

Prepare Your Family

STATISTICS:

- Flooding is the nation's most common natural disaster. You are four times more likely to lose your home to a flood than a fire.
- Despite an increase in number of disasters, data show that average annual death tolls have dropped from over 75,000 per year (1994 to 1998) to 59,000 per year (1999 to 2003) indicating that, to some degree, mitigation and early warning provisions may be having an impact.
- Investment in preparedness pays. Investing in strategies to lessen the impact of disasters is not only compassionate, but it also makes economic sense.
- Every year in the United States, on average:
 - 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu;
 - more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications, and;
 - about 36,000 people die from flu.

Safe Families = Safe Homes Month

RESOURCES:

Ready America

<http://www.ready.gov/america/index.html>

American Red Cross

http://www.redcross.org/preparedness/cdc_english/home.asp

Disaster Preparedness in Michigan

<http://www.michigan.gov/michiganprepares>

Federal Emergency Management Agency

<http://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/f&web.pdf#search=%22food%20water%20in%20an%20emergency%22>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Emergency Preparedness and Response

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Natural disasters are defined as "a disruption of human ecology which exceeds the community's capacity to adjust, so that outside assistance is needed". Natural disasters are a common threat, ranging from a fire in your own home to a storm that affects thousands of people.

Flooding is the nation's most common natural disaster. Flooding can happen in every U.S. state and territory. However, all floods are not alike. Some can develop slowly during an extended period of rain, or in a warming trend following a heavy snow. Be prepared for flooding no matter where you live, but particularly if you are in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam.

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. They can appear suddenly without warning and can be invisible until dust and debris are picked up or a funnel cloud appears. Planning and practicing specifically **how** and **where** you take shelter is a matter of survival. Remember -

- A **tornado watch** means a tornado is possible in your area. You should monitor [NOAA Weather Radio](#) local radio and television news outlets for the latest developments.
- A **tornado warning** is when a tornado is actually occurring, take shelter immediately.

Influenza Pandemic - a pandemic is a global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza A virus emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population and the virus begins to cause serious illness and then spreads easily person-to-person worldwide.

Emergency Food and Water Supplies - Having an ample supply of clean water is a top priority in an emergency. A normally active person needs to drink at least 2 quarts (a half gallon) of water each day. You will also need water for food preparation and hygiene. Store at least an additional half-gallon per person, per day for this.

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

Michigan Prepares is a new site with loads of information for you.

<http://www.michigan.gov/michiganprepares>

The American Red Cross has several programs available to help you and your family with disaster preparedness.

<http://www.redcross.org/>