



Check out the FEMA website for tips on making your disaster plan and preparedness kit at www.fema.gov.



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Portage Prepares

Helping Portage County Citizens prepare for emergencies and disasters.

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Making a Disaster Plan

*The best defense when faced with severe weather or natural disaster is **preparedness**.*

Every household and business should have a disaster preparedness plan for every possible incident or emergency that could occur. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness offers the following tips on the preparation for inclement weather:



Have a family meeting.

- Involve everyone in the household in the preparation of a disaster plan.
- If you live alone, share your plan with another family member or friend.
- Discuss the types of disasters that can affect your family. (Ohio's typical disasters include flooding, thunder and lightning storms, tornadoes, winter storms, extreme heat and fire.)

- Ensure that everyone knows the difference between weather watches and warnings.
- Write down solutions for each kind of emergency/disaster.

Practice your plan.

- Even the best plan is ineffective unless it has been practiced.
- Conduct fire drills.
- Activate smoke detectors when the household is asleep. (Remember to change smoke alarm batteries at least every six months.)
- Conduct tornado drills.
- Practice how to protect yourself and others during severe storms.

Organize your disaster supply kit.

- No matter the incident, your kit should have enough supplies to sustain every member of your household for three days.
- You can purchase commercially prepared disaster kits at select discount, hardware and military surplus stores or they can be purchased via the Internet.

Develop a family escape and/or shelter plan.

- Draw an overhead floor

- plan view of your home.
- Determine two escape routes per room.
- Teach children how to open windows and screens.
- Pick a meeting place away from the home (such as a large tree or neighbor's yard) in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
- Determine where to shelter during a tornado (in a basement, under the stairs, or a centralized room away from windows).
- If you would need help during evacuation, have prior arrangements made with a reliable neighbor or nearby friend or relative.
- Ensure that your local fire department, emergency management agency, and/or nearby friends or relatives have your name and location to address your special needs.



Emergency Preparedness Kit for the Home

Emergency preparedness kits are designed to be the basis for some of the supplies that may be needed to have available when an emergency or disaster happens. Preparedness kits should be customized to meet your household's needs. Basic supplies could include the following:

Clothing and Bedding

- At least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person
- Sturdy shoes or work boots
- Rain gear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Hats and gloves
- Thermal underwear

Tools and Supplies

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-operated radio/Weather Radio/

television

- Paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Camping equipment such as sleeping bags, camp stoves, lanterns
- Cash, extra credit cards, traveler's checks
- Extra set of house keys/vehicle keys
- Manual can opener
- Utility knife
- Basic tools (pliers, screwdrivers, hammer)
- Shut-off wrench (to turn off household gas and water)
- Manufacturer's instructions for opening power-operated garage doors
- Duct, electrical tape
- Plastic sheeting
- Plastic storage containers
- Foam, plaster or insulated coolers for food storage
- Bagged ice to surround food stored in coolers

- Cell phone, extra battery and charger
- Fire extinguisher

Sanitation

- Toilet paper, towelettes
- Soap, liquid detergent
- Hand sanitizer
- Feminine supplies
- Plastic garbage bags
- Plastic bucket
- Disinfectant household bleach

Food/Drink

- One gallon of water per person per day, to last at least three days
- Ready-to-eat canned meats, soups, fruits, vegetables
- High energy foods (peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix)
- Canned, bottled or boxed juices
- Comfort foods (cookies, hard candy, cereals, instant coffee, tea bags)

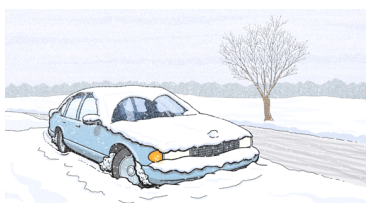
Special Items

- Medications (prescription and non-prescription)
- Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Important family documents (store in a waterproof, portable container)
- Board games, books, playing cards (for entertainment)
- Supplies for individuals with special needs (babies, elderly or disabled persons)
- Family or workplace disaster plan



Emergency Preparedness Kit for Vehicles

Vehicle emergency preparedness kits are not intended for everyday use. They're only needed during times of emergencies. Much like insurance, an emergency preparedness kit is something you should have, but hope you'll never need to use. The Ohio Insurance Institute and the Ohio Department of Insurance suggest the following items for your vehicle emergency kit (some items specified for winter months):



- At least two blankets or a sleeping bag
- Jumper Cables
- Flashlight (preferably water and shock-proof) and spare batteries
- Spare Tire/Tire iron/jack
- Extra clothing – particularly, hats, boots and mittens/gloves
- First Aid Kit and necessary medication
- Emergency Flairs
- Sand or non clumping cat litter for tire traction
- Cell phone, extra cell phone and chargers
- Bottled Water and non perishable high energy foods (granola bars, raisins, nuts, peanut butter and/or cheese crackers)

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness suggests storing preparedness kit items in a large plastic tub with a lid that closes tightly.

Portage Prepares is a county education program for preparing Portage County communities to meet the challenges of emergencies and/or disasters in order to be safe and reduce injury. Portage Prepares is a program of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and its Advisory Committee under the guidance of the Portage County Board of Commissioners. For additional information on emergency preparedness, go to our website at: www.co.portage.oh.us/portageprep/ or follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/PortagePrepares or follow us on Twitter @PortagePrep.