



PREPAREDNESS NEWS



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

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Preparedness Advice from

Do1Thing:



[Preparedness Advice](#)

GOAL FOR JULY: Have the ability to communicate with family members during a disaster.

Today we have more ways to speak with one another than ever before. We are used to staying in touch with cell phones, internet, and email, but disasters can change things. These devices may not be available. Cell phone towers quickly become overloaded with people trying to reach friends and family. If the power is out at your home, cordless phones, internet, and email will not work either.

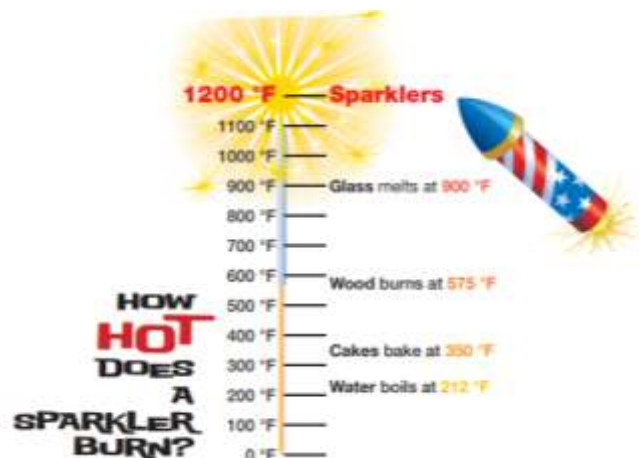
Tasks: [\(Click the links for more information\)](#)

- ✓ Have a phone with a cord and a car charger for your cell phone standing by in case of a power failure.
- ✓ Develop a plan for how your family will stay in touch during a disaster.
- ✓ Program In Case of Emergency (ICE) numbers into all family cell phones.



FIREWORKS SAFETY

- Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.
- Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting.
- A responsible adult SHOULD supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away.
- Use fireworks OUTDOORS in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Always have a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby.
- Never carry fireworks in your POCKET or shoot them into METAL or GLASS containers.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.
- FAA regulations PROHIBIT the possession and transportation of fireworks in your checked baggage or carry-on luggage.
- Report illegal explosives, like M-80s and quarter sticks, to the fire or police department.



Keep it Safe on Carnival and Amusement Rides

From the Michigan LARA website

June 18, 2018 – The more than 40 million people who will travel Michigan to enjoy carnival and amusement rides this summer season are urged to make safety a top priority, especially with the kids.

“Carnival rides in Michigan are held to the highest safety standards to keep riders safe,” said LARA Director Shelly Edgerton. “We ask all ride patrons to do their part by following ride rules and restrictions and using all the safety equipment provided.”

LARA works to make Michigan a leader in ride safety, inspection, and registration of amusement rides to ensure compliance with Michigan's rules and regulations that protect citizens of all ages while riding.

Most amusement ride injuries are suffered by children under age 13 according to national data compiled by the [Saferparks organization](#). Kids between the ages of 7 and 12 account for nearly a third of all ride accidents. The speeds, heights, rapid changes in direction, and special effects can overwhelm and panic a child.

Edgerton emphasized that all amusement rides, including “kiddie rides,” are powerful machines. Although most full-sized rides are designed for adults and teens, there has been an increasing emphasis on the safety and retention of children on adult rides. Many Ferris wheels have had seat belts added to them to help keep kids in their seats. Catastrophic accidents are often the result of rider inexperience, immaturity, and horseplay on such large machines.

“Choose cautiously what rides you and your family can enjoy safely,” said Edgerton. “Use good judgment when deciding if your child can safely ride alone. Watch the ride with your kids before boarding, or ride along with them.”

Here are a few safety tips on what you and the kids need to know before you go:

- Know the rules of the ride; listen to verbal or recorded instructions.
- Observe all age, height, and weight restrictions. Know the safest riding position for the kids.
- Never seat a child on your lap, unless ride operators indicate it's safe to do so.
- Securely latch seat belts, shoulder harness, and lap bars before the ride begins. Hold on to handrails; use grab bars.
- Keep hands, arms, legs, and feet inside the ride at all times. Do not ride with hands in the air. Secure loose hair, clothing, and belongings. Never stand up on a ride.
- Stay seated until the ride comes to a complete stop and you are instructed to exit.
- Patrons with heart conditions, pregnancy, or back/neck injuries should heed any warning signs posted.
- Report any unsafe behavior or conditions on a ride to a ride supervisor or manager immediately.
- Report injuries to a ride supervisor. They will assist the injured and report the injury to LARA.

If Michigan consumers have questions regarding a ride's license or inspection, they can call 517-241-9273. Consumers can file a complaint by visiting the complaint resource page [here](#).

LARA licenses more than 900 amusement rides including water slides and go-karts, carnival rides, and roller coasters.

LARA inspects amusement rides annually; however, operators are required to conduct daily inspections before operation according to manufacturer criteria, national standards, and state law. Michigan has one of the oldest amusement ride safety programs in the country, protecting consumers for 50 years; the first inspection was done in 1967.

Four injuries were reported to LARA last year, compared to the estimated 50 million to 100 million rides taken in Michigan each year. The majority of amusement ride injuries results from the riders themselves and are preventable. Approximately 200 ride injuries have been reported to LARA over a 10-year period; the majority caused by the riders' actions, and the remainder caused by ride operators, failures of the equipment, or a combination of both.

Be aware that inflatable “bounce houses,” bungee jumps, and climbing walls are not regulated in Michigan. Users of these devices should follow the same recommendations and be especially alert to the conditions of the device and the attentiveness of the operators.

For more information on amusement ride safety for kids and adults go to:

- [Michigan Amusement Safety](#)
- [Saferparks, “Kids Club”](#)
- [Disney, “Wild About Safety”](#)
- [SaferParks, Sharing Information for Safety Amusement Ride Thrills](#)
- [CARES \(Council for Amusement and Recreational Equipment Safety\)](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

July:

[Escape Tent](#)

7/12 Family Night, Port Huron

7/13 Boat Night, Port Huron

7/20-7/21 4-H Fair, Goodells

7/27-7/28 Power Boat Races, St. Clair

August:

[Escape Tent](#)

8/3-8/4 Maritime Days, Marine City

Do you know what goes into an emergency kit? Do you like to solve puzzles with clues? Then the SCC HSEM Escape Tent is for YOU! This 15 minute problem-solving, hands on event will test your skills. The idea of the tent is locate clues to unlock emergency kit items. Participants will receive a special prize for completion.

FREE PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

St. Clair County residents have a great opportunity to be prepared at: www.planetready.com/stclaircounty there is a tornado exercise, power outage game and a course, plus other short educational videos. The power outage game would be fun as a family event! And it's FREE!



2018 – 2019 YOUTH READINESS COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION for St. Clair County

Youths Grades 7 - 10

The purpose of this Council allows members to complete self-selected youth preparedness projects; to voice their opinions, experiences, ideas, solutions, and questions on youth disaster readiness with the leadership of HSEM; and to strengthen their community preparedness. Being selected to serve on the Council is an honor but it is also a significant responsibility that requires dedication and time management skills. Being a Youth Readiness Council member is a rewarding and exciting experience but it is also time intensive. It is important that Council members use time management skills to balance school, extracurricular activities, and their involvement in the Council. The Council meets two times per month and may have other events to attend.

Each Council member is required to participate in at least one (4) youth readiness -related projects during his or her term. Monthly meetings allow members to provide updates on their projects, pose questions to HSEM staff and other invited officials, and provide feedback to other members. The Council will have guidance from a project mentor team of six (6) community members (Supported by HSEM staff). This team will be responsible for selecting Council members, supervision of council activities, and mentoring among other additional duties.

Application Requirements:

- Applicants must be between Grades 7-10 (Grades 8-11 for 2018-2019 school year)
- Applicants must reside within St. Clair County
- Applicants must have parental consent
- Applicants should be prepared for an interview if requested

The application can be found on the following website: www.YouthReadinessCouncil.Org

The application can be printed off and completed and then mailed to our office at:

St. Clair County HSEM
Attn: Youth Readiness Council
295 Airport Dr. Kimball, MI 48074

Or emailed to the HSEM office at:
Emergencymanagement1@stclaircounty.org

Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (T.E.C.C.) Training

Also known as the Rescue Task Force

This training is for Medical Responders and gives a full understanding of life-saving principles, skills and how to use the components of their Individual First Aid Pack under stressful conditions. This training gives the students the opportunity to train alongside Law Enforcement Officers to save lives that otherwise might be lost during the traditional waiting for the scene to be safe response. This training will also teach and reinforce basic skills in caring for the public, themselves and others in direct and indirect threat environments.

The training has begun and all 1st responders in the county will be trained.

The 1st training was at Burtchville Township Fire Department. Fire Chief Mark Harrington said: “The Rescue Task Force training was an eye opener and extremely beneficial to our department. It gave us hands-on experience on how to deal with a potential tragic situation. It will help us if we are ever called upon to assist law enforcement in working as a team to rescue injured in a high stress situation.”



Visit our website at: www.bereadystclaircounty.org

