

Macomb Township Fire Department

Fire Safety Tips
September 2008



Emergency Preparedness

September is **National Preparedness Month**. Keeping in the spirit, this month's fire safety tips will be about emergency preparedness. How prepared are you? Take this simple test:

1. Close your eyes right now. Where is the nearest flashlight in your home? Are the batteries fresh?
2. If there is someone in your home with special needs (on oxygen, motorized wheel chair, etc.) do you have a plan if a downed power line causes you to lose power?
3. If for some reason you are separated from your family, does everyone know who the out-of-town contact is? Does everyone keep emergency contact information on their person at all times?
4. If you were forced to evacuate your home immediately and could not return, would you be able to do it? Would you have to run around the home trying to gather important paperwork, medication, clothing, toiletries, food, etc.?
5. Do you have an emergency supply kit that includes ready-to-eat food and water (one gallon per person per day) to last for 3 days?

HOW DID YOU DO?

Some people think it will never happen to them and they never have to prepare. Emergencies happen without warning. If we knew when they will take place, they wouldn't be an emergency.

While we don't have to deal with hurricanes here in Michigan, there are other tragic events that pose problems for us. Natural disasters and human errors can trigger events that knock out electrical power and interrupt gas services. Water main breaks can cause us to be without clean water for days. A hazardous material release event could place us in a position where we would have to evacuate our homes without knowing when, if ever,

Outdoor Warning System Alarm: This alarm is tested on the 1st Saturday of every month at 1:00 PM. Familiarize yourself with the sound of the alarm in your area.

The Macomb Township Fire Department offers Disaster Preparedness Training and information for its residents. Call (586) 286-0027 for more information.

OTHER THINGS TO DO...

Another important thing to do is to make sure that you have been trained in CPR. In an emergency situation, bystanders and victims are often the first on the scene and can offer the first medical treatment. The actions taken in these first few moments can make the difference of life or death. The Macomb Township Fire Department offers free CPR classes every month for residents. Call (586) 286-0030 for more information.



You know your home, situation and needs better than anyone. World events should teach us one important thing – not being prepared can have devastating results. Take preparative action now to help yourself and the ones you love.

REFERENCES



National Fire Protection Association



American Red Cross



Federal Emergency Management Agency



Macomb County Office of Emergency Management



Macomb Township Fire Department
Safe from Fire Initiative