

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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Jeff Friedland Director of St. Clair County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Announces his Retirement

We have had the privilege of working with and learning from Jeff for many years. He has always had the best interest of St. Clair County in mind with everything he does. Jeff has been with HSEM since 1988 and has been on many committees locally, statewide, as well as federal.

Jeff started out with his love for emergency services work as a Paid Call Firefighter in Clyde Township, MI, while doing this work he also became Supervisor of Fire and Security at a major manufacturing plant in Port Huron. He then became the Emergency Management Director for St. Clair County. Early in his career he taught firefighters with the Macomb County Fire Training Institute where he was the Coordinator. He also taught at Siena Heights University where he instructed graduate homeland security and emergency management courses.

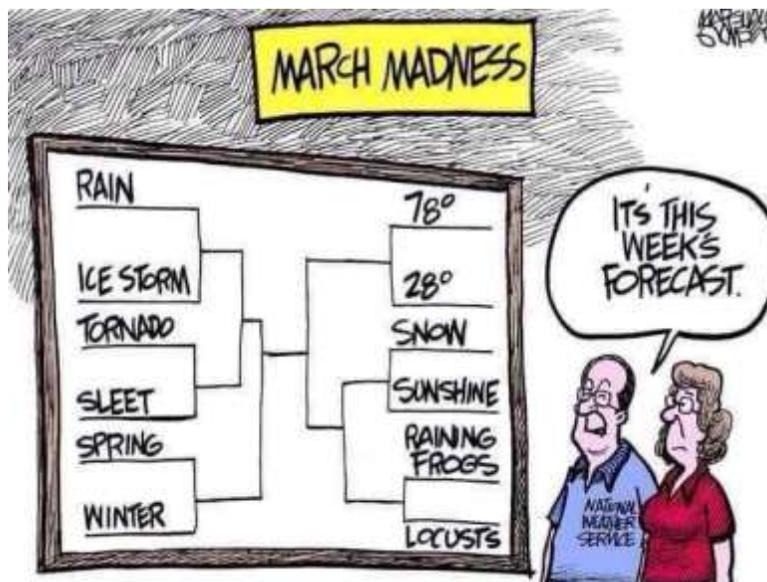
Thank you Jeff for the job well done in St. Clair County, best wishes on your retirement. You will be missed.



We welcome the new Director, Justin Westmiller. Justin brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to St. Clair County. His diversity is reflected in the myriad of Coast Guard assignments he served, including search and rescue boat coxswain, law enforcement officer, Federal Search and Rescue coordinator, and Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) member. In addition, his collateral assignments as Public Affairs Officer at various levels in the organization have made him a well-spoken representative, able to distill complex issues into easily understood concepts.

Justin is a Search and Rescue instructor and has demonstrated command staff responsibilities in Incident Management Operations, as a Public Information Officer, and is an expert in the Incident Command Structure. He has been deployed to assist with the devastating Earthquake in Haiti, Deepwater Horizon, plus many other operations throughout his career with the US Coast Guard. We look forward to working with you Justin!

Free Training Available



WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING

The St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in conjunction with the National Weather Service will be conducting a Skywarn Weather Spotter Training Class on **Wednesday March 13, 2019 from 7-9:00** p.m. at the St. Clair County Administration Building in the Don Dodge Auditorium at 200 Grand River, Port Huron.

There is no cost to attend.

Participants will learn techniques for identifying storms, reporting, measuring rain, hail, and impacts of storms. Also discussed will be reporting events not associated with Thunderstorms such as high winds, dense fog, and flooding.

This course is mandatory to be an active member of the Weather Spotter Program in St. Clair County. ***All members of the community are also welcome to attend.***

Please RSVP to Becky Mayes at Emergency Management- 810-989-6965

Recently our office hosted a course on Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents



Some comments we received after the course are as follows:

“I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for offering the Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents Course. The course was very interesting, well presented and extremely valuable from a hospital provider perspective. We are very fortunate to have this level of training right here in St. Clair County.

Thank you for offering this course to our community.”

*Caren Kosal, BSN, RN
Trauma Program Manager
McLaren Port Huron*

“The course, Medical Preparedness Response for Bombing Incidents, put on collaboratively by Texas A & M University and New Mexico Tech for FEMA, continued the counties effort to educate the First Responder Community, Administrators, Hospital’s, Public Utilities and others interested in responding to and having a need for this information. This specific course included response to hazardous incidents, as well as medical response, treatment modalities and planning for these events. This course was just one in a series of FEMA courses that the county has brought here to better inform and educate those responsible for responding to and planning for hostile events. I highly recommend these courses put on by FEMA. The course content is easily absorbed and the instructors are experts in their fields. They are easily approachable and provide their contacts if questions should arise after the course.”

*Det. David Spens
Marine City Police Department
SCC Hostile Workgroup Member*



Extreme Weather



How did you manage with the below zero temperatures and ice recently? Is there anything you could do to be prepared for this if it happened again? What about extreme heat? What about a power outage during this cold snap, what would you do? It's all about being prepared. Now is the time to think about it and put a plan in place. Some tips to be prepared:

- Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. Sign up for our community warning system WINS (Warning Information Notification System). NOAA Weather Radio also provides emergency alerts.
- Gather Supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Do not forget the needs of pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.
- Create an emergency supply kit for your car: include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep the gas tank full.
- Learn the signs of, and basic treatments for, frostbite and hypothermia.
- Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia and begin treatment right away.
- Check on neighbors. Older adults and young children are more at risk in extreme cold.

Frostbite and Hypothermia:

Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers, and toes.

- Signs: Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, firm or waxy skin.
- Actions: Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.

Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

- Signs: Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, or drowsiness
- Actions: Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

If you live in St. Clair County, you can sign up for WINS by going to our website: www.bereadystclaircounty.org

Some Information was received from www.ready.gov/winter-weather. There are links available on this website for further information.

Thank You DTE Energy!



Well Done DTE Energy! DTE Energy donated water, blankets and hand warmers to be distributed to the Warming Centers/Shelters during our extreme cold weather days.

Bernie Newby from Blue Water Community Action Committee said: “We were struggling to come up with enough donations to provide these supplies for the many that needed to come to the Warming Center. DTE came through with this and it means a lot to us that they would donate the supplies that were greatly needed. We were only going to be open for a 24 hour period, but now we are able to be open for 48 hours. So this was a tremendous support for us.”

do 1 thing

MONTHLY REMINDER

Small steps toward being prepared for an emergency

Do 1 Thing is a 12-month program that makes it easy for you to prepare yourself, your family, and your community for emergencies or disasters.

Do1Thing in February: Water

Have 72 hours (3 days) worth of water stored for your household.

Tasks

[Purchase and store a 72-hour supply of commercially bottled water \(or more - up to two weeks\).](#)

A three-day supply for one person is 3 gallons (12 liters) of water – one gallon (4 liters) per person per day.

[Bottle a 72-hour supply of water at home.](#)

Replace your water supply every six months if you bottle your own water.

[Learn how to provide a safe supply of drinking water for your household in a disaster.](#)

If you have freezer space, consider freezing part of your water supply. This has the added advantage of keeping food in the freezer cold longer during a power outage.

For more information: www.do1thing.com



While we are talking weather.....



Michigan Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 24-30

With that, the Statewide Tornado Drill will be held on Wednesday March 27th at 1pm. Make sure you mark your calendars for this Event.

Things to ask yourself and your family.....

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

Recently the State of Michigan GIS Unit created a [story map](#) of information pertaining to severe weather. This is a great learning tool for you.

There are a couple websites that can help you get prepared.

www.bereadystclaircounty.org

www.mi.gov/miready

On the St. Clair County Be Ready site you can sign up for the **WINS (Warning Information Notification System)**, this will provide you with information that you choose and however you choose to receive the information. Each category has several sub categories. So make sure you choose what specific notifications that you want. You can choose to opt out at any time and you can set a quiet time and during this time you will only receive life/safety messages.

Or visit our website at: www.bereadystclaircounty.org

