

TAKE CONTROL IN

Step 1: Assess Your Needs

Know your risk and understand your needs during emergencies. This section guides you through a self-assessment process to identify your specific needs so that you can create a personalized emergency plan.

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Step 2: Make a Plan and Build a Kit

Develop a comprehensive emergency plan and emergency preparedness kit tailored to your unique needs. This section ensures you are well prepared to respond to various emergency scenarios.

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Step 3: Practice Your Plan

Don't wait until disaster hits to put your plan into practice. This section provides recommendations for how you can engage your family, friends, and neighbors in your emergency planning efforts.

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Disaster Preparedness Guide

Edited to include Jackson County, Michigan resources



FEMA



STEP 1

ASSESS YOUR NEEDS

An important first step in preparedness is understanding the risks you may encounter—big and small. Knowing what you may face will help you assess your needs and get you started on your preparedness journey.

KNOW YOUR RISKS AND GET INFORMED

Learn about the types of disasters that could happen in your community.

- Type of Emergencies to Prepare for in Jackson County
 - **Severe Weather:** Ice, Snow, Wind, Lightening, Flooding, Extreme Heat and Cold
 - **Hazardous Material Incidents:** Chemical Leak, Transportation Accident, Oil and Gas Pipeline Leak
 - **Utility Issues:** Power Outage, Water or Sewer Disruption
 - **Community Wide Health Emergencies**
 - **Human Created Emergencies:** Terrorism, Civil Disturbance, Cyber Attack

- To learn more about what to expect in these types of emergencies see www.michigan.gov/miready.



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF WHEN ASSESSING YOUR NEEDS

General Considerations

- Do I have enough supplies at home in case I cannot access the store for a while?
- What is my communications plan if I lose access to cell phone or internet reception?
- Do I know the emergency plans for where I work and my children's school?
- How could my day-to-day routine be disrupted during an emergency—what is the worst that could happen and do I have a plan to cope or adjust?
- How will I ensure the safety and well-being of my pet(s)?
- Have I established communication strategies with family, friends, or neighbors and local emergency services?
- Do I have any medical conditions or dietary requirements that require specific care or medication?
- How do I currently address my basic needs (food, water, shelter, etc.) and how could this change during an emergency?



STEP 2

MAKE A PLAN

Now that you have assessed your needs, it is time to make a plan and build a kit. Sometimes disasters strike with little to no warning, so it is important to have a plan and be prepared for a sudden emergency. Be sure to review your plan regularly and share it with friends, family, and caregivers. Consider the activities and lists below to create your plan and build your emergency preparedness kit:

Family Preparedness

- All family members should know their address and phone number.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1 for emergency help.
- Teach each family member how to use a fire extinguisher.
- Know how to turn off water, gas, and electric.

Home Safety

- Find safe spots in your home to shelter in each type of emergency.
- Discuss what to do in event of a house fire, plan two exits from every room, and where to meet outside the home
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home

Important Documents

- Make a list of personal property and photograph the interior and exterior of your home.
- Store important papers such as medical records, insurance papers, pet vaccinations in fire and water proof location.

STOCK YOUR EMERGENCY KIT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Don't forget to include seasonal items such as warm clothing or a battery operated fan.

- Water (one gallon or more per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Family photos, family mementos, and other keepsakes to take with you if you need to evacuate
- Flashlight and Headlamp
- Extra Batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Cash
- Copies of health insurance policies
- Hygiene supplies
- Copies of homeowner's or rental insurance and car insurance
- Personal documents such as ID (make sure they are up to date)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps and Compass
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
- Pet food and supplies
- Medicine and medical supplies (a few days worth if possible)
- A complete list of medications and your doctors' phone numbers



Other Emergency Supplies

Lists of emergency supplies can seem lengthy but think through the possible scenarios you may face and what you may need to keep you and your family safe.

- ❖ When Traveling - car kit, jumper cables, snow shovel, warm clothes, phone charger, food and water
- ❖ Go Bag - Backpack for each family member to grab and go if there is a need to evacuate your home quickly. Include change of clothes, toiletries, entertainment items, copies of papers such as ID and insurance.
- ❖ Utility Failures - How can you prepare for a disruption of electricity, water, gas? Do you have a way to cook, keep food cold, generate heat, filter water?

Reporting a Power Outage to Consumers Energy

If your power goes out report it to Consumers Energy.

When possible use the online Consumers Energy outage center to report a power outage.

[consumersenergy.com/outages/outage-center](https://www.consumersenergy.com/outages/outage-center)

▼ If you do not have internet access call 800-477-5050.

To report a downed power line or report a gas leak call 9-1-1 then Consumers at 800-477-5050.

If you are on oxygen or use other electrically dependent medical equipment contact Consumers to discuss being placed on a list for priority restoration.

Jackson County Emergency Alerts

Genasys- Jackson County uses a notification system called Genasys Protect to alert residents of emergencies in their area. Alerts are sent based on the addresses you enter into the system. This service is free and your personal information will not be shared. To sign up:

<https://jacksoncountymi.genasys.com/portal/en/register>



The City of Jackson has an alerting system for emergencies, neighborhood updates, and information about city services. To sign up: <https://cityofjackson.org/> and click on the link under How Do I

Information You Can Provide Emergency Responders

If you would like to provide information to be entered into the Jackson County 911 Central Dispatch system to assist emergency responders dispatched to your residence in knowing how to care for your family, fill out the Emergency Response Information for Individuals with a Disability Form.

mijackson.org/198/online-forms

Both Jackson County and the City of Jackson have a form to have your property checked while you are away. The form includes who to contact, vehicles on the premises, and who is authorized to be in the home.

mijackson.org/1232/House-watch

cityofjackson.org/470/vacation-watch

STEP 3

PRACTICE YOUR PLAN

Now that you have assessed your needs, made your plan, and built your preparedness kit, it is time to practice your plan and connect with your support network. Talk with others who can assist you during an emergency and engage them in your preparedness planning.



WAYS TO PRACTICE YOUR PLANS

- Quiz your children every six months so they remember emergency actions
 - Where to meet if there is a fire
 - Where to go if school is dismissed due to an emergency
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and change the batteries twice each year
- Replace stored water and food every six months
- Take a first aid and CPR class



- Pick a day to go without electricity. Use emergency lighting, power banks to charge your cell phone, try alternate heat and cooking sources
- Limit water use to 1 gallon per person per day. If this doesn't seem to be enough increase stored quantities.
- Practice communication plan by having everyone check in with your out of town contact

Local Resource

Call 2-1-1 for Information

In an emergency such as a natural disaster, power outage or hazardous chemical incident, 2-1-1 acts as a clearing house for information regarding services being offered by your community such as warming shelters, food or water distribution, and updates about when it is safe to return to your home. Based on the incoming calls and requests, Information and Referral Specialists can also help assess the current needs in the community and the team can relay this to community responders. During an emergency, when you need help but don't have a situation requiring fire, police, or an ambulance to be dispatched by 9-1-1, dial 2-1-1. You can view 2-1-1's online database of resources at centralmichigan211.org

Online Resources

- FEMA Ready Campaign: www.ready.gov
- Michigan Prepares: www.michigan.gov/miready
- Do1Thing: www.do1thing.com
- American Red Cross: www.redcross.org
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): www.fema.gov



Cellphone Apps

CodeRed
 Emergency: Severe Weather American Red Cross
 First Aid: American Red Cross
 Weather Apps





Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a list of frequently asked questions about preparedness. Please reference the responses provided here or access the links provided for additional information.



1. How do I create a communication plan?

- Before disaster strikes, have a conversation with your family so they know you are thinking about preparedness.
- Arrange for a family member, caregiver, or neighbor to check on you by phone or in person at the time of a disaster.
- Carry important information, such as family contacts, medical insurance, or veterinary information, in your wallet. Alternatively, fill out Ready.gov's Make a Plan Form (www.ready.gov/plan-form) and print it out.
- Post important emergency contact numbers near the phones in your home.
- If you have to evacuate, identify a meeting place with your family in case you can not contact each other by phone before leaving.



2. What should I do if I choose to stay in my house?

In general, you should plan to get inside, find a safe spot, and stay put until local officials say the threat has passed.

- Identify a safe spot in your home to shelter in place with members of your household and your pets. The safest spot will depend on the type of disaster.
- If you are able, let others outside of your household know what is happening.
- Make sure you have a radio, television, or phone to receive updates from local officials and emergency contacts.



3. How can I stay informed without a smartphone?

- Certain radio and television stations will broadcast emergency messages from local authorities during disasters through the Emergency Alert System.
- The National Weather Service broadcasts weather and emergency warnings specific to your community. You can purchase a NOAA weather radio to hear these alerts. Tune to 162.400 or 162.450 to receive local alerts.
- If you there is a neighborhood group where you live, talk with them about how you can share information and stay informed during a disaster.



Blank Worksheets

Important Numbers

Record important phone numbers here or in your phone contact list. If you don't have these numbers already, look on your city or town's website, in a local phone book, search the internet, or ask a neighbor. Remember, if you are facing a life-threatening emergency, dial 911.

Police: _____

Fire: _____

Ambulance Agency: _____

Family Doctor: _____

Specialists: _____

Pharmacy: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____



Emergency Contact Information

Emergency contacts are people you want or need to be connected to during an emergency. It's important to let your emergency contacts know that you have them listed before an emergency happens. Doing this can help you start a tangible and actionable conversation about preparedness.

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Family Members' Contact Info: _____

Out-of-Town Contact Info: _____

Family Meeting Place: _____

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Family Members' Contact Info: _____

Out-of-Town Contact Info: _____

Family Meeting Place: _____

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Family Members' Contact Info: _____

Out-of-Town Contact Info: _____

Family Meeting Place: _____

