



# KENOSHA COUNTY GUIDE TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

September 2008

Dear Neighbors,

*Kenosha County has recently experienced natural and man-made disasters that required the preparedness and response efforts of the entire community to avoid serious injuries and a lengthy disruption of services. In 2008, our county was ravaged by tornadoes in January, snowstorms, record snowfalls, and record flooding. Although recent chemical spills have been easily contained, it is not unlikely that a transportation hazmat incident would require the evacuation of a large segment of our population. It is easy to be caught off guard, but if your family has an emergency plan in place, you become a part of the response effort, rather than a victim.*

*This **KENOSHA COUNTY GUIDE TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** does not cover every imaginable emergency, but it does offer information and resources to help you plan for most emergency situations. Educate your family today, develop a plan, and make a preparedness kit. Preparedness is a community effort.*

Sincerely,

*Jim Kreuser  
County Executive  
Kenosha County*

# PLAN TO EVACUATE OR SHELTER-IN-PLACE

During a chemical spill/release or hazmat incident, you may be told to evacuate your home or shelter-in-place. Notification to evacuate or shelter-in-place may come via **NOAA All Hazard Weather Radio**, local radio, TV, vehicle loudspeaker and/or door-to-door by law enforcement or a fire department. If you are told to **evacuate**, remain calm and follow all instructions.

Kenosha County Emergency Management, the Kenosha County Department of Human Services, the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other organizations and volunteers may establish and operate community-based shelters for local residents in public schools, recreation centers, or other appropriate facilities. Persons needing shelter are asked to bring blankets, pillows, a change of clothing, bathing and sanitary supplies, pre-filled prescriptions and other medical needs such as dentures, eye care materials and special dietary supplies or requirements. *With the exception of service animals, pets are prohibited from shelters.*

If you are told to **shelter-in-place**, stay indoors and make your environment as isolated as possible from the outdoors. To isolate you and your family from a dangerous outdoor event like a chemical spill follow these guidelines:

- Get family and pets inside;
- Close doors, windows and fireplace damper;
- Turn off air conditioning, fans, heating units, and other vents;
- Go either to an upper or lower interior room with the fewest windows or doors, as directed;
- Wet towels and jam them in the crack under the doors;
- Close blinds, shades, drapes, and stay away from windows;
- If fumes seep into room, breathe through wet cloths held to nose and mouth;
- Remain in the room and listen to your **NOAA All Hazard Weather Radio**, your local radio station or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate.

## MAKE A KIT

- ✓ **Water:** Plan for one gallon of water per person per day. Water should be stored in a cool, dark place with the date on the container.
- ✓ **Food:** Store **three to five days** worth of nonperishable food per person. Foods should require no refrigeration, preparation, or cooking, and little or no water. Include formula for infants and other special dietary needs.
- ✓ **First-Aid Kit:** Assemble a first-aid kit for your home and each vehicle.
- ✓ **Tools and Supplies:** Store the following items for all-around use (remember extra batteries): flashlight, cash (include change) and/or traveler's checks, non-electric can opener, utility knife, small ABC fire extinguisher, battery operated radio, **NOAA All Hazard Weather Radio**, pliers, waterproof matches, signal flares, shut-off wrench for house gas and water, whistle, and plastic sheeting. For sanitation, pack toilet paper, soap, feminine supplies, plastic garbage bags, a plastic bucket, and bleach.
- ✓ **Clothing and Bedding:** Assemble one or two changes of clothing per person, and blankets or sleeping bags.
- ✓ **Important Family Documents:** Store insurance policies, contracts, deeds, passports, stocks and bonds, immunization records, important phone numbers, credit card accounts, social security cards, pet veterinarian records, and other personal family records in a water-tight safe place.
- ✓ **Other Items:** Include medications, specialized items, games/toys, etc.



# DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK IN A POWER OUTAGE!



## WHAT TO DO IN A POWER OUTAGE

You can lose electricity for many reasons. Lightning, high winds, ice and heavy snow, or equipment failure can leave you without power to run your refrigerator, to provide you with light and water, or to operate your home medical equipment. For the most part, electrical service is normally restored within a short period of time. However, major power outages can happen for extended periods of time. When power is lost, you should:

- ✓ **Check to see if your neighbors have power.** The outage may affect only your home; a blown fuse or a tripped circuit may be the culprit. If your neighbors are also without service, call your local power company. Stay inside if possible, but, if you must go outside to assess the situation, take a flashlight and watch for downed power lines that could still be energized. If downed lines are located, don't go near them or touch anything that they may be in contact with. Report downed power lines immediately.
- ✓ **Turn off all major appliances.** When major appliances -- refrigerators, electric water heaters, air conditioners, and pumps -- are left on, they could overload electric lines when power is restored causing a second outage. Leave just a couple of light switches on in the home and the front porch light.
- ✓ **Refrigerators and freezers** can keep food cold enough for a day or two, if the doors are kept closed. During the winter, you may be able to store some items outside in a proper container. If temperatures are below freezing, it's possible to freeze water outside in containers and place them inside your refrigerator to help keep food cold. Try to eat perishable foods first. Some partially frozen foods can be refrozen as long as they contain ice crystals or are no warmer than 40° F. Buy a thermometer for both the refrigerator and freezer. **DON'T** refreeze seafood, poultry, ice cream, cream sauces, or anything that can spoil. **WHEN IN DOUBT.....THROW IT OUT!**

- ✓ **Water systems with electric pumps** will not operate when the power is out. You can use the water in your water heater or water in your pipes for drinking or sanitary purposes until power is restored.
- ✓ **Gas appliances** may not work if the power is off because the equipment may require electricity for ignition or valve operation.
- ✓ **Electric water heaters** that are drained to prevent damage from freezing must also have their power shut off. If not shut off, when power is restored the heating element may be damaged. Never turn on a water heater unless the tank is full.
- ✓ **Plumbing** can freeze when power is lost during cold weather periods. Drain pumps, supply lines, water heaters, boilers, and traps in drains of tubs, sinks, commodes, washing machines, and dishwashers.
- ✓ **Medical equipment** such as respirators, ventilators, oxygen equipment, or other life-sustaining devices should be registered with the power company. Have a back-up generator if possible and a plan to relocate the person to a place that has electricity.
- ✓ **Trees** downed in storms are a major cause of power outages. When trimming tree branches on your property which are close to power lines seek professional help.
- ✓ **Stay Warm!** Choose a single room where the entire family can live, ideally a room which gets sunlight during daylight hours. Use fireplaces and wood-burning stoves with care; make sure the fireplace is in proper working condition and has been inspected before use. Wear layers of clothing to trap warm air and hold body heat for longer periods. If your home is heated with natural gas, keep meters and vents clear of ice and snow. **NEVER** use gas ovens, stovetops or space heaters to heat homes and **NEVER** use charcoal or propane grills inside the home due to the serious threat of fire or poisonous carbon monoxide gas.

## REMEMBER YOUR PETS!



Emergency planning should include all members of the family including your pets. If your family must evacuate and utilize a shelter or other location, only service animals are allowed in shelters. Make sure you take your pet with you to your pre-planned location (family, friends, veterinarian, boarding establishment, etc.) You should have:

- ✓ An airline-approved carrier for each dog, cat or other pet, ID, vaccination records, registrations, special needs list, sufficient medicines and a muzzle or leash.
- ✓ Your pet's favorite food and clean water (depending upon where you are taking your pet).
- ✓ Bowls, can opener, kitchen trash bags, bleach, and waste disposal supplies.
- ✓ Your pet's favorite blanket and toys

For more information on emergency preparedness for pets, call the Humane Society of Wisconsin at (414) 961-0310.

## CHECK ON RELATIVES AND NEIGHBORS

During storms and other emergency events, check to see how your relatives and neighbors are coping, especially senior citizens and persons with disabilities. If possible, consider helping them plan or locate resources from which to obtain assistance. The Kenosha County Department of Human Services' Aging and Disability Services Center can be reached at (262) 697-4500.

## STAY INFORMED!

Getting information during an emergency situation is vital, especially at the height of an event when evacuation may be required. A **NOAA All Hazard Weather Radio**, local radio and television stations provide the quickest means to obtain information. If you have electrical power and cable television, turn to the local stations or The Weather Channel for frequent updates. Also keep a battery-operated radio tuned to a local radio station.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**Emergencies** (Fire/Rescue, Police, Ambulance)

**911**

**Kenosha County Sheriff**

Non-emergency: (262) 605-5100

**Kenosha County Emergency Management**

(262) 605-7900

**Kenosha County Human Services**

(262) 697-4500

**American Red Cross**

(800) 236-8680

**The Salvation Army**

(262) 564-0286

**24 Hour Information & Referral/Crisis Intervention**

(262) 657-7188 or (800) 236-7188

**WE-Energies 24-hour number**

(To report outages and emergencies)

Electrical: (800) 662-4797

Gas leak/emergencies: (800) 261-5325

**Kenosha County Emergency Management**

<http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/admin/emergency/>

**Kenosha County Human Services**

<http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/dhs/>

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