

Town of Eden
Disaster Preparedness Guidelines for
Residents
Version 1.2

Final

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Chapter 1 Objective of the Town of Eden Disaster Preparedness Guidelines for Residents

It is the objective of this guideline to give the residents in the Town of Eden a central location of information to assist them in preparing for different types of Disasters that may occur.

Where Will You or Your Family Be When a Disaster Strikes? You could be anywhere – at work, at school or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe? Emergencies and disasters can strike quickly and without warning and can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services — water, gas, electricity or telephones — were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. You can cope with disaster by preparing in advance and by working with your family as a team.

1. Get informed
2. Make a plan
3. Assemble a Disaster Supply kit
4. Maintain your plan and kit

Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility.

Chapter 2 Four Steps to Preparedness

1. Get Informed

Contact your local emergency management office or local American Red Cross Chapter to gather the information you will need to create a plan.

- a. **Community Hazards:** Ask about the specific hazards that threaten your community (e.g. hurricanes, tornados, and earthquakes) and about your risk from those hazards.)

In 2011, it was determined that for the Town of Eden, hazards that are most likely to affect our area are Power Outages, Fire, Winter and Ice Storms, and potential Tornados.

- b. **Community Disaster Plans:** Learn about community response plans, evacuation plans, and designated emergency shelters. Ask about the emergency plans and procedures that exist in places you and your family spend time such as places of employment, schools, and child

care centers. If you do not own a vehicle or drive, find out in advance what your community's plans are for evacuating those without private transportation.

If an evacuation is needed in the Town of Eden and you are requested to go to an evacuation center, listen to your local news media for specific instructions.

c. Disaster Shelters

Immediately following a large disaster, suitable shelter sites will be selected from a predesignated list based on areas of need and estimated numbers of displaced persons. Each site must be inspected for safety prior to being opened to the public. Therefore, it is not possible to say with advance certainty which sites will actually operate as disaster shelters. As soon as disaster sites have been formally designated, this list will be announced through local media to the public. If it is unsafe to shelter-in-place, and you do not have an alternative, evacuate to a designated emergency shelter.

- Tell your out-of area-contact where you are going.
- Take your Go-bag with you to the shelter.
- Initially, emergency shelters may not be able to provide basic supplies and materials. Consider bringing extra items (e.g. blanket, pillow, air mattress, towel, washcloth, diapers, food and supplies for infants.)
- Provide for your pet, only service animals are allowed in "human" shelters. If you cannot make other plans for your pets, Animal Care and Control staff will be available at "human" shelters to help with pet sheltering needs.

- d. Community Warning Systems Find out how local authorities will warn you of a pending disaster and how they will provide information to you during and after a disaster. Learn about NOAA Weather Radio and its alerting capabilities (www.noaa.gov).

If the Town of Eden is able to notify you of a pending disaster and/or evacuation, every effort to communicate the situation and what to do will be conveyed to residents if possible either by the Town of Eden's Website or in the case of a disaster wide area for the entire Town, the County will be notified and and Reverse 911 will be put in affect to notify residents. This notification is done only through "land lines" to residents. The Eden Central School System does have an emergency calling system to parents who have registered children within the school district, but it only for those registered via the Eden Central School District. Depending on your phone service, (FIOS, Verizon) every effort should be put in place on your part for battery back up. In addition, Phones that are dependent on Time Warner may not work

with a power outage. FIOS has a battery back up that may work for a short while of which the battery should be replaced every four to five years. It is the customer responsibility to replace batteries.

2. Make a Plan

After a major disaster, it is unlikely that emergency response services will be able to immediately respond to everyone's needs, so it's important to be prepared to take care of yourself and your family. Plan to be on your own for at least the first 72 hours.

The following steps will help you prepare for any emergency:

Designate an out-of-area contact person. Try to select someone that is far enough away to not be affected by the same emergency. Provide this person with the names and contact information of the people you want to keep informed of your situation. Instruct family members to call this person and tell them where they are.

Duplicate important documents and keep copies off-site, either in a safety deposit box or with someone you trust. Documents may include: passport, drivers license, social security card, wills, deeds, financial statements, insurance information, marriage license and prescriptions.

Inventory valuables, in writing and with photographs or video. Keep copies of this information off-site with your other important documents.

Make a household/family plan. Involve all key people in planning.

Make your home safe.

Put together a disaster supply kit. Plan to have supplies for yourself and your family for at least 3 days following a disaster.

When planning, consider the special needs of children, seniors or people with disabilities, family members that don't speak English and pets.

3. Assemble a Disaster Supply Kit

After a major disaster the usual services we take for granted, such as running water, refrigeration, and telephones, may be unavailable. Experts recommend that you should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least three days. Store your household disaster kit in an easily accessible location. Put contents in a large, watertight container (e.g. a large plastic garbage can with a lid and wheels) that you can move easily.

Your basic emergency kit should include:

- Water – one gallon per person per day
- Food – ready to eat or requiring minimal water
- Battery Operated Radio
- Extra Cash on Hand as ATM may not be available or working
- Manual can opener and other cooking supplies
- Pocket Knife or Leather Man Tool

- Flat Blade and Philip Screw Driver
- Plates, utensils and other feeding supplies
- First Aid kit & instructions
- A copy of important documents & phone numbers
- Warm clothes and rain gear for each family member.
- Heavy work gloves
- Disposable camera
- Unscented liquid household bleach and an eyedropper for water purification
- Personal hygiene items including toilet paper, feminine supplies, hand sanitizer and soap
- Plastic sheeting, duct tape and utility knife for covering broken windows
- Tools such as a crowbar, hammer & nails, staple gun, adjustable wrench and bungee cords.
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Large heavy duty plastic bags and a plastic bucket for waste and sanitation
- Any special-needs items for children, seniors or people with disabilities. Don't forget water and supplies for your pets.

A component of your disaster kit is your Go-bag. Put the following items together in a backpack or another easy to carry container in case you must evacuate quickly. Prepare one Go-bag for each family member and make sure each has an I.D. tag. You may not be at home when an emergency strikes so keep some additional supplies in your car and at work, considering what you would need for your immediate safety.

- Flashlight
- Radio – battery operated
- Batteries
- Whistle
- Dust mask
- Pocket knife or Leather Man Tool
- Flat Blade and Philip Screwdriver
- Emergency cash in small denominations (ATM may not work)
- Sturdy shoes, a change of clothes, and a warm hat
- Local map
- Some water and food
- Permanent marker, paper and tape
- Photos of family members and pets for re-identification purposes
- List of emergency point-of -contact phone numbers
- List of allergies to any drug (especially antibiotics) or food
- Copy of health insurance and identification cards
- Extra prescription eye glasses, hearing aid or other vital personal items
- Prescription medications and first aid supplies
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Extra keys to your house and vehicle

- Any special-needs items for children, seniors or people with disabilities. Don't forget to make a Go-bag for your pets

4. Maintain your Plan

Quiz: Review your plan every six months and quiz your family about what to do.

Drill: Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills on a regular basis with your family. **Restock:** Check food supplies for expiration dates and discard, or replace stored water and food every six months. **Test:** Read the indicator on your fire extinguisher(s) and follow the manufacturer's instructions to recharge. Test your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors monthly and change the batteries at least every 6 months. Replace the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detector units every 5 years.

Chapter 3 Tips for the Household/Family

Talk with your family about potential disasters and why it's necessary to prepare for them. Involve each member of your family in the planning process. By showing them simple steps that can increase their safety, you can help reduce their anxiety about emergencies.

1. Make sure everyone knows where to find your disaster supply kit and Go-bags.
2. Have a flashlight and a pair of shoes under everyone's bed in case there is a power outage during the night. Use a plastic bag tied to the leg of the bed to keep these items from moving during an earthquake.
3. Plan where to meet after a disaster if your home becomes unsafe. Choose two places, one just outside your home and one outside your neighborhood in case you are told to evacuate. Be sure your gas tank is always at least half full.
4. Determine the best escape routes from your home. Try to identify two escape routes.
5. Make sure each member knows who your family's out-of-state contact is and instruct them to call this person and tell him/her where they are.
6. Locate the gas main and other utilities and make sure family members know when and how to turn them off.
7. Practice your evacuation routes, Drop, Cover & Hold and Stop, Drop & Roll drills.
8. Teach each member of your family how to use a fire extinguisher.
9. Create emergency response cards for each of your family members.
10. Take into account the special needs of children, seniors or people with disabilities, family members that don't speak English and pets.

Home Safety

During a disaster, ordinary objects in your home can cause injury or damage. However, there are simple steps you can take to make your home safer. Start by

viewing each room with a “disaster eye” and identify potential hazards – bookshelves that could tip over in an earthquake and block exits or heavy objects that could fall and cause injury.

- Install smoke & carbon monoxide detectors on each level of your home and change batteries every 6 months and replace the actual units of the smoke & carbon monoxide every 5 years.
- Move beds away from windows.
- Move mirrors and heavy pictures away from couches or places where people sit.
- Clear hallways and exits for easy evacuation.
- Store heavy items on the lowest shelves.
- Keep an ABC type fire extinguishers on each level and know how and when to use them.
- Strap down your water heater and fit all gas appliances with a flexible gas supply line. Check with your local building code on proper method.
- Store flammable or highly reactive chemicals (such as bleach, ammonia, paint thinners) securely and separate from each other.
- Secure pictures and wall hangings and use restraints to secure heavy items such as bookcases and file cabinets.
- Know how and when to switch off your utilities.
- Ensure that all window safety bars have emergency releases.
- Be sure your home number is visible from the street so emergency vehicles can find you as per Town of Eden Local Code.

Chapter 4 Tips for the Children

- Include your children in family discussions and planning for emergency safety.
- Teach your children their basic personal information so they can identify themselves and get help if they become separated from a parent or guardian.
- Prepare an emergency card with information for each child, including his/her full name, address, phone number, parent’s work number and out of state contact.
- Know the policies of the school or daycare center your children attend. Make plans to have someone pick them up if you are unable to get to them.
- Regularly update your child’s school with current emergency contact information and persons authorized to pick up your child from school.
- Make sure each child knows the family’s alternate meeting sites if you are separated in a disaster and cannot return to your home.
- Make sure each child knows how to reach your family’s out-of-state contact person.
- Teach children to dial their home telephone number and Emergency 9-1-1.
- Teach children what gas smells like and advise them to tell an adult if they smell gas after an emergency.

- Warn children never to touch wires on poles or lying on the ground.
- Role-play with children to help them remain calm in emergencies and to practice basic emergency responses such as evacuation routes, Drop, Cover & Hold and Stop, Drop & Roll.
- Role-play with children as to what they should do if a parent is suddenly sick or injured.
- Role-play with children on what to say when calling Emergency 9-1-1.

Chapter 4 Tips for the Seniors & Disabled

- **Set up a Personal Support Network:** Designate someone to check on you in an emergency and to help with evacuation or sheltering-in-place.
- **Prepare and carry with you an emergency health information card:** This will help you to communicate if you are found unconscious or incoherent. Include information about your medications, adaptive equipment, blood type, allergies and sensitivities, insurance numbers, immunization dates, communication difficulties and preferred treatment, as well as contact information for your health providers, personal support network and emergency contacts.
- **Personal Care Assistance:** If you receive assistance from a home healthcare agency or in-home support provider, find out how the provider will respond in an emergency. Designate backup or alternative providers that you can contact in an emergency.
- **For Persons Using a Wheelchair:** Plan for how you will evacuate in an emergency and discuss it with your care providers. If you use a motorized wheelchair, have a manual wheelchair as a backup.
- **For Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired:** Keep an extra cane by your bed. Attach a whistle; in case you need to attract attention. Exercise caution when moving, paths may have become obstructed.
- **For Persons who are Hearing Impaired:** Keep extra batteries for your hearing aids with emergency supplies. Consider storing your hearing aids in a container attached to your nightstand or bedpost, so you can locate them quickly after a disaster.
- **For persons with Communication Disabilities:** Store paper, writing materials, copies of a word or letter board and preprinted key phrases in your emergency kit, your wallet, purse, etc.

Chapter 5 Tips for the Pets

- Keep a collar, current license and up-to date ID tags on your pet at all times. Consider having your pet micro-chipped.
- Make sure your pet is comfortable being in a crate, box, cage, or carrier for transport.

- Keep an updated list of trusted neighbors who could assist your animals in case of an emergency.
- Tighten and secure latches on birdcages. Fasten down aquariums on low stands or tables.

Chapter 6 Utilities

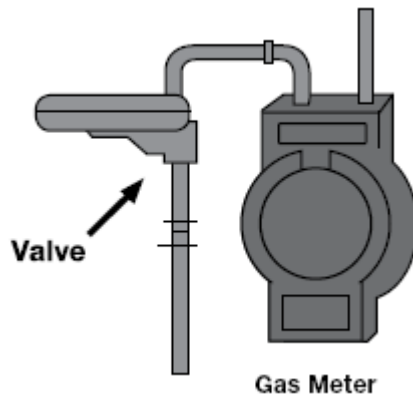
Natural Gas | Electricity | Water | Sewer Service | Telephone

Natural gas leaks can cause an explosive and flammable atmosphere inside a building.

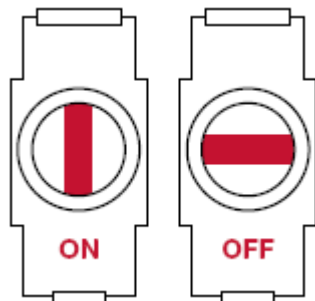
Gas

Natural gas leaks can cause fires and explosions inside a building.

- If you smell gas, hear gas escaping, see a broken gas line, or if you suspect a leak, shut off the main valve and open all windows and doors.
- Never use candles or matches if you suspect a leak. Do not turn on electrical switches or appliances.
- Identify the main shutoff valve, located on the gas line coming into the main gas meter. This is usually on the exterior of your home or building, or in an external closet. Your main valve may look like this:



- To turn gas off, give the valve a quarter turn in either direction. When the lever crosses the direction of the pipe (see below) the gas is off.



- Keep a crescent wrench or gas shut-off tool nearby to turn the lever.
- Never attempt to turn your gas back on. Wait for your utility company to do it. This may take several days.

Electricity

Electrocution can result from direct contact with live wires or anything that has been energized by these wires.

- Locate your main electric switch, which is normally in the garage, outdoors or basement. The panel box may have a flip switch or pull handle on a large circuit breaker.
- Shut off electricity when:
 - Arcing or burning occurs in electrical devices.
 - There is a fire or significant water leak.
 - You smell burning insulation.
 - The area around switches or plugs is blackened and/ or hot to the touch.
 - A complete power loss is accompanied by the smell of burning material.

Water

Water leaks can cause property damage and create an electrocution hazard.

- After a major earthquake, shut off your water supply to protect the water in your house. Cracked pipes may allow contaminants into the water supply in your home.
- The water shutoff is usually located in the basement, garage or where the water line enters the home. The water shutoff is located on a riser pipe and is usually a red or yellow wheel. Turn wheel clockwise to shut off.

Sewer Service

A disaster that disrupts all or part of the Town's water and/or sewer lines could affect the way you deal with human waste.

- If there is no water in your toilet, but the sewer lines are intact, pour 3-5 gallons of water into the toilet bowl to flush. You may use seawater, bath, and laundry or pool water.
- If you suspect damage to your home's water lines, do NOT flush the toilet. Turn off water at the house so contaminated water does not enter your water system.

- If sewer lines are broken, line bowl with double-bagged garbage bags to collect waste. Before discarding, add a small amount of bleach; then seal the bag and place in a tightly covered container, away from people.
- If the toilet is unusable, use a sturdy bucket with a tight fitting lid, and line it with a double-bagged plastic garbage bag.

Telephones

- Check each telephone to see if it is still on the hook. Hang up any phones that have been knocked off the hook. Wait a few minutes, and then pick up one phone to listen for a dial tone to know whether you have working telephone service.
- Telephones that are dependent on Cable and/or FIOS may not work during a power outage. Be prepared with a backup plan to re-establish a communication connection.
- If you do not have a dial tone, try unplugging all the telephones. Plug in one at a time and listen for dial tone. This will help you determine if the telephone instrument is broken or the phone service is completely out.
- If the event affected only your home (no others in your neighborhood), contact the telephone company using a cellular telephone or a neighbor's phone to report the problem and to request repair services.

Chapter 7 Food and Water

Food

When a disaster occurs, you might not have access to food, water and electricity for days, or even weeks. Store enough emergency food to provide for your family for at least 3 days.

- Store food items that are familiar, rather than buying special emergency food. Consider any dietary restrictions and preferences you may have.
- Ideal foods are: Shelf-stable (no refrigeration required), low in salt, and do not require cooking (e.g. canned fruit, vegetables, peanut butter, jam, low-salt crackers, cookies, cereals, nuts, dried fruit, canned soup or meats, juices and non-fat dry milk).
- Mark a rotation date on any food container that does not already have an expiration date on the package.
- Include baby food and formula or other diet items for infants or seniors.
- Store the food in airtight, pest-resistant containers in a cool, dark place.

- Most canned foods can safely be stored for at least 18 months. Low acid foods like meat products, fruits or vegetables will normally last at least 2 years. Use dry products, like boxed cereal, crackers, cookies, dried milk or dried fruit within six months.
- After a power outage, refrigerated food will stay cold longer if you keep the door closed. Food should generally be consumed within 4 hours. Food in the freezer will normally remain safe for 2 days.

Water

In a disaster, water supplies may be cut off or contaminated. Store enough water for everyone in your family to last **for at least 3 days**.

- Store one gallon of water per person, per day. Three gallons per person per day will give you enough to drink and for limited cooking and personal hygiene. Remember to plan for pets.

If you store tap water:

- Tap water from a municipal water system can be safely stored without additional treatment.
- Store water in food grade plastic containers, such as clean 2-liter soft drink bottles. Heavy duty, reusable plastic water containers are also available at sporting goods stores. Empty milk bottles are not recommended because their lids do not seal well and bottles may develop leaks.
- Label and store in a cool, dark place.
- Replace water at least once every six months.

If you buy commercially bottled “spring” or “drinking” water:

- Keep water in its original container, and don't re-store a bottle once it's been opened.
- Store in a cool, dark place.
- If bottles are not marked with the manufacturer's expiration date, label with the date and replace bottles at least once per year.

Treating Water after Disaster:

If you run out of stored drinking water, strain and treat water from your water heater or the toilet reservoir tank (except if you use toilet tank cleaners). Swimming pool or spa water should not be consumed but you can use it for flushing toilets or washing.

Treatment Process:

Strain any large particles of dirt by pouring the water through layers of paper towels or clean cloth. Next, purify the water one of two ways:

- **Boil** – bring to a rolling boil and maintain for 3-5 minutes. After the water cools, pour it back and forth between two clean containers to add oxygen back; this will improve its taste.
- **Disinfect** – If the water is clear, add 8 drops (1/8 teaspoon) of bleach per gallon of water. If it is cloudy, add 16 drops (1/4 teaspoon) per gallon. Make sure you are using regular bleach— 5.25% percent sodium hypochlorite— rather than the “ultra” or “color safe” bleaches. Shake or stir, then let stand 30 minutes. A slight chlorine taste and smell is normal.

Chapter 8 First Aid

In any emergency, you or a family member may be cut, burned or suffer other injuries. Keep the following basic first aid supplies so you are prepared to help when someone is hurt.

- Two pairs of disposable gloves
- Sterile dressings to stop bleeding
- Cleansing agent/soap and antibiotic towelettes to disinfect
- Antibiotic ointment to prevent infection
- Burn ointment
- Adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes
- Eye wash solution to flush the eyes or as general decontaminant
- Scissors
- Over-the-counter medicines such as Aspirin or other pain reliever, laxative, anti-diarrhea medication
- Prescription medications you take every day such as insulin, heart medicine, or asthma inhaler
- Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose monitoring equipment or blood pressure monitoring.

If Disaster Strikes and you are instructed to take shelter immediately, do so at once If you are instructed to evacuate

- Listen to the radio or television for the location of emergency shelters and for other instructions from local emergency officials
- . Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Take your disaster supplies kit.
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities and don't use shortcuts because certain areas may be impassable or dangerous.

After a disaster

- Administer first aid and get help for seriously injured people.

- If the emergency occurs while you are at home, check for damage using a flashlight. Do not light matches or candles or turn on electrical switches.
- Check for fires, electrical, and other household hazards. Spilled bleaches, gasoline, and other liquids may produce deadly fumes when chemicals mix, or be a fire hazard. Contact your local fire department for information on how to clean up spilled chemicals.
- Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, and get everyone outside quickly.
- Shut off any damaged utilities.
- Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.

Chapter 9 Disaster Specific Scenarios

Power Outage

Power cuts can occur due to rolling blackouts, extreme weather conditions, or can accompany other disasters such as earthquakes. If there is no power in your neighborhood:

- Turn off and unplug appliances and computers. Leave one light on to indicate when power has been restored. When power comes back on, surges or spikes can damage equipment.
- Avoid using candles, as they are fire hazards.
- Do not use a gas stove for heating or operate generators indoors (including the garage.) Both could cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- If a traffic signal is not working, treat it as a stop sign.
- See the Food section below to learn about food safety when your refrigerator's power is off.
- Keep a non-cordless telephone in your home. It is likely to work even when the power is out.
- Keep your car's gas tank full.
- Since power outages are common in the Town of Eden during storms, backup generators are recommended.
- **Using generators safely_** When using a portable generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a portable generator to a home's electrical system.
- If you are considering getting a generator, get advice from a professional, such as an electrician. Make sure that the generator you purchase is rated for the power that you think you will need.
- **Caution: Carbon Monoxide Kills_** Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Locate

unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.

- If you are in need of life support during a power outage please ensure you have completed a “Needs Assessment ” form distributed from the Disaster Preparedness Committee and also may be located on the Town of Eden’s website at <http://www.edenny.org/emergencyform5.html>

Fire

The most effective way to protect yourself and your home from fire is to identify and remove fire hazards. Sixty-five percent of home fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarms. During a home fire, working smoke alarms and a fire escape plan that has been practiced regularly can save lives.

- Install smoke alarms & carbon monoxide on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test them every month and replace the batteries at least once a year and replace the units every 5 years.
- Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Talk with all household members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.

If your smoke alarm goes off or you see a fire:

- Remain calm and get out.
- If you see smoke under the door, find another way out.
- Feel the door with the back of your hand before you open it. If it is hot, find another way out.
- Drop to the floor to avoid smoke and fumes. Crawl to safety.
- If your clothes catch on fire, STOP where you are, DROP to the ground and ROLL over and over to smother the flames.
- Call 9-1-1 from a safe location. Stay on the line until the operator hangs up.
- If you are trapped in a burning building, stay near a window and close to the floor. If possible, signal for help.
- Do not go back inside the building unless instructed that it is safe to do so.

Earthquake

If you are indoors when shaking starts:

- “DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON.” If you are not near a strong table or desk, drop to the floor against an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Avoid windows, hanging objects, mirrors, tall furniture, large appliances and cabinets filled with heavy objects.
- Do not try to run out of the structure during strong shaking.
- If you are downtown, it is safer to remain inside a building after an earthquake unless there is a fire or gas leak. There are no open areas in downtown Eden far enough from glass or other falling debris to be considered safe refuge sites. Glass from high-rise buildings such as that are located in downtown Buffalo do not always fall straight down; it can catch a wind current and travel great distances.
- If you are in bed, stay there and cover your head with a pillow.
- Do not use elevators.
- If you use a wheelchair, lock the wheels and cover your head.

If you are outdoors when shaking starts:

- Move to a clear area if you can safely walk. Avoid power lines, buildings and trees.
- If you're driving, pull to the side of the road and stop. Avoid stopping under overhead hazards

Once the earthquake shaking stops:

- Check the people around you for injuries; provide first aid. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger.
- Check around you for dangerous conditions, such as fires, downed power lines and structure damage.
- If you have fire extinguishers and are trained to use them, put out small fires immediately.
- Turn off the gas only if you smell gas.
- Check your phones to be sure they have not shaken off the hook and are tying up a line.
- Inspect your home for damage.

If you are trapped in debris:

- Move as little as possible so that you don't kick up dust. Cover your nose and mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.
- Tap on a pipe or wall so that rescuers can hear where you are. Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort.

Storm / Flooding

Severe storms can cause landslides, flooding, uprooted trees, and downed utility lines..

- Tune to radio and/or local TV channels for emergency advisories and instructions.
- If water has entered a garage or basement, do not walk through it – it may contain hazardous materials.
- Do not try to drive over a flooded road. If your car stalls, abandon it immediately. Attempting to move a stalled vehicle in flood conditions can be fatal.
- If you are asked to leave your property, disconnect all electrical appliances.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you must walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Stay clear of water that is in contact with downed power lines.
- Do not allow children to play around high water, storm drains or any flooded areas.
- If you are asked to leave your property, shut off electric circuits. If advised by your local utility, shut off gas service as well.

Tornadoes

Before a Tornado

- To begin preparing, you should [build an emergency kit](#) and make a [family communications plan](#).
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information. In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- Look for the following danger signs:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large hail
 - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
 - If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

During a Tornado:

If you are in: A structure (e.g. residence, small building, school, nursing home, hospital, factory, shopping center, high-rise building)

Then:

- Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- Do not open windows.

If you are in: A vehicle, trailer, or mobile home

Then: Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.

If you are in: The outside with no shelter

Then:

- Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

After a Tornado

Injury may result from the direct impact of a tornado or it may occur afterward when people walk among debris and enter damaged buildings. A study of injuries after a tornado in Marion, Illinois, showed that 50 percent of the tornado-related injuries were suffered during rescue attempts, cleanup and other post-tornado activities. Nearly a third of the injuries resulted from stepping on nails. Because tornadoes often damage power lines, gas lines or electrical systems, there is a risk of fire, electrocution or an explosion. Protecting yourself and your family requires promptly treating any injuries suffered during the storm and using extreme care to avoid further hazards.

Injuries

Check for injuries. Do not attempt to move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Get medical assistance immediately. If someone has stopped breathing, begin CPR if you are trained to do so. Stop a bleeding injury by applying direct pressure to the wound. Have any puncture wound evaluated by a physician. If you are trapped, try to attract attention to your location.

General Safety Precautions

Here are some safety precautions that could help you avoid injury after a tornado:

- Continue to monitor your battery-powered radio or television for emergency information.
- Be careful when entering any structure that has been damaged.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves and gloves when handling or walking on or near debris.
- Be aware of hazards from exposed nails and broken glass.
- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines. Report electrical hazards to the police and the utility company.
- Use battery-powered lanterns, if possible, rather than candles to light homes without electrical power. If you use candles, make sure they are in safe holders away from curtains, paper, wood or other flammable items. Never leave a candle burning when you are out of the room.
- Never use generators, pressure washers, grills, camp stoves or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside your home, basement, garage or camper - or even outside near an open window, door or vent. Carbon monoxide (CO) - an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death if you breathe it - from these sources can build up in your home, garage or camper and poison the people and animals inside. Seek prompt medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed or nauseated.
- Hang up displaced telephone receivers that may have been knocked off by the tornado, but stay off the telephone, except to report an emergency.
- Cooperate fully with public safety officials.
- Respond to requests for volunteer assistance by police, fire fighters, emergency management and relief organizations, but do not go into damaged areas unless assistance has been requested. Your presence could hamper relief efforts and you could endanger yourself.

Inspecting the Damage

- After a tornado, be aware of possible structural, electrical or gas-leak hazards in your home. Contact your local city or county building inspectors for information on structural safety codes and standards. They may also offer suggestions on finding a qualified contractor to do work for you.
- In general, if you suspect any damage to your home, shut off electrical power, natural gas and propane tanks to avoid fire, electrocution or explosions.

- If it is dark when you are inspecting your home, use a flashlight rather than a candle or torch to avoid the risk of fire or explosion in a damaged home.
- If you see frayed wiring or sparks, or if there is an odor of something burning, you should immediately shut off the electrical system at the main circuit breaker if you have not done so already.
- If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open all windows and leave the house immediately. Notify the gas company, the police or fire departments, or State Fire Marshal's office and do not turn on the lights, light matches, smoke or do anything that could cause a spark. Do not return to your house until you are told it is safe to do so.

Safety During Clean Up

- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves and gloves.
- Learn proper safety procedures and operating instructions before operating any gas-powered or electric-powered saws or tools.
- Clean up spilled medicines, drugs, flammable liquids and other potentially hazardous materials.

Terrorism

Terrorism may involve devastating acts using weapons of mass destruction. These weapons range from chemical agents, biological hazards, a radiological or nuclear device, and other explosives. The primary objective of a terrorist is to create widespread fear.

Be Responsible:

- Be aware of your surroundings. Note the location of emergency exits, pay phones, fire alarms and fire extinguishers.
- Report suspicious objects, vehicles or persons to public safety authorities.

If There Is a Terrorist Attack or Threat:

- Stay calm.
- Be vigilant. Look out for secondary hazards such as falling debris, suspicious packages or persons. Report any concerns to public safety authorities.
- Follow the instructions of emergency service personnel.
- Avoid spreading rumors – confirm information with a credible source.

Contagious Disease

Contagious Disease Emergencies

A contagious disease emergency could affect many people. It could cause mild illness, hospitalization, or death in rare cases. In the event of an infectious disease

emergency, the Erie County Department of Public Health will provide up-to-date information and instructions to the public through media and public outreach sources.

To find out how to prepare yourself and your family for a contagious disease emergency, visit the Erie County Department of Public Health's at <http://www2.erie.gov> site.

Immediate risk:

If you smell gas, smoke or see fire or otherwise fear for your safety, evacuate household occupants immediately. From a safe location, call 9-1-1 and report the incident.

General evacuation orders:

If local officials issue evacuation orders, use the evacuation routes and methods specified; carpool whenever possible. If time allows:

- Wear sturdy shoes, long-sleeve shirts and pants.
- Bring car keys, credit cards, road maps, cell phone, charger and important phone numbers.
- Bring your Go-bag.
- If you have a pet, make sure it is wearing a collar, bring it in a pet carrier labeled with your name and the pet's name. Bring your pet's Go-bag.
- Lock your home and shut off the water and electricity, but leave gas on unless instructed otherwise.
- Leave a note or tell a neighbor where you are going.

Once you arrive at a safe location, call your out-of-area emergency contact.

Shelter-in-Place

One of the instructions you may be given in an emergency is to shelter-in-place. This means you should stay indoors until authorities tell you it is safe or you are told to evacuate.

- Select a small, interior room, with no or few windows.
- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems. Close the fireplace damper.
- Bring your family disaster supply kit and make sure the radio is working.
- Bring your pets.
- It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room you select (cellular telephone equipment may be overwhelmed or damaged during an emergency)
- Use duct tape and plastic sheeting (heavier than food wrap) to seal all cracks around the door and any vents into the room.
- Listen to your radio or television for further instructions or updates.
- If you are in your car, close windows and turn off vents and air conditioning.

