



HSEM COMMUNITY UPDATE



St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
295 N. Airport Dr. Kimball, MI 48074 (810)989-6965

St. Clair County, MI

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Issue 84



Ok, so this year you promised that you would start being prepared. Have you made a kit yet? Have you started getting supplies for the kit? When you are at the grocery store or ordering your groceries for pickup or delivered, get a couple things for your kit. Add a couple items each time you get groceries. Add them to a box or bin. Don't forget to rotate your food so it doesn't expire.

Here is a list of items to consider for your *Basic Emergency Supply Kit*:

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 or pliers to turn off utilities

Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)

Prescription medications and glasses

Infant formula and diapers

Pet food and extra water for your pet

Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container

Cash or traveler's checks and change

Emergency reference material such as a first aid book

Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person, consider additional bedding because you live in a cold-weather climate.

Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing 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 and plastic utensils, paper towels

Paper and pencil

Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



NIMS Training



St. Clair County HSEM will be conducting a **NIMS Incident Command System (ICS) 300 Class- Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents.** This class will provide an excellent opportunity to increase your knowledge, plus after successful testing, you will receive certification that you have been instructed on the Incident Command System used on a nationwide basis. Each class includes standardized instruction that is based on approved textbook curriculum by the State of Michigan. The following class dates are provided below:

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO 35 STUDENTS FOR THIS SESSION AND PLEASE NOTE:

A minimum of 10 students are needed for the class to run. Less than that, is at the discretion of SCCHSEM.

January 2019- ICS 300

Location: St. Clair County Public Health Department- North Conference Room, 3415 28th St.,

Port Huron, MI 48060

- *Tuesday, 01/22/2019 8:00am - 4:00pm (Textbook based instruction)
- *Wednesday, 01/23/2019 8:00am - 4:00pm (Textbook based instruction)
- *Thursday, 01/24/2019 8:00am – 4:00pm (Textbook based instruction)

Must attend all three days to receive credit for class

****pre-requisite classes are ICS 100, 200 and 700****

To attend the NIMS ICS 300 class, you must register through the State of Michigan, Mi-TRAIN registration system at <http://www.train.org/mi-train>

For more information and help registering on the MI-TRAIN site, call or email Mark White at 810-989-6388 or mwhite@stclaircounty.org

(NIMS: National Incident Management System)

HSEM Advisory Council Changes

With the retirement of Undersheriff Buckley, Council Chairperson, there has been an election for new officers. We are pleased to announce that Elaine Levin, City Manager of Marine City has been elected as the new Chairperson, and Bob Beedon, Citizens Representative, as Vice Chairperson.

The purpose of the HSEM Advisory Council is to serve as a coordinating body for assessing homeland security and emergency management needs.

They are responsible for:

- Promoting enhanced coordination between emergency response agencies
- Promoting standardization and interoperability throughout the jurisdiction
- Fostering innovative approaches to meeting homeland security and emergency management needs
- Fostering the effective use of the jurisdiction's homeland security funding.
- Capturing innovative practices and report accomplishments that can be replicated in other communities nationally.

The Advisory Council also serves as the Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Citizens Corp Council. They meet bi-monthly at the Emergency Operations Center.

Do1Thing in January: **Make a Plan**

Understand what puts you at risk from disasters and take steps to lower your risk.

Tasks

[Plan what to do if you have to evacuate.](#)

Choose two places for your family to meet. One should be right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire.

[Take steps now to prevent damage to your home in a disaster.](#)

Once you know what disasters could happen in your community, there are things you can do to lower your risk of injury or property damage.

[Learn what disasters can happen in your area and decide what you will do in a disaster.](#)

Knowing what disasters could happen can help you know how to be prepared and what to do. Contact your local American Red Cross or emergency management office to learn more about the disasters in your area.

For more information visit the Do1Thing website: www.do1thing.com

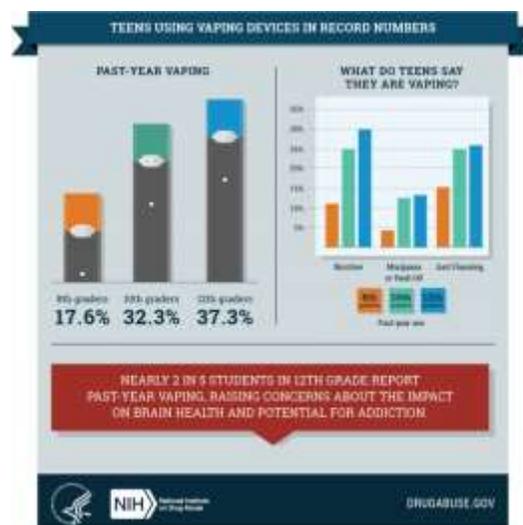


VOLUNTEERS WANTED

St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security Emergency Management is looking for volunteers to be trained to assist before, during and after an emergency that strikes the county. Here is your chance to get involved, get dirty (maybe) and help your community. Dates for training will be happening this soon. You don't want to miss out on this opportunity to help your county, your neighborhood and yourself. To volunteer call 810-989-6387 or email emergencymanagement1@stclaircounty.org

Students and Vaping

A recent article in Campus Safety Magazine talks about the increase in Vaping by more than 10% over the last year in 8th graders, 10th graders, and 12th graders.



This year's study included responses from 44,482 students at 392 public and private schools and found 37.3 percent of twelfth graders reported "any vaping" in the past 12 months, compared to 27.8 percent in 2017. It is the biggest year-to-year increase in substance use ever recorded in the survey's 44 years.

Vaping among eighth and tenth graders also increased from 13.3 percent to 17.6 percent and 23.9 percent to 32.3 percent, respectively.

The increase in vaping equates to 1.3 million more teens [vaping](#) within a single year, reports [ABC News](#).

"The younger someone is when they first take a drug, the more vulnerable they are to developing an addiction in the future," said survey contributor Dr. Richard Miech. "The teen brain is still developing and is, therefore, more vulnerable to the negative effects of substances, including nicotine. Nicotine primes the brain to the rewarding effects of other drugs."

Please have a conversation with your children about the hazards of vaping.



Preparing for Severe Weather Awareness Week

The weather has been so unpredictable that we are already preparing for Severe Weather Awareness Week that will be held March 24-31. With National Weather Service reporting 15 confirmed tornadoes in the state of Michigan in 2018 and 1,049 tornadoes since 1950, these are the simple questions that you should ask yourself:

- Do you have a plan?
- Where will you go?
- What will you do?
- Do you know what alert systems are used in your area?
- How will you communicate?

Throughout the years we have been asked several great questions and sometimes learn our residents may have been misinformed. To help, we separated the facts from myths.

Myth: Highway and interstate overpasses are safe shelters against a tornado.

Fact: Overpasses can concentrate the tornado winds, causing them to be significantly stronger. This places the people under them in an even more dangerous situation. In recent years, several people seeking shelter beneath overpasses have been killed or severely injured. Being above ground level during a tornado is dangerous.

Myth: The low pressure with a tornado causes buildings to explode. Opening the windows will equalize the pressure, saving the building.

Fact: Opening the windows in an attempt to equalize pressure will have no effect. It is the violent winds and debris that cause most structural damage. It is more important for you to move to a safe area away from windows and exterior walls. With a tornado, every second counts, so use your time wisely and take cover.

Myth: Thunderstorms and tornadoes always move from west to east.

Fact: More often than not, thunderstorms move from west to east. Conditions in the atmosphere dictate how and where storms will move, and it can be in any direction. Tornadoes have been known to act erratic, and can change directions and speed very quickly. Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle.

Myth: It's not raining here, and skies above me are clear, therefore I am safe from lightning.

Fact: Lightning can strike many miles away from the thunderstorm.

Myth: Since I am inside my house and out of the storm, I am completely safe from lightning.

Fact: Just because you have taken shelter inside, you are not automatically safe. While inside waiting out a storm, avoid using the telephone or electrical appliances and do not take showers or baths. Also stay away from doors and windows. Telephone lines, cords, plumbing, even metal window and door frames are all lightning conductors and pose a threat.

Myth: Large and heavy vehicles, such as SUVs and pickups, are safe to drive through flood waters.

Fact: It is a common belief that the larger the vehicle, the deeper the water it can drive through. Many people do not realize that two feet of water can float most vehicles, including SUVs and pickups. If the water is moving rapidly, vehicles can be swept away.

Damage Assessment Refresher Training

May 10th, 2019 at 9:00am

St. Clair County EOC, 295 Airport Dr., Kimball, MI 48074

New Year Advice:

Exerts from Ann Landers advice..... (Well most of it)

- Encourage some youth to do his/her best. Share your experience and offer support. Young people need role models.
- Find the time to be kind. All of us have the same allotment: 24 hours a day. Give a compliment. It might give someone a badly needed lift.
- Don't blow your own horn. If you've done something praiseworthy, someone will notice.
- Try to understand a point of view that is different from your own.
- Examine the demands you make on others.
- Lighten up. When you feel like blowing your top, ask yourself, "Will it matter in a week from today?"
- Express your gratitude. Give credit when it's due – and even when it isn't. It will make you look good.
- Read something uplifting (Like this HSEM Update). Deep-six the trash. You wouldn't eat garbage – why put it in your head?
- Take better care of yourself. Remember, you're all you've got.

And Lastly.....Get a Kit, Make a Plan, and be Informed (Yes I had to put this in here!!).

Visit our website at: www.bereadystclaircounty.org

