

Daviess County Emergency Management

Being prepared is of paramount importance in the event of an emergency. Please see the links below to educate yourself on how to be ready when disaster strikes.

Index

[Disaster Supply Kit](#)

[Pets](#)

[Utilities](#)

- [Electric](#)
- [Gas](#)
- [Telephone](#)
- [Water](#)

[Earthquakes](#)

[Extreme Heat](#)

[Flooding](#)

[Severe Thunderstorms & Lightning](#)

[Terrorism](#)

[Tornadoes](#)

[Weather](#)

[Winter Weather Preparedness](#)

If you have any questions regarding any of the strategies or preparation involved within this document, please contact Emergency Management @ 270-685-8448.

Preparedness - Disaster Supply Kit

Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days

Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days

- non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
- foods for infants or the elderly
- snack foods
- non-electric can opener
- cooking tools / fuel
- paper plates / plastic utensils

Blankets / Pillows, etc.

Clothing - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes

First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs

Special Items - for babies and the elderly

Toiletries - hygiene items

Moisture wipes

Flashlight / Batteries

Radio – Battery operated am/fm and NOAA weather radio

Cash - Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.

Keys

Toys, Books and Games

Important documents - in a waterproof container

- Insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- document all valuables with videotape if possible

Tools - keep a set with you during the storm

Vehicle fuel tanks filled

Pet care items

- proper identification / immunization records
- ample supply of food and water
- a carrier or cage
- medications
- muzzle and leash

Local maps

Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Preparedness - Pets

Pets are often full-fledged family members, so any family emergency plan must include them to be truly complete.

The single most important thing you can do to protect your pets if you must evacuate is to take them with you. Even if you think you may be gone for only a few hours, take your animals. Once you leave your home, you have no way of knowing how long you'll be kept out of the area, and you may not be able to go back for your pets. Transport your pets in carriers or on leashes during an emergency to help them feel more secure.

Your pets should wear up-to-date identification at all times. It is a good idea to include on the tag the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area.

Things you might want to add to your disaster supply kit and bring with you if you must evacuate:

- A recent photo of your pets in case they get lost
- Sturdy leashes and/or carriers
- Pet food, water, and bowls
- Cat litter and box
- Pet toys
- Contact information for veterinarian
- Medical information and records
- Any necessary medication
- Plastic bags for clean-up

Find a Safe Place Ahead of Time

Evacuation shelters do not accept pets except for service animals, you must plan ahead to ensure that your family and pets have a safe place to stay. Don't wait until disaster strikes to do your research.

- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets.
- Check with friends or relatives outside your immediate area. Ask if they would be able to shelter you and your animals or just your animals. Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinary offices that might be able to shelter animals in emergencies; include 24-hour telephone numbers.
- The Daviess County Animal Shelter does not provide shelter for pets in an emergency.

When You Return Home

Whether you have taken shelter at home or evacuated, your home may be a very different place after a disaster. Don't allow your pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone, and your pet will probably be disoriented. Pets can easily get lost in such situations.

Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Try to get them back into their normal routines as soon as possible, and be ready for behavioral problems that may result from the stress of the situation. If behavioral problems persist, or if your pet seems to be having any health problems, talk to your veterinarian.

For Additional information:

- [FEMA](#)
- [Preparedness for your pets – American Red Cross](#)
- [Animals in Disaster – Center for Public Safety and Justice](#)

Preparedness - Utilities

Knowing where your utility mains are located and how to operate them is important during any emergency. Make sure every member of your household is familiar with the location of your main water, electric, and gas switches and valves and knows how to operate them.

Links:

- [Facts about Generators – Kenergy](#)
- [Kentucky 811 – Call 811 Before You Dig](#)

Preparedness - Electric

Electricity is so much a part of our daily lives it is easy to forget it can be dangerous — even deadly. Similar to lightning, electricity always seeks a path to the ground. If any part of your body comes in contact with an energized object, like a power line or faulty cord, you become part of that path.

Make sure you shut off the electricity if:

- you smell burning material during a power outage,
- the area around electrical switches or plugs turns black or is hot,
- any electrical devices or large appliances are burning, or
- you smell burning insulation, which has a very distinct odor.

Follow these safety rules tips about the dangers of carelessness around electricity:

- Consider all power lines dangerous.
- If power lines are underground, call the 811 before digging. They will locate and mark the lines.
- Report any downed power lines to 911. Never touch, kick, pull or attempt to move a fallen or dangling power line.
- Never touch a person or object that is in contact with a power line.
- If a line falls on your vehicle, stay inside it. If you must get out, jump clear of the fallen line; do not touch any part of your car and the ground at the same time.
- When working outside, stay clear of overhead power lines or exposed wires.
- If your basement floods, don't enter unless you're sure the water isn't in contact with a source of electricity, such as an appliance, electrical outlet, or extension cord. If you're not sure, call a qualified electrician to disconnect the power before entering.

- If an electrical appliance catches fire, NEVER use water to try to put it out -- it can conduct the electricity back to you. Unplug it, or turn off the fuse or circuit to the outlet. It's a good idea to keep a fire extinguisher handy for situations like this.
- Never stand ladders near power lines. When you work on or near ladders, keep all tools, the ladder, and anything you carry well away from power lines. Contact with a power line can cause serious burns or electrocution. Remember to work a safe distance from all power lines. Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines and 25 feet from transmission tower lines.
- Don't climb or trim trees near power lines. Hire a qualified contractor to trim trees near power lines. If you have any questions about removing limbs or trees near power lines, call your utility company. OMU – 270-926-3200 or Kenergy – 270-926-4141.
- Keep children from climbing trees near power lines.
- Check all extension and appliance cords frequently to be sure they are not worn or frayed.
- Never run electrical cords through a doorway or under carpet. Do not drape cords over heaters, pipes or metal objects.
- Be sure tools and appliances are properly grounded. A three-prong plug used in a two-wire receptacle must have an adapter.
- To prevent overheating, use extension cords large enough to carry the amount of current needed to operate the appliance.
- If you have small children, childproof your home by installing plastic protective caps over electrical outlets.
- Protect your computer and other sensitive electronic equipment from fluctuations in voltage by installing protection devices. These range from low-cost voltage regulators to uninterruptible power supply (UPS) devices.
- Fly kites in an open field away from power lines. Do not use wire or wet string on the kite and never attempt to remove a kite or any object that is resting on a power line.
- Never pull a plug from an electrical outlet by the cord. Grasp the plug itself and pull it straight out.
- Water conducts electricity. Be careful when using electrical appliances near water.

Preparedness - Gas

Be aware that a gas leak can occur if your home or business suffers structural damage during a disaster. Generally, natural gas accidentally released in the open will vent harmlessly into the air. However, when a gas and air mixture within the flammability range collects in a confined space, it can ignite accidentally.

Natural gas in its raw state has no smell or color. That's why Atmos Energy adds a "rotten egg" odor to make you aware if gas is leaking. If You Smell Gas, leave the area immediately and call 1-866-322-8667 or 911.

You can detect the presence of natural gas a number of ways:

- SMELL: A distinctive "rotten egg" odor added to make natural gas detectable
- LISTEN: An unusual hissing sound near gas appliances or a blowing sound near gas lines
- LOOK: Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green live plants near gas lines

If you suspect a natural gas leak in your home or outside, follow these safety steps:

- LEAVE the area IMMEDIATELY and tell others to leave too.
- CALL 9-1-1.
- DO NOT turn any lights on or off, smoke or use a cell phone, or operate any vehicle or equipment that could cause sparks.
- DO NOT attempt to turn natural gas valves on or off.
- The gas company will send a trained service technician who will investigate any emergency leak call.

For Additional Information

- [Atmos Energy](#)
- [Kentucky 811 – Call 811 Before You Dig](#)

Preparedness - Telephone

Storms can strike at any time. Be prepared.

- Keep your wireless phone batteries charged at all times and away from water. Keep a car charger with you.
- Have a family communications plan in place. Designate someone out of the area as a central contact, and make certain that all family members know whom to contact if they become separated.

- Program all of your emergency contact numbers and e-mail addresses into your mobile phone. Numbers should include the police department, fire station hospital, evacuation center, as well as your family members.
- Forward your home number to your wireless number in the event of evacuating your home. Because call forwarding is based out of the telephone central office, you will get incoming calls from your landline phone even if your local telephone service is disrupted at your home.
- Camera phones provide assistance. If you have a camera phone, take, store and send photos — even video clips — of damaged property to your insurance company from your device.
- Try text messaging. During an emergency situation, text messages may go through more quickly than voice calls because they require fewer network resources.
- Set up all social media and email accounts for you, your family and friends on all wireless phones, tablets and other devices as a method of communication and means to alert contacts of your status and location.
- Keep non-emergency calls to a minimum, and limit your calls to the most important ones. If there is severe weather, chances are many people will be attempting to place calls to loved ones, friends and business associates.

Calling 911

911 is the universal number that can be called to quickly request police, fire, medical, rescue, and other emergency services.

If a VoIP 911 call is made, the address that has been entered by the customer will be the address that is transmitted to the 911 Center. If the customer of a VoIP phone takes his/her phone to another location, the customer must update the new address before using the service. If a 911 call is made from the new location but the customer failed to update the address, 911 will receive the old location information, which could result in emergency services responding to the wrong location.

Remember to utilize 911 for emergencies only. Non-emergency calls should be directed to the administrative number of the police, fire, or emergency medical services.

For Additional information

- [AT&T Emergency Assistance](#)
- [Verizon Emergency Preparedness](#)

Preparedness - Water

Owensboro Municipal Utilities (OMU) processes water from underground aquifers at two local water treatment plants. OMU also provides wholesale water to three local districts which serve the remaining portions of Daviess County.

Storing Drinking Water

During an emergency, the water supply may be compromised or become contaminated. It is important to make sure you have enough water for everyone in your household for at least three days. In the event of an emergency you may need to be self-reliant for days without utilities and electricity, water service, access to a supermarket or local services, or perhaps even without response from police, fire, or EMS. Most of us can survive without electricity; however, we must have safe drinking water to live.

Guidelines for safe water storage:

- Purchase proper drinking water storage containers from a sporting goods store. **Do not use old milk jugs or soft drink containers. They are nearly impossible to disinfect.**
- Thoroughly sterilize proper containers by soaking them in a solution of 1-part liquid chlorine bleach to 3-parts tap water for several minutes.
- Rinse containers with scalding water.
- Fill containers completely with cold tap water. Leave no air.
- Seal the container.
- Clearly label, date and store in a cool, dark area.

When properly stored, water will remain safe to drink for about two months. Water stored for longer than two months should be boiled or disinfected before use.

Winter Pipe Maintenance

When the temperature takes a nose dive, water in your pipes can freeze, causing them to burst. Water floods your home and ruins your furnishings, and you have to pay to have it all repaired and replaced. It's costly and inconvenient. But it doesn't have to happen if you follow these simple precautions.

Wrap Up for Winter

Wrap exposed pipes with insulating material. Pipes under kitchen sinks, in crawl spaces, near windows or in unheated basements are areas susceptible to freezing.

Find Your Shut-off Valve

Locate your inside water shut-off valve. The shut-off valve controls all of the water into your home. If a pipe bursts, knowing the location of your shut-off valve and how to turn it off, can save valuable time and

prevent water damage. The shut-off valve may be located in the basement, under the kitchen sink, in a utility closet, near the hot water heater, or even under the house in a crawl space. If you cannot locate or do not have a shut-off valve, call your plumber.

Make Sure You Have it Covered

If your house has a crawl space, cover the outside vents to prevent winter winds from entering and freezing pipes. Keep the garage door closed if you have a slab foundation. Some water pipes are located under concrete floors in the garage.

Problems with Frozen Pipes in the Past?

Keep the water running, especially if you've had problems with frozen pipes in the past. Try running a small steady stream of water from a cold water faucet in extremely cold weather. The cost of the water is small compared to dealing with the cost and inconvenience of frozen or burst pipes. Make sure you run the water from a faucet children don't use, because they may inadvertently shut off the faucet after using it.

For Additional Information

- [Kentucky Division of Water](#)
- [US EPA](#)
- [Kentucky Drought Mitigation and Response Plan](#)

Earthquake Preparedness

Daviess County is at risk from two major seismic zones, the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone and the New Madrid Seismic Zone. The Wabash Valley Zone is located between southeastern Illinois and southwestern Indiana. The New Madrid Seismic Zone is located in the Central Mississippi Valley and includes portions of the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee. During any 50-year time span, there is a 25% to 40% chance of a magnitude 6.0 or greater earthquake in this seismic zone. Since 1974, the year network monitoring of seismic activity began, more than 3000 earthquakes have been recorded in the NMSZ. Fortunately, none of these earthquakes exceeded a magnitude of 5.0, and most occurred without our noticing. The largest earthquake in recent years occurred on the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone. This earthquake registered a magnitude of 5.4 and occurred in Mt. Carmel, Illinois on April 18th, 2008.

The most powerful earthquakes ever to occur in the continental United States took place in the New Madrid Seismic Zone during the winter of 1811-1812. At that time, the area of the seismic zone was scarcely populated. Experts estimate that a similar series of earthquakes today would devastate the region, with projected damages of \$60 to \$80 billion.

Here are some tips on preparing and the proper actions to take before, during and after an earthquake has occurred.

Before an Earthquake

- **Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit:** Store food, water and emergency supplies for at least five days. Be sure to include a flashlight, extra batteries, portable radio, tools, blankets, sturdy shoes and sanitary items.
- **Check your home for potential hazards.** Know where and how to shut off electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves. Is your water heater securely fastened to wall studs with straps or plumbers tape? Make sure all appliances are connected to their fuel source with flexible lines.
- **Check your chimney and roof for loose tiles and bricks.** Replace or repair.
- **Secure tall/heavy furniture, such as china cabinets and bookcases, to wall studs.** Secure hanging objects by closing the opening in the hook. Anchor pictures and mirrors to wall studs. Attach a wooden or metal guardrail on open shelves to keep items from slipping or falling off. Velcro fastenings may be used to secure items to their displays or work surfaces. Velcro may also be used to fasten small appliances to their surfaces. Consider removing heavy-framed pictures and mirrors from above beds, couches and chairs. Determine whether the full swing of your hanging plants and lamps will strike a window, and if they will, consider moving them.
- **Identify poisons, toxic chemicals or solvents in breakable containers which are located in high or dangerous locations.** Move these containers to a well-ventilated storage area. Do not store certain chemicals such as ammonia and chlorine together. These chemicals, when mixed, create deadly hazards. Check labels on containers for other hazardous combinations.

- **Establish an Out of State Phone Contact.** Disasters, such as earthquakes, have a good chance of occurring when your family is not together. Children may be at school, you at work or caught in commuter traffic. Take a few minutes with your family and develop a reunion plan. Choose a relative who lives at least 100 miles away, or better yet, in another state. Make sure every family member carries this number with them!

This plan will help you and your family to get back together, or if that is not possible, to let each other know where you are and that you are all right.

During an Earthquake

- When on a **SIDEWALK NEAR BUILDINGS**, **DUCK** into a doorway to protect yourself from falling bricks, glass, plaster and other debris.
- When **DRIVING**, pull over to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses and power lines. Stay inside your vehicle until the shaking stops.
- Take **COVER** under a sturdy desk, table or other furniture. If that is not possible, seek cover against an interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms. Avoid danger spots near windows, hanging objects, mirrors or tall furniture.
- When in a **HIGH-RISE BUILDING**, move against an interior wall if you are not near a desk or table. Protect your head and neck with your arms. Do not use the elevators.
- When **OUTDOORS**, move to a clear area away from trees, signs, buildings, or downed electrical wires and poles.
- When in a **CROWDED STORE OR OTHER PUBLIC PLACE**, move away from display shelves containing objects that could fall. Do not rush for the exit.
- When in a **STADIUM OR THEATER**, stay in your seat, get below the level of the back of the seat and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- If you take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture, **HOLD** on to it and be prepared to move with it. Hold the position until the ground stops shaking and it is safe to move.

After an Earthquake

- Find out if anyone is injured, dial 911 and administer first aid until help arrives.
- After the shaking stops instruct co-workers or customers to leave the building in an orderly manner. If your building is undamaged, you do not need to evacuate.
- Seek safety outside. Instruct those leaving your building to move into safe areas away from buildings and other potential hazards.
- Expect to find doorways and exit routes blocked. Have people assigned to clear the exits. Do not use elevators. Make sure fire escapes are safe before using.

- Check for fires.
- Check for people who might be trapped. Check storage rooms and restrooms. Check for people who might require special assistance.
- Check for gas leaks, broken water lines or potential chemical hazards. Turn off utilities if you find a leak.
- Notify the authorities of chemical hazards.
- Rescue financial records and essential supplies from your business if you can do so safely.
- Before sending employees home make arrangements to get back in contact at a later specified time.
- Document property damage as soon as possible. Make itemized lists and take photographs of damage. Structural damage may require an engineering analysis.
- Secure your facility before leaving.
- Expect aftershocks. Aftershocks can inflict additional damage to weakened structures.
- Don't put breakable items back in vulnerable places. Be careful when reentering your building if damaged.
- Determine the safety of your building. Develop a prior agreement with a structural engineer to inspect your building immediately after an earthquake

Links

- [Earthquake Notification Service](#)
- [Recent Earthquakes Worldwide](#)
- [Kentucky Geological Survey](#)
- [Kentucky Seismic Recording Stations](#)
- [Kentucky Earthquake Information](#)
- [Earthquake Insurance Information](#)

Extreme Heat Preparedness

During summer months, temperatures in Daviess County can sometimes reach dangerous levels. Extreme heat can be particularly hazardous for children, seniors, those with special needs, and pets. In addition to discomfort and fatigue, high temperatures can cause heat-related illnesses: heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. To protect yourself and others, please familiarize yourself with the following guidelines:

- Know the [terms](#) used by the National Weather Service during extreme heat: Heat Wave, Excessive Heat Watch, Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Warning, and Heat Index.
- Stay out of the sun. If you must be in the sun, wear sunscreen (at least SPF 15) and a wide-brimmed hat.
- Stay in the shade or under awnings as much as possible.
- Avoid overexertion and strenuous outdoor activities.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes that cover as much skin as possible to prevent sunburn.
- Consume plenty of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty. Water, diluted juices, and electrolyte solutions are best. Stay away from carbonated drinks.
- Avoid alcohol.
- If you are on a fluid-restricted diet or taking diuretics, consult your doctor before exposing yourself to heat.
- Keep lights in your home low or off, keep shades drawn, and avoid using the oven.
- Keep rooms well ventilated with air conditioners and fans. Keep your windows open if you don't have air conditioning or a fan.

Note: Fans will not prevent heat-related illness when the temperature is in the high 90s.

- Cool down with cool, wet towels and periodic cool baths or showers.
- Take advantage of cooling centers, public pools, and air-conditioned stores and malls during periods of extreme heat.
- Exposure to air conditioning for even a few hours a day will reduce the risk for heat-related illness.
- Closely monitor children, the elderly, or those who require special care during periods of intense summer heat.
- Do not leave children or pets in a closed vehicle, even for a few minutes. On a hot day, temperatures inside a closed vehicle can reach 140°F-190°F within 30 minutes.

- Make a special effort to check on your neighbors during a heat wave, especially if they are seniors, families with young children, people with special needs, or living alone.
- Seniors and others who may be sensitive to extreme heat should contact friends, neighbors, or relatives periodically throughout the day.
- Seek help if you feel symptoms of heat-related illnesses.

Flooding

Before a Flood

Know the terms used to describe flood threats:

Flood Watch: This means flooding or flash flooding is possible. Be extremely cautious when driving, especially at night. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or commercial television for additional information.

Flood Warning: This means flooding is occurring or will occur soon and is expected to occur for several days or weeks. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

Flash Flood Warning: This means a flash flood is occurring or is imminent. NEVER drive across a flooded road, especially if the road is closed by barricades.

Flood Advisory: This means minor flooding of creeks and streams, streets, low-lying areas or basement flooding is occurring or is imminent.

- Purchase a weather alert radio with a battery backup, a tone-alert feature and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology that automatically alerts you when a watch or warning is issued for your county.
- It is critical that someone at home, work or wherever people gather monitors weather conditions, regardless of the time of day. Monitor watches, warnings and advisories in your area using a weather alert radio, local TV, local radio or the Internet. If it is safe to do so, contact family members and friends when you become aware of a flooding situation that may threaten them.
- Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended outdoor periods and postpone plans if severe weather is imminent. Make sure family members and friends know how to stay safe.
- Maintain an emergency supply kit. This kit will help your family cope during extended power outages.
- Keep all of your important records and documents in a safe deposit box or another safe place away from the premises.
- Insure your property and possessions. Make an inventory of your possessions using paper lists, photographs and/or videotapes of your belongings. Give a copy to your insurance company.
- Update your inventory and review your coverage with your insurance company periodically.
- Consider purchasing flood insurance. Flood losses are not covered under homeowners insurance policies. Flood insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance Program. Flood insurance is available whether the building is in or out of the identified flood-prone area. Call your insurance company for more information.

- Know how to shut off electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves. Know where gas pilots are located and how the heating system works.
- Have check valves installed in building sewer traps to prevent flood waters from backing up in sewer drains. As a last resort, use large corks or stoppers to plug showers, tubs or basins.

During a Flood

- Monitor the radio, television or Internet for the latest weather information and evacuation instructions.
- If advised to evacuate, do so quickly.
- Evacuation is much simpler and safer before flood waters become too deep for ordinary vehicles.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Short cuts may be blocked.
- Move valuable household possessions to an upper floor or another location if flooding is imminent and time permits.
- If instructed to do so by local authorities, turn off utilities at their source.
- Many people have lost their lives by attempting to drive over flooded roadways. The speed and depth of the water is not always obvious. There may be a hidden portion of the roadway washed out under the water. Two feet of water will carry away most automobiles.

After a Flood

- Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to recede. If you are evacuated, monitor radio or television news reports and do not return home until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.
- Monitor the radio for special information about where to go to get assistance for housing, clothing and food. Other programs are available to help you cope with the stress of the situation.
- Use extreme care in areas of downed power lines or natural gas leaks. Wear adequate footwear to avoid cuts from broken glass or nails protruding from boards.
- When you are allowed to return, remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance.
- Stay alert in areas where flood waters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a vehicle. NEVER cross a flooded road or bridge in your vehicle.
- Stay out of buildings that remain in the flood waters.
- Inspect foundations for cracks or other damage. When entering buildings, use extreme caution. If your home was damaged, check the utilities.
- Look for fire hazards.

- Do not let children play in or near flood waters, flooded creeks or flood retention ponds. Swift water currents could sweep them away. Avoid coming in contact with flood waters. The water may be contaminated with oil, gasoline or raw sewage. Do not wade through a flooded stream to protect or retrieve belongings.
- Consider your family's health and safety. Wash your hands frequently with soap and clean water if you come in contact with flood waters. Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Throw away food that has come in contact with flood waters, including canned goods.
- Pump out flooded basements gradually, about one-third of the water per day, to avoid structural damage.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewer systems pose a health hazard.
- Take photos or video of the damage to your home and property, and report it to the local emergency management agency.

If unaffected by the flood, stay out of the area until local officials allow entry. Your presence may hamper emergency operations

Follow this [link](#) to read information about the National Flood Insurance Program.

Severe Thunderstorms and Lightning

Before Severe Thunderstorms

Know the terms used to describe severe thunderstorm threats:

- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** This means severe thunderstorms are possible in or near your area. Stay alert for the latest weather information. Be prepared to take shelter.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** This means severe thunderstorms will be approaching or are occurring. Severe thunderstorms produce damaging wind in excess of 60 mph and/or hail measuring one inch in diameter or larger. Seek safe shelter.
- **Significant Weather Advisory:** This means strong thunderstorms with wind gusts of 40 to 55 mph and/or hail measuring less than one inch in diameter will be approaching or are occurring.
- Wind gusts from severe thunderstorms can do as much or more damage than many tornadoes. Extended power outages, downed trees and extensive damage to roofs, doors and windows can occur from straight line wind gusts or downbursts of wind.
- Purchase a weather alert radio with a battery backup, a tone-alert feature and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology that automatically alerts you when a watch, warning or advisory is issued for your county. Know the name of the county you live in and the counties you travel through.
- It is critical that someone at home, work or wherever people gather monitors weather conditions, regardless of the time of day. Monitor watches and warnings in your areas using a weather alert radio, local TV, local radio or the Internet. If it is safe to do so, contact family members and friends when you become aware of a severe thunderstorm and/or lightning that may threaten them.
- Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended outdoor periods and postpone plans if severe weather is imminent.
- Make sure family members and friends know how to stay safe.
- Maintain an emergency supply kit. This kit will help your family cope during extended power outages.
- Keep all of your important records and documents in a safe deposit box or another safe place away from the premises.
- Insure your property and possessions. Make an inventory of your possessions using paper lists, photographs and/or videotapes of your belongings. Give a copy to your insurance company. Update your inventory and review your coverage with your insurance company periodically.

During Severe Thunderstorms

At Home and Work:

- Monitor the radio, television or Internet for the latest weather information.
- Stay away from all windows and exterior doors during the storm. If you can do it safely, draw the window shades or blinds to reduce the risk from flying glass shattered by high winds.
- Avoid using a corded telephone or other electrical appliances until the storm passes.
- Turn off air conditioners. In the event of a lightning strike, a power surge could damage the compressor.
- Delay taking baths or showers until after the storm passes due to the lightning threat.

Outdoors:

- If outdoors, seek shelter immediately. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning.
- If you find yourself in a position where there is no immediate shelter available, find a low spot away from trees and power poles.
- If you are in a boat when a thunderstorm threatens, you should attempt to reach shore as quickly as possible.
- If you are driving, pull safely to the shoulder away from trees and power lines. Lightning can flash from trees or power poles and strike a vehicle. Rubber tires do NOT keep lightning from striking a vehicle. In the open, a vehicle is normally a safe shelter from lightning. Avoid touching metal parts of the vehicle when lightning is nearby.

After Severe Thunderstorms

- Monitor the radio, television or Internet for emergency information or instructions.
- Use extreme care in areas of downed power lines or natural gas leaks. Wear adequate footwear to avoid cuts from broken glass or nails protruding from boards.
- Check for injured victims. Render first aid if necessary. Most lightning strike victims can be revived with CPR. Do not attempt to move severely injured victims unless absolutely necessary. Wait for emergency medical assistance to arrive.
- Check on neighbors or relatives who may require special assistance.
- If driving, be alert for hazards on the roadway.
- Do not make unnecessary telephone calls.

- Take photos or video of any damage to your home or property and report it to local emergency managers.
- If unaffected by the storm, stay out of the damaged area until local officials allow entry. Your presence will hamper emergency operations.

Terrorism

The unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence by a person or an organized group against people or property with the intention of intimidating or coercing societies or governments, often for ideological or political reasons.....

The best way for Daviess County residents to prepare for a terrorist event is to be informed, aware, and ready to face a variety of threats. Even though it has been several years since the tragedies of Sept. 11, 2001, the threat of a terrorist event is ever-present. If you see something suspicious or if something just does not seem right, notify the authorities by calling 9-1-1.

In the Event of a Terrorist Attack

If a terrorist attack occurs, it is important that you remain calm and follow instructions from local officials and public safety personnel. You should be aware of your surroundings and watch for additional attacks. Listen to local TV and radio for directions and travel information.

Additional Information - <http://homelandsecurity.ky.gov/>

- [FEMA Terrorism Info Site](#)
- [Red Cross - Terrorism Preparedness](#)
- [US Postal Service Suspicious Mail Poster](#)
- [FBI – Suspicious Packages Poster](#)
- [FBI – Protect Your Workplace](#)
- [FBI – Preventing Terrorist Attacks \(How can you help\)](#)
- [International Travel Alerts](#)

Tornadoes

Before a Tornado

Know the terms used to describe tornado threats:

Tornado Watch: This means tornadoes are possible near your area. Stay alert for the latest weather information. Be prepared to take shelter. If you live in a mobile home, this is the time to move to a more substantial structure. If you see any rotating funnel-shaped clouds, report them immediately by telephone to your local emergency management or law enforcement agency.

Tornado Warning: This means a tornado has been sighted by someone or indicated by weather radar. The storms may also produce damaging winds in excess of 60 mph and/or hail one inch or larger. Take shelter immediately. Turn on a battery-operated radio or television and wait for updated information for your area.

- Purchase a weather alert radio with a battery backup, a tone-alert feature and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology that automatically alerts you when a watch or warning is issued for your county. Know the name of the county you live in, and the counties you travel through.
- It is critical that someone at home, work or wherever people gather monitors weather conditions, regardless of the time of day. Many deadly tornadoes occur at night. Monitor watches and warnings in your areas using a weather alert radio, local TV, local radio or the Internet. Do not rely solely on outdoor warning sirens, especially if you are asleep. If it is safe to do so, contact family members and friends when you become aware of a tornado that may threaten them.
- Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended outdoor periods and postpone plans if severe weather is imminent.
- Determine the best location in your home and workplace to seek shelter when threatened by a tornado. A basement or cellar will usually afford the best protection. If an underground shelter is not available, identify an interior room or hallway on the lowest level. The best areas are closets, small interior hallways and bathrooms without windows.
- If you live in a mobile home, identify a safe shelter outside of your mobile home such as a community storm shelter, a neighbor or friend's house or a nearby public building. Half of all tornado fatalities occur in mobile homes, even though they only account for seven percent of all residences.
- Make sure family members and friends know how to stay safe.
- Conduct periodic tornado safety drills at home and work. Decide how and where everyone will gather prior to and after the storm.

- Consider retrofitting your house with special fasteners, connectors and reinforcing bands to improve structural integrity. Also, consider installing a reinforced concrete and steel “safe room” within your house, or in an excavated area of your yard or beneath your garage floor.
- Maintain an emergency supply kit. This kit will help your family cope during extended power outages.
- Keep all of your important records and documents in a safe deposit box or another safe place away from the premises.
- Insure your property and possessions. Make an inventory of your possessions using paper lists, photographs and/or videotapes of your belongings. Give a copy to your insurance company. Update your inventory and review your coverage with your insurance company periodically.

During a Tornado

Take the following actions when a Tornado Warning has been issued by the National Weather Service, when warning sirens have been activated or when a tornado has been sighted near your area:

At Home:

- Monitor the radio, television or Internet for the latest weather information.
- Go immediately to your predetermined shelter such as a storm cellar, basement or the lowest level, of the building. In a basement, go under the stairs, under a heavy piece of furniture or a work bench. Stay there until the danger has passed.
- If in a mobile home, get out and seek shelter elsewhere, well before the storm arrives. A mobile home can overturn very easily even if precautions have been taken to tie down the unit. If there is not a substantial shelter nearby, go to a low-lying area and shield your head with your hands.
- If there is no basement, go to an interior hallway or a small interior room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Stay away from outside windows and walls as they may be penetrated by high speed, wind-borne debris.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture, such as a workbench or heavy table, and hold onto it.
- Use pillows, mattresses or cushions to protect your head and neck.

At Schools, Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Shopping Centers and Workplaces:

- Go to the designated storm shelter. A basement offers the best protection. If a basement is not available, go to an interior room, or hallway, without windows or outside doors, on the lowest level. Restrooms without windows are also a good place to seek shelter. Stay away from exterior walls, doors and windows.
- Avoid places with wide-span roofs, such as auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums and large hallways. Stay away from windows and open spaces

- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture, such as a workbench, heavy table or desk and hold onto it. If sturdy furniture is not available, make yourself the smallest target possible. Squat low to the ground. Put your head down and cover your head and neck with your hands.
- In high-rise buildings, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest level possible and seek protection as detailed above. Stay away from windows and outside doors and walls.

Outdoors:

- If possible, get inside a substantial building on the lowest floor, away from windows and doors.
- If an indoor shelter is not available, or there is no time to get indoors, then as a last resort, lie in a ditch or culvert. Use your arms to protect your head and neck. Beware of the potential for flash flooding.

In a Vehicle:

- Do NOT park under a bridge or overpass!
- Immediately exit the vehicle in a safe manner and take shelter in a nearby building.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. Heavy rain, hail and traffic may impede your movement. Tornadoes can change directions quickly and can easily lift up a vehicle and toss it through the air.
- As a VERY last resort, if there isn't time to get indoors or if there is no secure shelter nearby, lie flat in a ditch, culvert or low-lying area away from vehicles.

After a Tornado

- Monitor radio, television or Internet for emergency information or instructions.
- Use extreme care in areas of downed power lines or natural gas leaks. Wear adequate footwear to avoid cuts from broken glass or nails protruding from boards.
- Check for injured victims. Render first aid if necessary. Do not attempt to move severely injured victims unless absolutely necessary. Wait for emergency medical assistance to arrive.
- Check on neighbors or relatives who may require special assistance.
- Exit damaged buildings. Re-enter only if absolutely necessary using great caution.
- If driving, be alert for hazards on the roadway.
- Do not make unnecessary telephone calls.
- Take photos or video of the damage to your home and property, and report it to the local emergency management agency.

- If unaffected by the tornado, stay out of the damaged area until local officials allow entry. Your presence will hamper emergency operations.

Preparedness - Weather

Daviess County experiences diverse weather patterns throughout the year. You should be aware of the types of weather that affect Daviess County, the different advisories that precede hazardous weather, and the preparations to take for severe conditions. While we can't prevent severe weather, there are steps you can take to stay safe.

Severe weather knows no boundaries and affects every individual in every region of Kentucky. Because of this, we are asking you to **BE AWARE - BE PREPARED - HAVE A PLAN!**

- **BE AWARE:** "Knowing your risk, taking action and being an example are just a few steps you can take to be better prepared and assist in saving lives.
- **BE PREPARED:** "Preparedness means understanding that disasters can happen without notice, and taking necessary measures in advance is the simplest way to care for yourself and members of your family when severe weather strikes.
- **HAVE A PLAN:** "Know your risks and have a plan in place. "Preparedness starts at home. It starts with being aware of conditions and situations that threaten you and your family's safety and then taking appropriate steps to mitigate those risks."
- **KNOW YOUR RISK:** The first step to becoming weather-ready is to understand the type of hazardous weather that can affect where you live and work, and how the weather could impact you and your family. Check the weather forecast regularly, get a NOAA Weather Radio, and sign up for localized alerts from emergency management officials. Severe weather comes in many forms and your shelter plan should include all types of local hazards.
- **TAKE ACTION:** Take steps to making sure that you and your family are prepared for severe weather. This includes developing a family communication plan, putting an emergency kit together, keeping important papers and valuables in a safe place.
- **BE AN EXAMPLE:** Share your severe weather plan and preparedness actions with your family and friends. Many people use social media in the event of a disaster to let relatives and friends know they are safe, why not use it to prepare? People are most likely to take preparedness steps if they observe the preparations taken by others. Social media provides the perfect platform to model preparedness actions for others.

Links:

- [Weather Service, Paducah, KY](#)
- [NWS/SPC WATCH, WARNING, ADVISORY DISPLAY](#) Storm Prediction Center severe weather outlook map.
- [HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK](#)

- [SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION](#), Watches, Warnings and Radar from Paducah.

Subscribe to Weather Service Email and Alerting Services - <http://www.weather.gov/subscribe>

Winter Weather Preparedness

Winter weather in Daviess County can vary considerably from one year to the next. While we don't know how many winterstorms we'll see this year, one thing is for sure: many, if not all, of us will experience snow, ice and cold temperatures at some point this winter. Winter weather may be inevitable, but being prepared will help you handle whatever weather hazards comes our way!

The National Weather Service uses the terms below to convey the weather threat to the public.

WATCHES, WARNINGS AND ADVISORIES

Winter Storm Watch: Indicates severe winter weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible within the next day or two. Prepare now!

Winter Storm Warning: Indicates heavy snow (greater than 6 inches), heavy sleet (½ inch or greater), or a combination of winter weather hazards are highly likely or occurring. Stay indoors and adjust travel plans.

Ice Storm Warning: Heavy accumulations of ice will create extremely dangerous travel conditions, damage trees and likely cause extended power outages.

Blizzard Warning: Strong winds of 35 mph or greater will produce blinding snow, near zero visibility, deep drifts and life-threatening conditions, especially for travelers.

Wind Chill Warning: Life-threatening wind chills of minus 25 degrees or colder.

Winter Weather Advisory: Indicates snow accumulating 2 to 5 inches, or a combination of winter weather conditions will cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to travelers. Use caution if you venture out!

Freezing Rain Advisory: Light accumulations of ice will cause hazardous travel.

Wind Chill Advisory: Dangerous wind chills of minus 15 degrees to minus 24 degrees.

Freezing Rain: Precipitation that falls from the cloud as rain, but freezes into a glaze of ice on ground-based objects (trees, power lines, roads, cars, etc.).

Sleet: Small pellets of ice created by frozen raindrops. Sleet bounces when hitting a surface and does not stick to objects.

Wind Chill: A calculation of how cold it feels outside when the effects of temperature and wind speed are combined. **Wind chill ONLY applies to bare, human skin.** The effects of wind chill are different for animals, and don't apply to non-living objects.

Before a Winter Storm or Extreme Cold

WEATHER TERMS: Know the terms related to winter storms and extreme cold.

COUNTY NAMES: Know the names of the counties in which you travel. County names are used to identify areas at risk.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS: Learn how to protect your family's health during the winter months:

- Dress appropriately for the winter.
- Learn the physical dangers to your body.

DISASTER KITS: Gather emergency supplies for work and home. Create a Family Disaster Kit. Be prepared for at least three days, if not more.

A few important kit items are listed below:

- A battery-powered National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio and a battery-powered commercial radio and extra batteries.
- Foods that do not require cooking or refrigeration are best. Include high energy foods such as dried fruit and granola bars.
- Extra medications and special items for babies, the disabled or elderly.
- Extra water in clean containers.
- Flashlights and extra batteries. Do not use candles.
- A first-aid kit, non-prescription drugs and personal sanitary items.
- Pet supplies.

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME: Winterize your home to extend your fuel supply:

- Insulate walls and attics.
- Caulk and weatherize doors and windows.
- Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic.

FROZEN PIPES: Take steps to prevent frozen water pipes:

- Locate and insulate the pipes most susceptible to freezing; typically those near outer walls, in crawl spaces or in attics.
- Heat tape or thermostatically controlled heat cables can be used to wrap pipes. Be sure to use products approved by an independent testing organization, such as Underwriters Laboratories Inc., and only for the use intended (exterior or interior). Closely follow all manufacturers' installation and operation instructions.
- Seal any leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located.

- Disconnect garden hoses and shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets.
- Make sure you know how to shut off the water, in case pipes burst.

PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE ISOLATION IN YOUR HOME FOR SEVERAL DAYS:

- Make sure you have sufficient heating fuel. After a severe winter storm, regular fuel carriers may not reach you for days.
- Have emergency heating equipment (fireplaces, wood burning stoves or space heaters) and ample fuel so you can keep at least one room of your house warm. Always ensure proper ventilation to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- NEVER use an outdoor grill to heat your home or to cook food indoors.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand and make sure your family knows how to use them.

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE FOR THE WINTER:

- Winterize your vehicle or have your vehicle serviced by a reputable dealer, garage or mechanic.
- Check your wipers, tires, lights and fluid level regularly. Make sure the brakes and transmission are working properly. Lubricate door and trunk locks to prevent them from freezing.
- Prepare a Winter Storm Survival Kit and carry it in your vehicle. A kit is important even for short trips. If you have an accident or vehicle breakdown, you may be waiting several hours for assistance to arrive.

Winter Storm Survival Kit for Travelers

- Cell phone and charger
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Pocket Knife
- High calorie, non-perishable food
- Water
- Extra clothing to keep dry
- A large empty can and plastic cover with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
- A smaller can and water-proof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- Sack of sand (or cat litter)

- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit
- Tow rope with loops (avoid chains and hooks if at all possible)
- Booster cables
- Water container
- Compass and road maps

During Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

WHEN AT HOME

- Stay indoors in a heated room as much as possible.
- Hang blankets over windows at night, but let the sun shine in during the day. Cover cracks around doors with rugs, newspapers, towels or other such material.
- When using alternative heat from a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc., use safeguards and ensure proper ventilation to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep them at least three feet away from flammable objects.
- If you have no heat, close off unneeded rooms and place towels or rags under the doors.

If your water pipes freeze:

- Shut off water at the main source. This can minimize the damage to your home.
- Call a plumber and contact your insurance agent.
- Never try to thaw a frozen pipe with an open flame or torch.
- Always be aware of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.

WHEN OUTSIDE

- Avoid overexertion, such as shoveling heavy snow, pushing a car or walking in deep snow. The strain from the cold and the hard labor of snow shoveling could cause a heart attack at any age; a major cause of death in the winter. Don't ignore chest pain or tightness in your chest.
- If you become stranded outdoors seek shelter to stay dry. Cover all exposed parts of the body.
- If no shelter is nearby, prepare a lean-to, windbreak or snow cave for protection from the wind. Build a fire for heat and to attract attention.

RECOMMENDED WINTER ATTIRE

- Wear loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers. The trapped air between the layers insulates. Layers can be removed to avoid perspiration and subsequent chill.
- Wear outer garments that are tightly woven, water repellent and hooded.
- Wear a hat. Half of body heat is lost through the top of the head.
- Wear mittens that are snug at the wrist. Mittens offer better protection. Gloves allow your fingers to cool much faster than mittens.
- Cover the mouth and nose with scarves to help protect lungs from cold air.
- Keep your feet as dry as possible. Wear wool socks.

ON THE FARM

- Move animals to sheltered areas.
- Haul extra feed to nearby feeding areas.
- Have a water supply available. Most animal deaths in winter storms occur from dehydration.

WHEN TRAVELING

- If you decide a trip cannot be delayed, consider using public transportation if it is available. If you decide to drive your vehicle:

Before You Leave:

- Check the latest weather conditions along your planned travel route. Listen to weather forecasts on TV, local radio stations or on a NOAA Weather Radio. Call 1-800-452-IDOT or go to the IDOT website (www.gettingaroundillinois.com) to get current road conditions for Illinois' interstate systems.
- Check your wipers, tires, lights and fluid level. Lubricate door and trunk locks with lock lubricant to prevent them from freezing. Start with a full tank of gas. Travel during daylight hours on main roads and don't travel alone.
- Carry a Winter Storm Survival Kit in your vehicle.
- Provide your itinerary to a friend, relative or co-worker. Include information on your destination, the routes you will travel and when you expect to arrive. When you reach your destination, make a call to report that you have arrived.

On the Road

- Buckle your seat belts!
- Be prepared to turn back and seek shelter if conditions become threatening.
- Keep your windows clear of snow and ice. Do not start driving until your windshield is defrosted.
- Drive slower and increase your following distance. Your speed should be adjusted for the conditions and match the flow of traffic. Roadway conditions may vary depending on the sun, shade or roadway surface. Watch for slick spots especially under bridges, on overpasses and in shaded areas.
- If the pavement is snow or ice covered, start slowly and brake gently. Begin braking early when you come to an intersection. If you start to slide, ease off the gas pedal or brakes. Steer into the direction of the skid until you feel you have regained traction, and then straighten your vehicle.
- \If your vehicle becomes stuck in the snow, contact a towing company, but be prepared to wait in the cold weather for up to several hours. If you can be safely pulled out by another vehicle, make sure you use tow ropes with loops on the ends. Avoid chains or hooks if at all possible, since these can slip off and recoil very quickly, causing injury or death.
- When a snowplow is coming toward you, allow plenty of room for the truck to pass. When the center line is being cleared and salted, the plow tip may be on or over the line.
- When you approach a snowplow from behind, pass with care and only when you can see the road ahead of the truck. You should not try to pass in blowing snow; there may be a vehicle in that cloud of snow. Allow more distance than usual between you and the plow.
- Refuel often, keeping your gas tank near full to prevent ice in the tank and fuel lines, which could leave you stranded. These frequent stops should also help relieve tense muscles.

If Stranded

- Pull as far off the road as possible, set your hazard lights to "flashing," and hang or tie a colored cloth (preferably red) to your antenna, window or door. After the snow stops falling, raise the hood to indicate trouble. If you have a cell phone, call for help.
- Stay in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you. Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building close by where you know you can take shelter. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, and then run the engine and heater about 10 minutes each hour to keep warm. Turn on the dome light at night when running the engine. When the engine is running, open a window slightly for ventilation. Periodically clear away snow from the exhaust pipe. Exercise to keep blood circulating and to maintain body heat by vigorously moving arms, legs, fingers and toes. In extreme cold, or if you don't have a Winter Storm Survival Kit, use road maps, seat covers and floor mats for insulation. Take turns sleeping. One person should be awake at all times to watch for rescue crews.

- Be careful not to deplete battery power. Balance electrical energy needs such as lights, heat and radio, with electrical energy supply.

Wind Chill

- Most of the time, cold is judged in terms of a thermometer reading. With people and other living things though, both temperature and wind speed are needed to produce a “wind chill factor.” The wind chill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by the combined effects of the wind speed and cold temperatures. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. The wind chill shows how cold the wind makes exposed flesh feel and is a good way to determine the potential for frostbite or hypothermia.
- Remember, wind chill impacts people and other living things. If the temperature is 35 degrees and the wind chill is 10 degrees, objects such as pipes or cars will only cool to 35. The wind chill factor does not apply to non-living objects.