



HSEM UPDATE



St. Clair County Office of Emergency Management Homeland Security
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St. Clair County, MI

11/23/2016

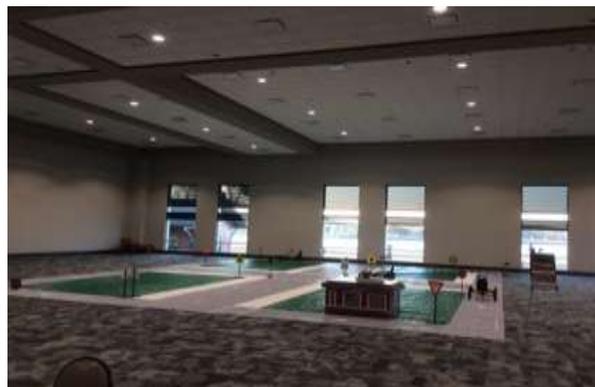
Issue 58



We are looking for more Adult Instructors to help get our Safety Town Program off the ground. Many of you were at the Emergency Services Breakfast and saw the Safety Town mat and set up. This program is taught to 1st graders. We would like to do a run through after the holidays on a Saturday for a couple hours to see the program and see what works and what doesn't work.

Safety Town is a program that is geared towards teaching children about safety and awareness. The activities combine education and imagination to help children acquire lifesaving skills. It does this by implementing teaching methods that are intended to both engage the kids and help them remember what they're taught. They get the opportunity to practice making safer choices, resisting peer pressure to take dangerous chances, and influencing family members and others around them to reduce risks. It allows the kids to both play and learn at the same time. The modules that are taught are: Home Safety, Law Enforcement and Safety, Fire Safety, Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety, and School Bus Safety.

If you are interested in being an instructor please call Emergency Management at 810-989-6965 for Russ or Pam



It is that time of year again.....

[Reminder: How to deep fry a turkey.](#)



SCAM OF THE WEEK – ONLINE RETAILERS

Online shopping has become very mainstream with 69% of US adults shopping online at least monthly (Mintel's Online Shopping US 2015 report). As people become more comfortable shopping online, the amount of scam web sites claiming to be legitimate retailers has also grown exponentially. This week we will not try and point out the different types of scams or bad business practices that exist, but instead will focus on how to protect yourself.

SHOP ONLY WITH MAJOR ONLINE STORES: We put this first for the people who are not going to do any checking before making online purchasing. If you shop with only major retailers, you at least know that it is a real business. We are large supporters of small online or brick and mortar stores. Although larger retailers are "safer" in many areas, shopping at smaller online businesses can be rewarding for both the small business and the customer. HOWEVER, it is YOUR responsibility to do your homework to make sure it is a legitimate online retailer with a good reputation. Again, if you are not going to do your homework, stick with major retailers.

DO NOT FOLLOW LINKS FROM E-MAILS: Go directly to the web site and search for the product versus clicking on an e-mail link. If you have signed up for a retailers e-mail list and believe it to be legitimate, after you get to the site, check the address at the top; is it what you expect?

MAKE SURE THE WEB SITE STARTS WITH HTTPS VERSUS HTTP: (Note: Although some web sites are always HTTPS, many legitimate sites switch from HTTP to HTTPS only at checkout).

CHECK WITH THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU: The BBB is online and does cover online retailers. (Please keep in mind that smaller stores, or newer stores are unlikely to have a BBB rating.)

"GOOGLE" THE COMPANY NAME: If a web site is fake, the first place that complaints will show up is online. Look at the complaints or blog entries.

LOOK AT THE "URL" BAR: Many scam sites re-direct; meaning you may have typed in www.thiswebsite.com, and you are sent to www.adifferentsite.com.

CALL THEM: A legitimate online store will most often have a real phone number that is answered. A legitimate company wants your business. No phone number, a "hello" answer, or generic answering machine messages without the company name are dead giveaways.

3rd Party PAYMENT OPTIONS: Many smaller retailers will use 3rd party payment companies with a strong reputation for security such as "PayPal" or "Worldpay". This is a positive sign as smaller retailers do not have the resources to create and maintain a secure financial transaction site. Large 3rd party pay sites also provide resolution tools if there is an issue.

PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD: Although credit cards terms of service do vary, most credit cards do give you SOME protection with online purchases. Know your credit cards policies.

THIS WEEK'S EBW.TV LINKS

http://www.ebw.tv/PlayVideo?vid=51742&cid=8&d=Little_Chiefs_I

Little Chiefs learn fire safety

Good job Port Huron Twp. FD for bringing the safety message to your local students!

Burtchville Twp. Fire Department teaching safety to their youth!



Winter Weather Safety Tips for Car and Home

Weather changes continually in Michigan, and the coming winter is likely to bring episodes of snow, ice, and bitter cold that will put stress on people, animals, and machines. Driving becomes especially dangerous in snow and ice, so be sure to plan all trips carefully and listen to the latest weather forecasts.

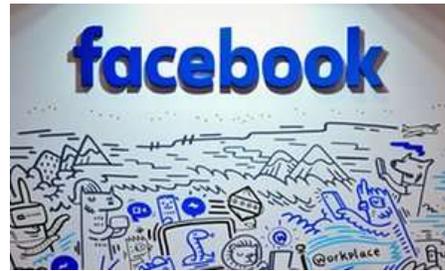
Visibility can be reduced dramatically as motorists drive into falling snow. Add to that the unseen hazard of ice on the roads and the shorter periods of daylight, and driving during the winter can often become treacherous. Now is the time to review driving habits and also take stock of safety supplies.

Do not abandon your car and walk into a snow storm. In case you are stranded, your vehicle should be equipped with an emergency kit. An emergency kit should include booster cables, shovel, tow rope, sand or cat litter, and a flashlight with extra batteries (see image below). Do not forget a first aid kit, non-perishable food, and blankets or sleeping bags. Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel line.

For additional information on winter safety tips, please see the [Michigan Weather Preparedness Page](#).



You NEVER plan to break down, get a flat, or run out of gas! So put these things in your vehicle, and know that in an emergency situation you have the needed supplies.



Facebook is working with their staff to make sure that if there is an emergency somewhere in the world that they can open up a “Safety Check”. This way people in the affected area can send out a message that they are O.K. It started in the US with the Mass Shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, FL; they also opened Safety Checks for the Paris bombing and different natural disasters around the world.

With “Facebook live”, now responders can see information coming out of a disaster zone. They are also working on a program to deliver the internet via drone to parts of the world that don’t have it or it has been knocked out such as Hurricane Sandy. This development has taken even the company itself somewhat by surprise.

As time goes on, Facebook Live and Safety Check will generate an unprecedented amount of data about disasters. Along with the hours of video that Facebook Live can deliver from inside a crisis zone, Safety Check could provide a map of who is safe and where and perhaps why. This information is from the publication “Wired”.

This is just some of the technology that has come out to aid in any disaster response and recovery. This information is so valuable during any disaster natural or man-made.

To read the entire article here is a link: <https://www.wired.com/2016/11/facebook-disaster-response/>

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Or visit our website at: www.bereadystclaircounty.org

