throughout the year, but the potential is always higher during periods with little or no rainfall, which make brush, grass, and trees dry and burn more easily. High winds can also contribute to spreading the fire.

Wildfires can start from natural causes, such as lightning, but most are caused by humans, either accidentally—from cigarettes, camp res, or outdoor burning—or intentionally. Due to the town’s proximity to the railroad, most unplanned fires in the past have resulted from passing trains. However, human carelessness in the form of lit cigarettes has also started fires along the US 12 corridor.

The destruction caused by wildfires depends on the size of the fire, the landscape, the amount of fuel—such as trees and structures—in the path of the fire, and the direction and intensity of the wind.

- Wildfires can cause death or injury to people and animals.
- Structures may be damaged or destroyed.
- Transportation, gas, power, communications, and other services may be disrupted.
- Flying embers can set fire to buildings more than a mile away from the wild fire itself.
- Smoke can cause health issues for people, even for those far away from the fire.
- Extensive acreage can be burned, damaging watersheds and critical natural areas.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The goals of the fire management program at Indiana Dunes National Park are to manage wildland fire to protect the public and communities, conserve natural and cultural resources, and restore and maintain ecological health.

The Fire Management program in the Indiana Dunes National Park encompasses a wide variety of disciplines. The Lakeshore Fire Management staff includes: the fire management officer, a woodland fire specialist, a fire program management assistant, firefighters, fire effects personnel, and a fire prevention and education technician. They perform a full range of woodland fire management operations and services,
including: fire prevention and education, planned ignitions and suppression of unplanned ignitions, hazard fuels management, monitoring and research.

Fires within the Indiana Dunes National Park fall into two categories, planned or unplanned, and the required action is predicated on the type of fire:

**Planned Ignitions**
Prescribed fire is used to ignite low intensity fires when weather conditions are right. The goal of prescribed fire is to reduce hazardous fuel build-up, while safely reintroducing fire to the ecosystem to meet specific resource management objectives.

**Unplanned Ignitions**
All unplanned fires at the national lakeshore will be put out as quickly as possible. Indiana Dunes National Park fire staff work closely with interagency partners including Indiana Department of Natural Resources, local fire departments of Porter and Lake Counties and the City of Gary.
Electrical Power Outages

Sudden power outages can be frustrating and troublesome, especially when they last a long time. If a power outage is 2 hours or less, don’t be concerned about losing your perishable foods. For prolonged power outages, though, there are steps you can take to minimize food loss and to keep all members of your household as comfortable as possible.

**Food Safety During a Power Outage**

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. First use perishable food from the refrigerator. An unopened refrigerator will keep foods cold for about 4 hours.
- Then use food from the freezer. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed.
- Use your non-perishable foods and staples after using food from the refrigerator and freezer.
- If it looks like the power outage will continue beyond a day, prepare a cooler with ice for your freezer items.
- Keep food in a dry, cool spot and keep it covered at all times.

**Electrical Equipment During a Blackout**

- Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment, including sensitive electronics.
- Turn off or disconnect any appliances (like stoves), equipment or electronics you were using when the power went out. When power comes back on, surges or spikes can damage equipment.
- Leave one light turned on so you’ll know when the power comes back on.
- Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic lights will be out and roads will be congested.

**Caution: Carbon Monoxide Kills**

- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide.
• If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door.

• Call for help from the fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

What to Do When the Power Comes Back On

• Do not touch any electrical power lines and keep your family and pets away from them.

• Report downed power lines to the appropriate officials in your area.

Throw Out Unsafe Food After a Blackout

• Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures higher than 40°F (4°C) for 2 hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color or texture. When in doubt, throw it out!

• Never taste food or rely on appearance or odor to determine its safety. Some foods may look and smell fine, but if they have been at room temperature too long, bacteria causing food-borne illnesses can start growing quickly. Some types of bacteria produce toxins that cannot be destroyed by cooking.

• If food in the freezer is colder than 40°F and has ice crystals on it, you can refreeze it.

• If you are not sure food is cold enough, take its temperature with a food thermometer. Throw out any foods (meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers) that have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40°F (4°C) for 2 hours or more, and any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture, or feels warm to touch.
Additional Resources

WEBSITES

Department of Homeland Security
www.ready.gov

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.org

Porter County Siren System
http://sirens.pHEMA.org/
PUBLICATIONS

Disaster Preparedness Plan
http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/be-red-cross-ready/make-a-plan

Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information to Get Ready
http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/90058

Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information for Pet Owners
http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/90356

Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information for Older Americans
http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/90375

Disaster Preparedness Guide for Seniors by Seniors
http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4640086_Disaster_Preparedness_for_Srs-English.revised_7-09.pdf

Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information for People with Disabilities
http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/90360

Family Communication Plan for Parents and Kids
http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/34330

Commuter Emergency Plan
http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/90370

Emergency Preparedness for Businesses
https://www.fema.gov/media-library/resources-documents/collections/357
How to Prepare for a Wildfire
https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1409937019793-e22ea047bb7d748194b5e1cf96f31d9a/prepareathon_playbook_wildfire_final_090414_508.pdf

Indiana Dunes National Park Fire Management Plan

Pandemic Preparedness

Emergency Supply List
http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/90354

Town of Ogden Dunes

Rave
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