

# Hazards and Preparedness

This section contains information that is valuable to the public for preparedness and informational purposes.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Use this table to identify the items that would be needed for specific emergencies.  
Then organize and store the emergency items for use.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
	Shelter Isolation Checklist	Car Checklist	Evacuation Checklist	First Aid Checklist	Winter Checklist
<b>Loss of Service</b>	X		X	X	X
No electrical power					
No water, Heat, Phone					
<b>Snow Storm</b>	X	X		X	X
Bad roads					
<b>High Water</b>	X		X	X	
<b>Tornado</b>	X			X	
<b>Hazardous Material</b>	X		X	X	

### Additional References:

Coshocton County Emergency Management Agency  
Disaster Education  
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security  
Weather Safety

[www.coshoctonema.com](http://www.coshoctonema.com)  
[www.redcross.tallytown.com/educate.html](http://www.redcross.tallytown.com/educate.html)  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
[www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov)

February 2008

## 1. SHELTER IN PLACE / ISOLATION CHECKLIST

This checklist would enable a family to protect themselves by remaining in their home for several hours to four (4) days until outside conditions are safe. Typical examples are tornadoes and hazardous chemical releases or road conditions when impassable due to ice, snow or high water.

### Equipment / Tools

- NOAA weather radio hand-operated or extra batteries
- Cell phone & charger
- Flashlight & batteries
- Fire extinguisher (5 lb., A-B-C type)
- Shut off wrench for gas & water lines
- Plastic sheeting & duct tape, nails
- Tool kit, pliers, hammer, axe, shovel, broom, crowbar, pocket knife
- Whistle

### Food

Date stamp, rotate

- Water, potable 1 gallon / per day / per person
- Food stuffs requiring no cooking or refrigeration, canned, freeze dry
- Snacks (high energy): granola, trail mix, peanut butter, crackers, vitamins
- Fruit juices, soft drinks

### Money

- Cash, change, credit cards

### Clothing

For each person

- Extra change of clothing, warm coat, rain gear, depending upon the season
- Sturdy shoes, hat
- Sleeping bag or blanket

### Supplies

- Paper towels & large trash bags
- Food utensils, cups, disposable
- Can opener, manual
- Matches in water proof container
- Dust mask or t-shirt for breathing

### First Aid

- See the First Aid Kit Checklist
- Medications, prescription & nonprescription

### Sanitation

- Toilet paper, towelettes
- Hand soap, liquid detergent
- Plastic garbage bags, ties
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Disinfectant or chlorine bleach

### Special Supplies

- Infants: Food, formula, diapers, bottles, pacifiers
- Feminine supplies
- Elderly: Dentures, medications, contact lenses, extra eye glasses

### Pet Supplies

- Food, water, medications and litter

## PROCEDURES WHEN ORDERED TO SHELTER IN PLACE FOR A CHEMICAL EMERGENCY

**Be aware that some gases are heavier than air and sink to low areas, therefore, avoid taking shelter in a basement. Listen to local radio / television for instructions.**

- Close exterior doors and windows, all interior doors, including fire doors.
- Use a rolled, wet towel to block under exterior doors.
- Seal any drafts around exterior doors and windows with duct tape.
- Shut off fans that force air out or into the building.
- Shut off air conditioners or furnaces (set ventilation system on 100 percent recirculation, where possible)
- Block all vents
  - Vent in kitchen ceiling
  - Vent in bathroom ceiling
  - Fireplace dampers
  - Dryer vents
  - Stove vents
- Listen to the radio and/or television for further information.
- Designate a location where friends / family members can gather or call for information.
- If the chemical is potentially explosive, close all drapes, curtains, and shades, and then stay away from windows to prevent injury from breaking glass.

It is imperative that all electrical power and appliances be shut off.  
Make sure there are no pilot lights or sparking from a light switch being turned on or off.  
(Could ignite the chemical gas.)

- Move all people to the center of the building to provide shielding from the source of contaminations. Remain in protected interior of the building where toxic vapors are less likely to penetrate.
- If you suspect gas or vapors are in the building, take shallow breaths through a cloth, or piece of clothing.
- Assure that any food or water has not been contaminated before consumption.

## 2. CAR KIT CHECKLIST

**This checklist can be used when residents are driving in cold temperatures and could become stranded.**

- Maintain at least a half tank of gasoline
- Battery jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher (5 lb., A-B-C type)
- Shovel
- Cell phone with a vehicle battery charger
- Emergency flares
- Whistle
  
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Flashlights and batteries (date batteries)
- Dry high-energy snacks (store in air tight plastic bags)
- Bottled water or juices
- Foods, nonperishable, granola bars, trail mix (store in air tight plastic bags)
- Extra hats, gloves and jackets
- Bright cloth or scarf to signal for assistance
  
- First Aid Kit (See the First Aid Checklist)

### 3. EVACUATION CHECKLIST

This checklist can be used when it is necessary to leave a residence and go to another location for temporary shelter that provides basic living conditions.

#### Traveling Supplies

- See Car Kit Checklist

#### Equipment

- NOAA weather radio hand-operated or extra batteries
- Cell phone, batteries and charger
- Flashlight and batteries
- Whistle

#### First Aid, Medications and Hygiene

- Car First Aid Kit
- Personal prescriptions for three (3) days
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Soap and towels

#### Clothing

- Extra change of clothing, warm coat, hat, gloves
- Warm clothes (If appropriate)
- Sturdy shoes
- Rain gear (If appropriate)

#### Food

- Water, potable 1 gallon / per day / per person, fruit juices, soft drinks
- Snacks (High Energy): granola, trail mix, peanut butter, crackers

#### Important Papers and Documents

 Keep records in plastic resealable bags.

- Cash and credit cards
- Driver's license, will, bank account numbers
- Phone numbers for family and friends who need to be notified of relocation
- Passports, social security cards, immunization records
- Insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stock and bonds
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)

Store these materials in a convenient location known to all family members.

## 4. FIRST AID CHECKLIST

**This checklist can be used to assemble a basic first aid kit.  
Prepare a first aid kit for your home and a smaller one for each car.**

- First Aid Manual
  
- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves (2 pairs)
- Sunscreen
- Tweezers
- Moistened towelettes
- Thermometer
- 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- Triangular bandages (3)
- 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- Scissors
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Needle
- Medicine Dropper
- Antiseptic
- Tongue blades (2)
  
- Non-prescription drugs
- Aspirin or non aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for stomach)
- Laxative
- Activated charcoal (used when advised by Poison Control)

## 5. WINTER HOME CHECKLIST

- Develop the home's disaster preparedness plan.
- Prepare your home for winter cold temperatures and high winds.
- Define where to meet and a plan for a severe snow storm or blizzard.
- Define a plan for a power outage, light, heat, water.

### **How to dress**

Wear loose-fitting, light-weight, warm clothing in several layers. Trapped air insulates. Clothing layers can be removed to avoid perspiration and subsequent chilling. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent, and hooded. Wear a hat. Half of the body heat loss can be lost from the head. Mittens are better than gloves. Cover the mouth to protect lungs from extreme cold.

- Clear gutters
- Repair roofs
- Cut away tree branches that could fall in a blizzard or ice storm
- Install storm windows
- Cover windows with plastic
- Caulk windows
- Seal door jams with weather stripping
- Insulate pipes
- Assure ample fuel supply
- Close off unneeded parts of the house
- Prepare an alternative heating source (fireplace, extra wood, kerosene heater)
- Locate main water valve
- Locate main power switch
  
- Equip car with items from the "**2. Car Checklist**"
  
- Meet with your neighbors and offer contact phone numbers for an emergency. Check on elderly and shut in neighbors and be sure they have adequate heating. Offer to bring in supplies when roads are icy.
  
- Assure animals and livestock have unimpeded access to shelter, food and water
  
- During a winter storm Warning or Watch, stay inside, stay informed
- Keep alert for changing conditions and danger

For more winter safety tips, visit the Winter Safety Awareness campaign on the Ohio EMA web site at: [www.ema.ohio.gov/Weather.htm](http://www.ema.ohio.gov/Weather.htm)

