



# HSEM COMMUNITY UPDATE



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

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Issue 86

## Severe Weather Awareness Week starts on the 24<sup>th</sup>

Please take this 1 minute survey on preparedness. The link is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XKQJSYC>



We are honored to have a Volunteer Weather Spotter that is also a Weather Photographer. We will be using a lot of her photos moving forward. Thank you Carla Russo.

**REMINDER: The Statewide Tornado Drill will be held on Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Make sure you mark your calendars for this Event.**

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IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY WE HAVE A NOTIFICATIONS SYSTEM (WINS)



To sign up for the notification system visit our website:

[www.bereadystclaircounty.org](http://www.bereadystclaircounty.org)

When signing up, make sure you look at each category and choose what you want to be notified of; we don't want you to get overwhelmed by too many notifications.



***From the Director:  
Mr. Justin Westmiller***

Hello everyone, my name is Justin Westmiller and I am the new Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Well, it's been a month and a week since I have come on board and the HSEM staff has been working hard on the transition from one director to another. What a thrill it is to work with such a wonderful and dedicated staff and surrounding group of professionals throughout the county. Working in the Bluewater area is really a dream come true for someone who grew up in St. Clair!

As far as what we have going on in the county...we are working hard preparing for Severe Weather Week next week. We will be working through our Severe Weather Alerting protocol as well as alarm and siren testing. The Federal government will also be exercising the Emergency Alert System (EAS) throughout the week and month to ensure our citizens have access and can recognize the alerts. This is a very important program to help keep people safe during inclement weather.

It is going to be a busy spring with many planned and unplanned events. Please make sure you are paying attention to local weather reports, any other alert notifications from local authorities and if you have not already, please sign up for our WINS notification system. This is a valuable resource to ensure you are always kept informed of emergent information for the area you live and work.

Another initiative we are working on is our volunteer network if you or anyone you know is interested in the myriad of volunteer opportunities, let us know. We are looking to grow our volunteer corps. We are also looking to grow our Youth Readiness Council for the school age volunteer's grades 8-12. If any students are looking to add hours to their NJHS or NHS portfolio, this is a fantastic way to do so. Contact our office at (810) 989-6965 or via email at [ycrc@stclaircounty.org](mailto:ycrc@stclaircounty.org)

I look forward to meeting and working with many of you all throughout the county as I make my way through. If there is anything I can do, feel free to reach out via email to the link above. Emergency Management is a collaborative effort and we cannot solve problems alone. See you next time!



# Do 1 Thing in March: Sheltering

**Know how to respond safely when instructions are given to evacuate or take shelter.**

## Tasks:

*Identify the best storm shelter in your home and practice getting to the shelter with your family.*

Choosing the best place in your home or workplace to shelter from a tornado isn't always easy. Many newer buildings don't have a really good shelter area.

*Learn how to safely shelter in place.*

In an emergency like a chemical spill, you may be told to "shelter in place". This means to make the place where you are a safe place to stay until the danger has passed.

*Make a Go Bag for emergency sheltering.*

Emergency shelters will be opened when people are displaced from their homes. You may be notified by social media, billboards, local radio or TV or in person.

For more information visit: [www.do1thing.com](http://www.do1thing.com)

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How can you help?



## Volunteer Update:

We are always looking for able bodied volunteers to help mitigate any major event in St. Clair County when called upon. Some of the volunteer positions:

Reception Center Worker  
Donation Center Worker  
Office Worker/Data Entry  
Amateur Radio  
Weather Spotter  
Special Needs Worker

Mass Feeding-Cook/Server  
Lift Truck Operator  
Heavy Duty Vehicle Operator  
Health/Medical Worker  
Community Ready Team  
Interpreter-Sign-Foreign Lang

Public Educator  
Communications Support  
Animal Ready Team  
Social Media Monitor  
Safety Town Aid

Call: 810-989-6387 or Email: [emergencymanagement1@stclaircounty.org](mailto:emergencymanagement1@stclaircounty.org) if you are interested in volunteering.  
Training will start soon.

# Lake Huron Medical Center Active Shooter Exercise

Recently Lake Huron Medical Center participated in an Active Shooter Drill with local 1<sup>st</sup> Responders. Mark White from HSEM said, "It was a great learning experience for all involved. Over 50 people participated in the exercise, including Lake Huron Medical Center Staff, Port Huron Police and Fire as well as Tri Hospital EMS. These exercises help to build our skill set in responding to and mitigating active shooter/hostile events. These exercises take much planning in advance to involve all entities with this training opportunity."



Photos courtesy of Carla Russo, Trained SCC Weather Spotter

Or visit our website at: [www.bereadystclaircounty.org](http://www.bereadystclaircounty.org)

