



LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP

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Emergency Preparedness: Start Planning Now for What You Can't Prevent *September Is National Preparedness Month*

September is National Preparedness Month, and this year's theme, "Plan Now, Work Together, and Be Ready," serves as a reminder that we can all take measures to protect our loved ones, our homes, and our communities.

Lower Providence Township has an emergency management coordinator who works closely with county officials and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to prepare for and reduce the risk of natural and manmade disasters. But, the reality is that emergency preparedness really begins at home - your home.

That's why we are encouraging you and your family to take a few minutes and log onto ReadyPA.org, a website developed by the state. In addition, the Township's [Emergency Preparedness Guide](#) offers information specific to Township residents.

ReadyPA asks every Pennsylvanian to take three steps to safety: Be informed, be prepared, and be involved.

The first step - be informed - encourages you to learn about the threats facing our area. Pennsylvania is prone to a wide variety of disasters, including floods, fires, snow, wind, tropical storms, and hazardous material spills. While you can't prevent these events, you can get informed, which will empower you to make better decisions to protect your family.

The next step - be prepared - encourages you to create a home emergency kit, which will allow your family to survive on its own for at least three days. As past disasters have shown, emergency responders can get quickly overwhelmed with calls and simply can't reach all victims at the same time. Therefore, gathering essentials, including food and water, should be a priority.

Recommended supplies for a basic emergency kit include:

- Water for drinking and sanitation - one gallon per person per day for three days. (Don't forget to include water for pets, too.)
- Food - at least a three-day supply of nonperishable items.
- Cash - if there is no electricity, ATMs won't be working.
- Other essentials - these include a crank or battery-powered radio, a flashlight, extra batteries, moist towelettes, a manual can opener, prescription medications, infant formula and diapers, pet supplies, and important documents.

Start Planning Now for What You Can't Prevent

Once you've organized these necessities, you might want to include a few fun things, too, such as toys for children and pets, travel-size family games, and a deck of cards. A smaller emergency kit should also be kept in each vehicle in case you are ordered to evacuate during work hours or are stranded in your car.

It's also a good idea to develop a plan in case your family gets separated when a disaster strikes. How and where will your family check in with each other and be reunited? Free family plan templates and emergency kit checklists are available at ReadyPA.org. The website also features information on preparing for a disaster when you have pets and loved ones with special needs.

The final step - be involved - encourages you to join such organizations as the Pennsylvania Citizen Corps, a cluster of volunteer programs that promote safer communities, and SERV PA, an online registry for medical and nonmedical volunteers. (More information about these programs and others is also available at the ReadyPA website.)

Storms and other emergencies are often unpredictable, but being prepared is one thing all of us - individuals, townships, and states - can control. As anyone who has lived through a disaster will tell you, preparedness is priceless, and National Preparedness Month is a great time for you to take matters into your own hands.