

PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER

TALBOT COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER?

By: Clay B. Stamp, Talbot DES Director

Greetings. It has certainly been an active emergency preparedness year so far in Talbot County. 2011 began with a severe cold snap prompting recommendations to be given to the public to take precautionary actions to reduce their exposure to the cold weather. Then moving into spring and early summer we faced unusually high tides which caused flooding in our more vulnerable areas of the County, with the summer being capped off with an earthquake and the passing of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. I am sure you might join me in hoping for a quiet end to 2011.

In reviewing the year to date, we can certainly see the importance of being prepared for the effects of severe weather. So you might ask yourself, how do I prepare?

Successful Preparedness Efforts Require Staying in Touch

First and foremost in order to be prepared you must "Stay in Touch." This means plugging in to various ways to keep up to date

on what is happening. Whether it is by monitoring information from Talbot County Emergency Services, the National Weather Service, the Talbot County Health Department, and/or others, it is by staying in touch you will be one step ahead when it comes to providing for the safety of you and your family.

NOAA Weather Alert Radio

Buy a NOAA Weather Alert Radio to receive alerts for severe

The placement of a NOAA Weather Radio is similar to putting a smoke detector in your home. Whether it is during the day or in the middle of the night, when a threatening situation develops you will be alerted so you can take appropriate actions.

Register for Connect CTY and Monitor our Web Site

Talbot County DES utilizes a mass notification system to provide urgent messaging to phones, cell phones, email, and through voice and text messaging. You can sign up for this service by going to www.talbotdes.org and clicking on the appropriate link.

In addition to these tools Talbot DES utilizes a number of other mechanisms to communicate warnings to the public. These other means of communication can be viewed on our web site at www.talbotdes.org, and finally, you can follow Talbot County Emergency Services on Facebook and Twitter where we post significant happenings as well as post warnings.

AS WE MOVE INTO THE WINTER SEASON

STAY IN TOUCH

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PREPARE YOUR HOME

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PREPARE YOUR CAR

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STOCK UP ON EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

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CHECK ON THE WELFARE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS

weather as well as other local emergencies 24 hours per day.

Winter Weather Tips:

In order to prepare for severe winter weather; which could include severe cold temperatures, ice, snow, wind, blizzards, and flooding conditions, below are listed some tips for your use.

In your home: In your home be sure to keep at least one week's worth of food and drinking water, have your prescriptions filled, and maintain battery powered lanterns and flashlights as well as a cell phone with an extra charged battery. If you use a portable gas heater it is critical you ensure it is properly vented. If you begin to experience difficulty or have an emergency call 9-1-1 for assistance.

Additional information about personal preparedness can be accessed at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/preparedness/>

In your car: If you must travel, be sure to let someone know where you are going and the route you will be taking. Make sure the car is full of gas and that you have blankets, water, with snacks in the vehicle. Remember to bring a cell phone and call 9-1-1 immediately if you become lost or stranded. If you are stuck in the snow make sure your exhaust pipe is clear from the snow while the car is running. Finally, if you become stranded stay with the vehicle and use a bright colored

piece of cloth tied to a high point on the vehicle to signal responders that you are in need of help.

Personal Protection: It is important to limit the time you remain outdoors in severe cold and freezing conditions. This is especially true for the elderly and the very young. Be sure to dress appropriately for cold conditions. If you begin to experience numbness or tingling in your extremities, seek warm shelter immediately. Finally, be sure to take the opportunity to check on your neighbors, especially the elderly to ensure that they are safe.

In closing, if we can be of assistance or provide any additional information please do not hesitate to contact us at 410-770-8160, or if you have an emergency call 9-1-1.

Thank you and let's hope for a safe winter.