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List of Topics



Office for Social Concerns
Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and our strength. An ever present help in times of trouble.

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Diocesan Disaster Readiness & Response Network

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1. Diocesan Disaster Readiness & Response Network



Office for Social Concerns
Catholic Diocese of Columbus

The primary functions of the diocesan Disaster Readiness & Response Network is to be Christ's presence when natural or human-made disasters occur within the 23 counties of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus and to help provide for unmet needs during the recovery and mitigation phases of a disaster. The network will:

- ◆ establish contacts with the Ohio VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) network of agencies (that includes the American Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Material Assistance programs, many faith-based organizations and churches, and non-profit agencies that provide services before and after a disaster);
- ◆ provide technical assistance to parishes and parishioners before, during, and after a disaster; provide monetary support from Catholic Charities USA (when needed); and
- ◆ provide additional spiritual care to all.

A key element to the network will be preparation and awareness education that will be available before disasters strike. The Diaconal Council representatives will be the primary contact persons between the parishes and the Diocesan Disaster Readiness and Response Network coordinator in the Office for Social Concerns. Each parish will be asked to assign a disaster response network contact person. That contact person will help assess the parish needs and assets, identify who within the parish may be vulnerable during a disaster, and what the parish and parishioners may be able to provide should a disaster occur locally or within the diocese.

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2. Emergency Preparedness



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The Diocesan Disaster Readiness and Response Network encourages parishioners to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and schools. Our goal is to increase awareness concerning the importance of preparing for emergencies and to persuade parishioners to act.

- ◆ Being prepared includes having food, water, and necessary medicines in your home to allow for you and your family to survive at least three days in the event of a disaster. Addressing and planning for emergencies such as ice storms, dam inundation, or hazardous materials incidents that may require you to evacuate or shelter-in-place.
- ◆ Familiarize yourself and your family with the best way to receive communications in an emergency.
- ◆ Learn about generator safety and follow best practices when using alternate heat and light sources.
- ◆ Mitigate situations around your home. For example, if there is a large branch that hangs over your house that could fall and cause damage to your home during an ice or wind storm, you could investigate the potential of having that removed prior to it causing damage.

There are many ways to prepare for disasters. Preparedness is part of the four phases of emergency management and response (preparedness, response, recovery, prevention/mitigation) that help the Diocesan Disaster Readiness and Response Network achieve our main goal of saving lives, preventing injuries, and protecting property and the environment from all hazards –natural, humanmade, or terrorism.

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3. Phases of Emergency Management



Office for Social Concerns
Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Preparedness

Preparedness efforts are put in place before an emergency or disaster strikes. As an emergency management program, we develop emergency plans, provide training to personnel and test plans through disaster exercises. As members of our diocesan community this network can help you get informed, make a plan, build a kit, and get involved.

Response

Response involves the coordination of emergency responders and critical resources to first and foremost save lives and protect property and the environment. During times of large emergencies and disasters these activities are coordinated through emergency operations centers at the county and/or state level and managed by the emergency management and homeland security agencies of the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

Recovery

Recovery takes place immediately following the response phase of a disaster when life safety concerns have been addressed and immediate concerns for public safety have been mitigated. Recovery begins the process of rebuilding the community by replacing damaged roads and bridges, fixing private and public property and working with human service agencies to address the ongoing needs of individuals and families impacted by the event.

Mitigation

Mitigation activities are designed to reduce or eliminate the effects of a disaster in the community even before the disaster strikes. Examples include developing flood control measures by elevating roads, installing culverts, and reviewing planning/zoning requirements. Mitigation efforts sometimes take place long before a disaster strikes as part of a risk analysis for a community, but often are identified immediately following emergency or disaster situations. These types of projects typically involve long-term planning for implementation.

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4. Flooding: What You Need to Know



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Did you know that it only takes six inches of swiftly moving water to knock an adult off his or her feet? Just two feet of moving water can float and carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and pickup trucks.

The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones is to seek protection from a flood by leaving the flood prone or warning area and finding shelter on higher ground.

Did you know that a standard home insurance policy does NOT cover flood damage? Standard home insurance policies exclude coverage for damage caused by flood. Flood Insurance to protect your home and your home's content is available through the National Flood Insurance Program. Without a flood insurance policy, homeowners are left to cover their flood damage costs on their own. For more information about the National Flood Insurance Program visit www.fema.gov. You can also consult your insurance professional for further assistance.

Flooding Facts:

- ◆ Flooding is the most frequently occurring natural disaster in Ohio and the United States and it is the costliest.
- ◆ The average annual U.S. flood losses in the past 10 years (2002-2011) were more than \$2.9 billion.
- ◆ Floods and flash floods happen in all 50 states.
- ◆ Nearly 20% of flood insurance claims come from moderate-to-low risk areas.

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5. Generator Safety



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- ◆ Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- ◆ Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building.
- ◆ Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home.
- ◆ Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- ◆ Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is running.
- ◆ Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

PLEASE NOTE: When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears, and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

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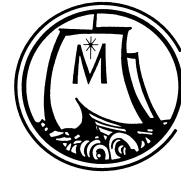
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6. How to Receive Communication in an Emergency



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It is important that everyone is aware of how to receive communications in a crisis/emergency no matter where they live, work, play or go to school.

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) – Emergency messages sent by authorized government alerting authorities through your mobile carrier.

The phone must be a newer cell phone with the capability built into the device for text.

Emergency Alert System (EAS) – an alert that is sent to TV and radio stations. It is used for severe weather alerts and can be used for other events.

Text/Email Alerts from Sources - You can receive weather alerts to your email or your mobile phone from several sources. A few trustworthy sources: The Weather Channel and local television stations.

Outdoor Warning Sirens – Sirens may be located on poles in various spots throughout the county and are manually launched locally.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) – a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office.

Common Sense, Practical Preparedness – if a blizzard hits and you found it necessary to be confined to your home for a period of three days (72 hours) would you have enough food, medicine, infant formula, pet supplies, batteries and other important day to day items? Don't forget you can get water from your hot water tank in an emergency, too!

Cell Phones and Texting in Disasters – Cell phones have become an invaluable too. In an emergency, there are many ways a cell phone can be a great asset: you store your important phone numbers in it, you can use it for a flashlight, and you can access social media networks

Social Media in Emergencies – social media networks help keep communications open during disaster situations. Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, are some of the social networking tools you can use for fun, business, or should disaster strike. Keep in mind every 'tweet' you read may not be from a reliable source. Always get your information from a trusted source—an emergency management agency or news stations.

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7. Lightning



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What You Need to Know

- ◆ NO PLACE outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!!
- ◆ If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- ◆ When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter: a substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up.
- ◆ Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

Indoor Lightning Safety

- ◆ Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- ◆ Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- ◆ Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches
- ◆ Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls

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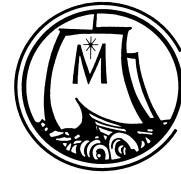
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8. Outdoor Warning Siren System



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Outdoor warning sirens are usually on a pole located in various spots throughout a county and are manually launched locally. They primarily are used for tornado warnings and are designed to be heard outdoors.

When do the sirens sound? During a tornado warning, sirens will sound for three minutes, every ten minutes, until the warning has expired.

Activation of outdoor warning siren systems occurs under the following conditions:

- ◆ A tornado warning is issued for any part of your county by the National Weather Service;
- ◆ A tornado or funnel cloud is sighted by current public safety personnel, or;
- ◆ Other large scale emergencies, such as imminent dam failure, etc.

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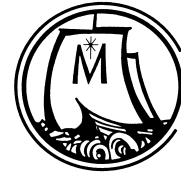
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9. Pet Safety: Summer



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NEVER leave pets alone in hot vehicles. On an 85-degree day, it only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102. Even if the temperature outdoors is only 70 degrees, the inside of your car may be as hot as 90. A temperature chart and additional information can be found at: www.ASPCA.org.)

- ◆ Dehydration: Give your pets (and livestock) plenty of fresh, cool water. Make sure they have shelter from the sun and elements.
- ◆ Overheating: Know the symptoms of overheating in pets which may include increased respiratory and heart rates, excessive panting, drooling, weakness, difficulty breathing or even seizures.
- ◆ Water safety: Never leave pets unsupervised by water. Life jackets or floatation devices should be worn if boating.
- ◆ Loud noises: Loud noises such as thunderstorms and fireworks, can scare pets. They can become lost, scared or disoriented, so it's best to keep your pets safe from the noise in a quiet, sheltered and escape-proof area of your home.
- ◆ Lost Dogs and Dog License: Be sure to have an updated license on your pet so they can be returned to you. Visit www.delcodogs.com to look up found pets by tag numbers or to purchase a license.
- ◆ Sidewalks and Asphalt: Keep the times your pets are on these hot surfaces to a minimum as their sensitive paw pads can be burned.

Did you know:

- ◆ Animals with flat faces, are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively?
- ◆ You should never shave your dog as the layers of dogs' coats protect them from overheating and sunburn.

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10. Pet Safety: Winter



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Exposure to winter's dry, cold air and chilly rain, sleet and snow can cause chapped paws and itchy, flaking skin, but these aren't the only discomforts pets can suffer. Winter walks can become downright dangerous if chemicals from ice-melting agents are licked off bare paws. To help prevent cold weather dangers from affecting your pet's health, please heed the following advice:

- ◆ Repeatedly coming out of the cold into the dry heat of your home can cause itchy, flaking skin. Towel dry your pet as soon as he comes inside.
- ◆ Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. If your dog is short-haired, consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly.
- ◆ Bring a towel on long walks to clean off stinging, irritated paws. After each walk, wash and dry your pet's feet and stomach to remove ice, salt and chemicals—and check for cracks in paw pads or redness between the toes.
- ◆ Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells. Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin.
- ◆ Massaging petroleum jelly or other paw protectants into paw pads before going outside can help protect from salt and chemical agents. Use pet-friendly ice melts whenever possible.
- ◆ Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.
- ◆ Pets burn extra energy by trying to stay warm in wintertime. Feeding your pet a little more during the cold weather months can provide much-needed calories. Making sure she has plenty of water to drink will help keep her well-hydrated and her skin less dry.
- ◆ Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.
- ◆ Remember, if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet, so keep your animals inside. In addition, don't leave pets alone in a car during cold weather.

For more information on pet safety, visit the ASPCA at <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/cold-weather-safety-tips>.

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11. Severe Weather Watches and Warnings



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- ♦ Severe Thunderstorm Watch -means that the potential exists for the development of thunderstorms which may produce large hail or damaging winds. When a watch is issued, you should go about your normal activities, but keep an eye to the sky and an ear to the National Weather Service's weather radio or local radio and television stations for further updates, notifications and possible warnings.
- ♦ Severe Thunderstorm Warning -on the other hand, means that a severe thunderstorm is occurring or is imminent based on Doppler radar information. You should move indoors to a place of safety. Schools should think about delaying departure of buses, and should take quick action to delay outdoor sports activities, etc.
- ♦ Tornado Watch -like a severe thunderstorm watch, means that conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms to form, but it also means that a few storms may produce a tornado.
- ♦ Tornado Warning -is the ultimate in severe warnings, it means that a tornado is either occurring or imminent based on radar. You should take cover immediately.

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12. Sheltering in a Storm



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- ◆ **Get information:** Listen to local radio, TV and/or NOAA All Hazard Alert Radio for further instructions, additional information or for updates on when conditions are safe. Get information from reliable sources such as emergency management, fire, law enforcement and local media stations.
- ◆ **In a house:** In a basement or the lowest level of a sturdy building. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level. Stay away from windows and put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- ◆ **In a mobile home:** Even if your home is tied down it is not safe. Identify a shelter location before severe weather hits.
- ◆ **In a car or truck:** Vehicles are extremely risky in a tornado. There is no safe option when caught in a tornado in a car, just slightly less-dangerous ones. If the tornado is visible, far away, and the traffic is light, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado. Keep your safety belt fastened.
- ◆ **In an office building, hospital or nursing home:** Go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building -- away from glass and on the lowest floor possible.
- ◆ **In the open outdoors:** If possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If not, lie flat and face-down on low ground, like a ditch, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Stay away from trees that may fall in high winds.
- ◆ **In a church or theater:** Do not panic. Move quickly but orderly to an interior bathroom or hallway, away from windows. Crouch face-down and protect your head with your arms. If there is no time to do that, get under the seats or pews, protecting your head with your arms or hands.
- ◆ **In a shopping mall or large store:** Do not panic. Move as quickly as possible to an interior bathroom, storage room or other small enclosed area on the lowest level, away from windows.

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13. Snow Emergency Levels



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LEVEL 1: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be icy. Motorists are urged to drive very cautiously.

LEVEL 2: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be very icy. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be out on the roads. Contact your employer to see if you should report to work. Motorists should use extreme caution.

LEVEL 3: All roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel. No one should be driving during these conditions unless it is necessary to travel or a personal emergency exists. All employees should contact their employer to see if they should report to work. Those traveling on the roads may subject themselves to arrest.

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14. Summer Heat Tips



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Hydrate: Staying hydrated is very important, especially during hot weather. Drink water to counteract dehydration during hot and/or humid weather. Water works to lower your body temperature and replace the fluid you lose through sweating.

Clothing: Wear loose fitting, light colored clothes. Cover as much of your skin as possible. Avoid wearing dark colored clothes as they retain the heat. Large brimmed straw hats are an excellent way to keep the sun off your head, neck and face.

In your home: If possible use air conditioning or fans to keep indoor temperatures comfortable. Weather strip your doors and windows. Keep shades, blinds and curtains closed to keep heat out.

If you don't have air conditioning or fans: Visit the local library, stores, movie theaters, or community facilities to stay cool.

Dehydration and Heat Stroke:

Dehydration occurs when you use or lose more fluid than you take in, and your body doesn't have enough water and other fluids to carry out its normal functions. Without enough, your body can't function properly. If you don't replace lost fluids, you may become dehydrated.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency. It is a condition caused when your body overheats, and is generally a result of prolonged exposure to high temperatures. Heatstroke can occur if your body temperature rises to 104 F (40 C) or higher. You should seek emergency treatment. Untreated heatstroke can quickly damage your brain, kidney, heart and muscles.

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15. What to do When the Power is Out



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***When the power goes out,
safety is the number one concern!***

- ◆ When power goes out contact your electric provider to make them aware of the outage.
- ◆ If you use alternate power sources, such as generators, always follow manufacturer's directions. Never use them indoors or in an attached garage.
- ◆ Use flashlights for lighting if possible. However, if you are using candles, never leave them unattended. Keep burning candles away from furniture, bedding, carpets, drapes, etc. Keep burning candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- ◆ Treat all intersections where the traffic light does not work as a 4-way stop.
- ◆ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. Most food requiring refrigeration can be kept safely in a closed refrigerator for several hours.
- ◆ Turn off or disconnect appliances and other equipment in case of a momentary power "surge" that can damage computers and other devices. Consider adding surge protectors.

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16. Winter Weather Preparedness: Part 1



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Are You Ready for Winter?

Winterizing your home:

- ◆ Have your furnace inspected by a professional, reputable heating and cooling specialist annually.
- ◆ Carbon monoxide detector and smoke alarm: Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. On levels without bedrooms, install alarms in the living room (or den or family room) or near the stairway to the upper level, or in both locations.
- ◆ Contact your local fire department for more information on fire safety.
- ◆ Weather-strip doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic. There are many good brands of shrink wrap that are easy to apply and can be purchased at local hardware or retail stores.
- ◆ Clean out gutters
- ◆ Repair any roof leaks or loose gutters
- ◆ Have chimneys/fire places inspected annually
- ◆ Keep contact information handy for your utility providers

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17. Winter Weather Preparedness—Part 2



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Are You Ready for Winter?

Winterizing your vehicle:

- Prepare your vehicle for winter by ensuring it is in good running order: check wipers, batteries, brakes, filters, anti-freeze, and oil levels
- Check turn signals, headlamps, and hazard lights
- Make sure your tires are in good shape and there will be less slipping and sliding

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