

HSEM UPDATE

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St. Clair County, MI

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Algonac Schools take lead in the County by implementing Safety Town as part of their school year



Recently Clay Township Police and Fire, Algonac Fire, Clay/Algonac Schools, and Emergency Management met to pre-plan some preparedness events in their area. The meeting went well with the school district agreeing to implement Safety Town for all kindergarten and 1st graders. In addition other educational opportunities were discussed along with building planning and staff training for all hazard situations.



Smart 911 is now active throughout St. Clair County

St. Clair County Central Dispatch Center started the Smart 911 process several months ago and now Clay Township Dispatch Center is on board with Smart911. How it works: You call 911; you can't talk for whatever reason...medical or need police/ fire. If you're calling from a cell phone the police immediately know your home address. The dispatcher then knows whatever information that you entered into the page like; medications, medical history, if there are any pets in the house, how many people live there, and any information you want to enter. This information is all secure and only known when you call 911. This way the responders will have the information and start planning as they are responding to the call.

[Smart 911](#)

This link will give you information on Smart911 then just click on the sign up button to get started.



September is National Preparedness Month (NPM)

The National Theme is: "Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can."

We should all take action to prepare! We are all able to help first responders in our community by training how to respond during an emergency and what to do when disaster strikes — where we live, work, and visit. The goal of NPM is to increase the overall number of individuals, families, and communities that engage in preparedness actions at home, work, business, school, and place of worship.

It was great to see neighborhoods showing their preparedness skills in Texas. A neighborhood group was on the news and they interviewed a lady that organized the neighborhood, they checked on all the neighbors, set up security to make sure looters did not come into their neighborhood and logged the neighbors in and out so they didn't have to worry about checking on them if they were not home. Everyone in their neighborhood had a skill that could and would be used.

Our website www.BeReadyStClairCounty.org is a great start to finding out what you can do to prepare. You can also contact our office at 810-989-6965.

IS “BE READY 72 HOURS ST. CLAIR COUNTY” ENOUGH???

St. Clair County participates in EARTH EX exercise

EARTH EX simulated a subcontinent-scale, long duration power outage, with cascading failures of all other infrastructures. The exercise focused on executive and senior level operational decision makers the opportunity to review critical decision-making policies, processes, roles and responsibilities – essential to the success of all other response and recovery operations.

Commissioners Bill Gratopp and Greg McConnell took the lead and with other key Emergency Operations Center personnel, discussed the potential response of St. Clair County. Days 1-3 were manageable however serious gaps in response capabilities began on day 4.

Day 4-7 situation:

Many essential services are shut down, running out of resources, or are in jeopardy of collapsing. In many locations lifeline services are only working at a fraction of their required capacity. Safety and security is a major issue. The lack of water, food and accurate information is causing widespread fear. Many initially attempted to self-evacuate or locate resources in other communities only to be turned back or stuck on the open road.

- Nearly all hospitals are working in difficult circumstances with limited staff and restricted services.
- Emergency communications systems, which at critical junction depended on existing terrestrial communications switching equipment, has degraded, or failed.
- Most government and corporate buildings are dark.
- Those communities where water is still moving have initiated a boil water advisory, or home treatment recommendation, but with no way to get the word out.
- Water systems, generally, are offline, except for those that have a dedicated backup generator capability.
- Without other options, the Private Sector, especially retail and manufacturing, has gone into shut down mode.
- Emergency Services - while manpower is available, there are few resources to continue meeting the normal mission load, much less the expanding need for support. Water pressure is down or gone. Communications, other than battery, or vehicle operated radio communications, have failed.

The exercise was extremely valuable and identified numerous gaps for the HSEM office to focus on however that would improve things for a limited number of days. It is obvious that the focus on 72 hour preparedness needs to be revisited!!! Good link to view <http://eiscouncil.org/VideoEarthEX>



In a world with an ever-increasing degree of interconnectedness and dependence on critical life-line infrastructures, like electricity, and given the growing risk and potentially devastating impact of a variety of threats, inclusive partnerships will be required In order to prepare and improve. We must train and exercise.



CAN YOU ESCAPE? NEW ESCAPE CHALLENGE TENT

St. Clair County Homeland Security and Emergency Management are trying its hand at the escape room craze. Using a 10 by 10 pop up tent Ready Corps members will be hosting a disaster themed puzzle room.

It's meant to be fun, but at the same time educational. Participants are given a half hour to solve the puzzles within the "room" while at the same time learning about emergency preparedness. This project is still in its testing phase; both Danielle and Teri hope to bring it out to local events so everyone can give it a go.

If interested in helping them fine tune this project, they'll be setting up the tent again on Sept. 11, from noon to 5:00 p.m. Location will be posted on Be Ready St. Clair County's Facebook page.

Please call 810-989-6385 to make an appointment anytime from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm., or via email at dkennedy@stclaircounty.org. It's recommended that groups consist of four or less people, **and it is free!**

Drills: Practice makes perfect!



St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management conducted an evacuation tabletop exercise on Wednesday, September 6th, 2017 with Medilodge of St. Clair located behind St. John River District Hospital. The tabletop exercise was attended by key staff from Medilodge St. Clair along with administrative representatives from their sister agency located in Yale. Also attending the exercise were emergency response personnel from St. Clair Fire Department, Tri-Hospital EMS and St. Clair County Sheriff Department.

The two hour tabletop exercise focused on actions to be undertaken and expectations of staff and emergency responders when a severe weather event hits and causes enough damage to the facility to warrant evacuation. Topics of discussion included: Evacuation Procedures; Unified Incident Command Structure; resident, staff and visitor accountability and tracking protocols; outside agency support; relocation protocols, and site security. The goal is to conduct similar exercises with all Long Term Care Facilities in St. Clair County and eventually conduct full scale exercises involving the actual movement of people (non-residents of the facility).

ATTENTION SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Now with school back in session, don't forget to submit your school emergency drill report for 2017–2018. To ensure you are in compliance with the school safety legislation Public Act 12 of 2014, please contact Nikki Falk at 810.989.6329 for the link. Please schedule drills around holidays and any testing dates. Your reports are due by close of business on September 15, 2017.



Safety Town

Both at Birchwood Mall and at Lakeport Wesleyan Church children learned about different types of Safety. When asked if they would change anything, the children attending the Mall Safety Town said no they would keep it just the way it is and that they had a lot of fun while they learned. At Lakeport Wesleyan Church the children were heard telling their parents how much fun they had and what they learned. So it was a great summer with Safety Town. We would like to say Thank you Fort Gratiot, Burtchville, and Clay Twp. Fire Departments as well as Fort Gratiot Twp., SCC Homeland Security and Emergency Management, St. Clair County Sheriff's Office and Port Huron Police, Clay Twp. Police, St. John River District and McLaren Port Huron Hospitals for sending staff and helping with these events this summer. Without all of your help this program could not continue.

Remember we can bring Safety Town to you free of charge; we bring everything, all you have to do is provide the students and help promote it. An area 40' x 54' for a full mat and an area 40' x 27' for a half mat are needed to set up Safety Town. If you are interested in hosting a Safety Town call Pam at 810-989-6387.

For your preparedness needs.....

Don't forget:



(click on the logo for the link)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Ready Corps staff will be on hand
to share preparedness information

9/16 – 8am Goodells Dog Show –Goodells County Park

9/17 – 12:30 pm Child Abuse Prevention Event – Lakeside Park

9/24 – 8am Youth Readiness Council Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's

9/30 – 11am Scarecrow Saturday in Fort Gratiot (Behind Meijer)

Or visit our website at: www.bereadystclaircounty.org

