

# ***ARE YOU PREPARED WALDO?***

A Waldo County Emergency Management campaign to help Residents be Better Prepared

## **What types of disasters happen in our County?**

- Winter Storms (Blizzards and Ice Storms)
- Flooding
- Severe Summer Storms and Hurricanes
- Hazardous Materials releases
- Forest Fires
- Large Scale, long-term power outages

## **What does it take to be prepared for a disaster?**

- Keep Informed
- Know What to do
- Have a Family Communications Plan
- Keep Disaster Supplies on Hand

## **What do you really need to be prepared for?**

- Extended Power Outages, especially in winter
- Impassable Roads (trees, wires, snow, and washouts)
- High Winds
- Toxic Chemical Fumes

## **What can I do when the power is out?**

Residents should be prepared to take care of themselves for at least 7 days.

- When I lose power, do I have an alternate and safe way of heating my home? Be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning!
- If not, plan before the next storm to have a place to go – family, friends, hotel, etc.
- Know how to drain your plumbing so you do not have freeze up and damages.
- Have a hard wired telephone in your home – cordless phones won't work without power.
- Store extra drinking water before you lose power. At least 1 gallon per person per day.
- When you know a storm is coming, fill the bath tub with water – this can be used for flushing toilets. (Childproof as necessary).
- Have portable lights with spare batteries.
- Listen for emergency information on a battery operated or hand-crank radio.
- Check up on your neighbors!

## **What else should I do?**

- Stay home when roads are bad.
- Secure your property and outdoor stuff when high winds are expected.
- Stay indoors, close windows and doors and shut off air conditioners/exchangers if there is a chemical release in your area.
- Try to have extra medication or medical oxygen on hand.
- Keep a well stocked first aid kit on hand.

## **Protect your Important Records**

Use a bank lock box or a fireproof container to safeguard your most important documents. These may include deeds, wills, titles, marriage certificates, insurance policies, passports, SSA cards, immunization records, bank records, etc. Consider saving these documents in scanned electronic formats somewhere else.

## **How do I keep informed?**

- Have a battery operated AM/FM radio
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio
- Call 211 for shelter information or other type of assistance
- Call 911 for emergency assistance
- Contact your Town Office or Fire Station. They are the closest when you need help.
- Wireless Emergency Alert (see next page)

Even if you have called to see if a shelter has been opened and one hadn't at the time you called, call again later. The situation may have changed.

## **What is a Family Communications Plan?**

A Family Communications Plan is your way of reaching your family in an emergency. All family members should know all the ways of contacting one another. Also, have a contact person outside the area you can relay information to – many times long distance service is still working even when local lines are jammed.

## Shelters

**Overnight shelters** are operated by the American Red Cross (ARC). Call 211 to find out if there are any open. Potential ARC shelters include:

- Troy Howard Middle School, Belfast
- Mount View School Complex, Thorndike
- Lincolnville Central School, Lincolnville

Town governments may also open and staff **Warming Centers**. These are normally only open during business hours. People do not normally sleep here. They are available as a place to get warm during the day. Some may also offer meals, water, showers and other amenities. Contact your Town Office or Fire Station to find out if your Town has opened a Warming Center.

## Personal Damages

If your home has received major damages or has been flooded during a disaster there are some actions you should take.

- Take plenty of pictures before any repairs to your home are made.
- Keep all receipts for damage repairs.
- Have signed contracts with repair companies.
- Contact your Insurance company.
- Let the Emergency Management community know! We can work a Presidential Declaration, but we need your damage reports. You can do this in several ways:
  - Call your Town Office and pass the information to the Town EMA Director.
  - Call the County EMA office (338-3870), or
  - Call 211, a service provided by the United Way of Maine.

We can't promise funding is on its way, but if we are able to get a Presidential declaration, federal assistance may be provided. There may also be assistance provided by charitable Volunteer Organizations.

## WEA System

The WEA or Wireless Emergency Alert system is the Federal alert system that allows emergency managers to send short text message alerts to your cell phone. Waldo County EMA has this capability and will send out alerts, as needed, to warn the public and provide emergency directions.

## Street Address Markings

It is vital that you maintain a highly visible street address. The fire department, ambulance service and law enforcement will need it in order to know where to go. Not having a visible street address displayed at the roadside can delay their response.

## For More Information

If you want more information, before, during or after a storm, you can contact the Waldo County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). Our normal business hours are 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Address: 4 Public Safety Way, Belfast, ME 04915

Bus. Phone: (207) 338-3870

Website: <http://www.waldocountyme.gov/ema/>

E-Mail: [emadirector@waldocountyme.gov](mailto:emadirector@waldocountyme.gov)

During a storm the EMA office may have extended hours, but the entire office staff may also be out of the office if they are responding to an emergency call. Please call back! If it's an emergency, call 911!

# Be Ready!