

Ogemaw County

911/Emergency Management

Points of Interest

- National Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 6-11th
- West Branch Area NOAA frequency is 162.450MHz

911 Board

- **Greg Clark**
911 Director
- **Carol Adair**
911 Supervisor
- **Ray Hollingsworth**
Goodar Township
- **Michelle Williams**
Recording Secretary
- **Tim Reetz**
City of Rose City
- **Lance Vervoort**
Mills Township
- **Karen McIntyre**
Foster Township
- **John Clark**
Churchill Township
- **Howie Hanft**
Ogemaw Sheriff
- **Jeff Anthony**
State Police
- **Jim Clark**
Ogemaw Fire Dept.
- **Shirley Buck**
Ogemaw EMS
- **Bill Nelson**
Citizens
- **Todd Thompson**
City of West Branch

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2008

Spring Time Severe Weather Watches & Warnings

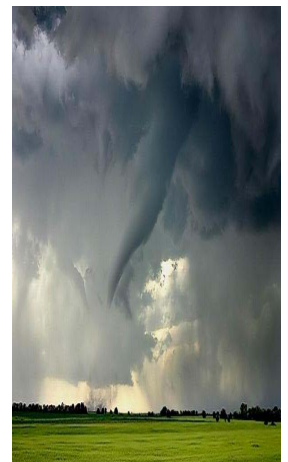
Do you know the difference between a Severe Weather Watch and a Warning?

WATCH: A Severe Weather Watch is issued to alert people to the possibilities of the *development* of severe weather in their area.

WARNING: A Severe Weather Warning is issued when severe weather has *actually been sighted* or is indicated by radar.

Tornado Fact Or Fiction

- **Shelter**
 - *Fiction:* Areas near rivers, lakes, and mountains are safe from tornados.
 - *Fact:* No place is safe from tornados.
- **Windows**
 - *Fiction:* Windows should be opened before a tornado approaches to equalize pressure and minimize damage.
 - *Fact:* Opening windows allows damaging winds to enter the structure. Leave the windows alone; instead immediately go to a safe place.
- **Tornado Visibility**
 - *Fiction:* Tornadoes are always visible from a great distance.
 - *Fact:* Tornadoes can be hidden in heavy rainfall or nearby low hanging clouds.



Lightning & Thunderstorms

No Place Outside Is Safe Near a Thunderstorm!

The '**30-30 Rule**' Offers The Best Lightning Safety Guidance For The General Public. When You See Lightning, Count The Time Until You Hear Thunder. If That Is **30 Seconds** Or Less, The Thunderstorm Is Close Enough to Be Dangerous , Seek Shelter (if you can't see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back-up rule). Wait **30 Minutes** Or More After The Lightning Flash Before Leaving Shelter.

A House Or Other Fully Enclosed Substantially Constructed Building, Offers Your Best Protection Against Lightning ("substantially constructed" means it has wiring and plumbing). But Stay Away From Telephones, Electrical Appliances, And Plumbing. Don't Watch Lightning From Windows Or Doorways.



2007 Tornado Outbreak in Genesee County

**The deadliest
Michigan tornado
on record
occurred
June 8, 1953 &
rated an F5.**

**It moved across
Genesee and
Lapeer counties.**

*source: National Weather
Service*



Preparedness Kit For Your Home

An emergency may require the immediate evacuation of your home. The following items should be assembled and placed into a small portable container (backpack or duffel bag) readily accessible so that it can be grabbed as you flee your home.

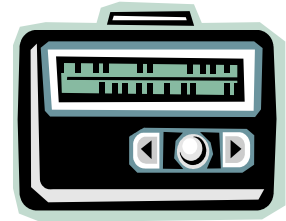
Your supply kit should include:

- A small battery powered radio and extra batteries
- A flashlight with extra batteries
- A small amount of cash, change, and credit card
- An extra set of house and auto keys
- Critical family documents in a portable, fireproof container:
 - Social Security Cards
 - Insurance Policies
 - Wills
 - Deeds
 - Savings and Checking Account Numbers
 - Birth and Marriage Certificates
 - Inventory of household property and assets
 - Extra pair of glasses if needed

Preparedness Kit For Your Car

Keep your car equipped with emergency supplies. Never allow the gas tank to drop below half full. If warnings of an impending emergency are being broadcast, fill up. Gas stations may be affected by the emergency and unable to be used. Keep the following items stored in a portable container:

- A small battery powered radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Cellular Phone
- Blanket
- Jumper Cables
- Fire Extinguisher
- Maps
- Shovel
- Flares
- Bottled Water
- Tire Repair Kit and Pump
- Nonperishable, high energy foods, such as granola bars, canned nuts, and trail mix



Severe Weather Safety Tips

Each season review with your family the area in the home that is designed as the shelter, and practice having everyone in the family go there in response to various threats, such as tornado, fire, and floods..

Discuss with your family the difference between a “Watch” and a “Warning”.

Develop an emergency communication plan in case family members are separated from one another during a disaster (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.

Training Your Child To Call 911

Ogemaw County’s Central Dispatch cares about their community and in educating your children.

If you would like to arrange to have your child call 9-1-1 for real, as part of your training program, please call our dispatch center, 989-345-9911 and inform the dispatcher you are teaching your child about 9-1-1.

In doing so, your child will understand their role and prepare them for real emergencies.

***In 2007,
Michigan
experienced 22
Tornadoes &
Nearly 150
Million Dollars
in Damages.***

Kid's Korner

*Once you have
a plan,
remember to
follow it.*



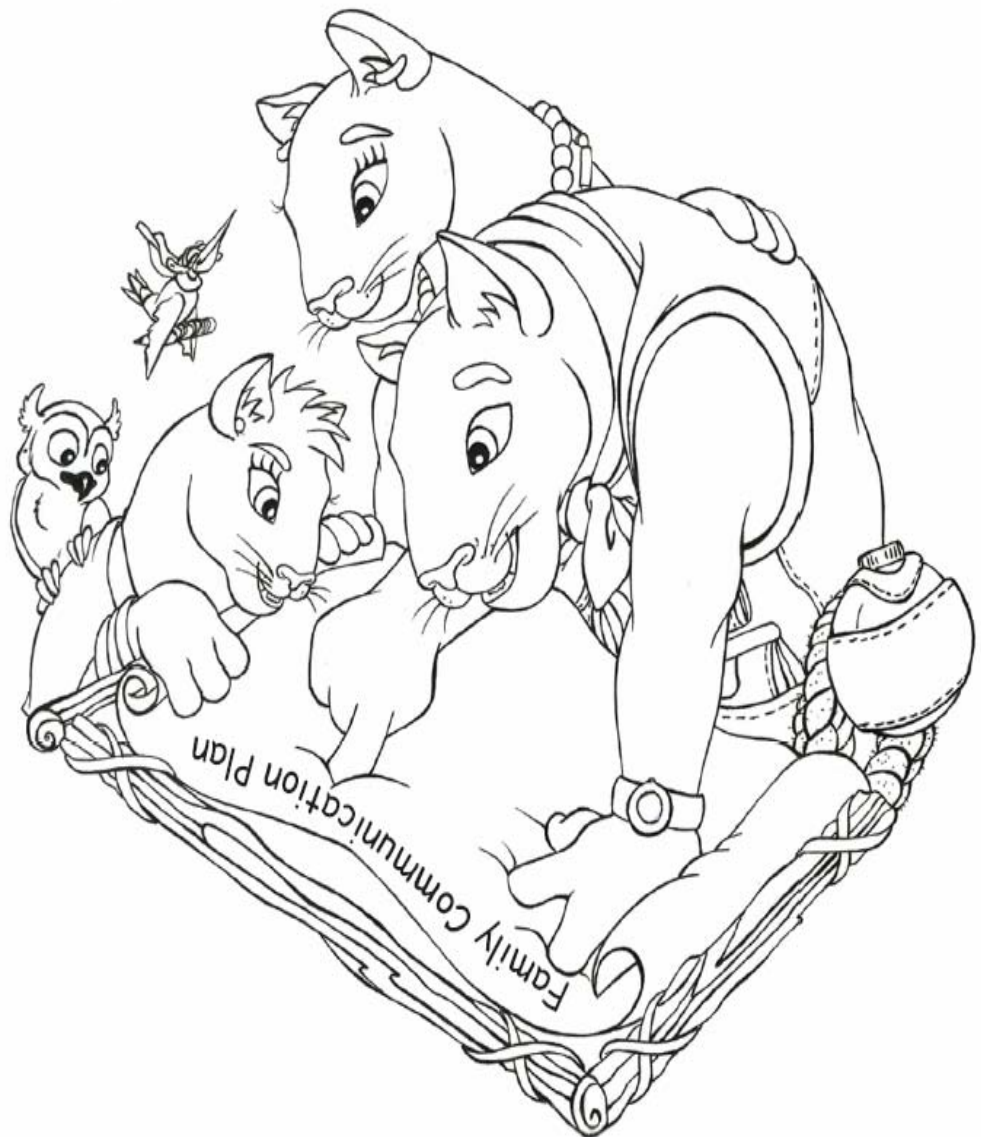
READY KIDS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

COLORING PAGES

*ReadyKids,
Prepare your
child for every
situation.*

*Visit Ogemaw
County's 911
website for
more
information on
how to prepare
your family.*



Kid's Korner



READY KIDS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WORD SEARCH

L E A F B E H S C Y L C D Q O
 C A R D A O C U Q F T I P I Q
 T S E J Q M G P I R N K D N F
 U F N P X F I P Q P L A H K J
 A B O W Z J W L E N R D Z U B
 M G H R W W G Y Y J E A B A C
 A V P O G A U K B P O T C N W
 F K L A H W H I H N L K S J L
 Y I P U Z E M T K U P A E I N
 M E E T I N G P L A C E N N L
 B M J Y D O S L C Y T E F A S
 G U J C A L M K M L O L K J C
 E N O D L S W K E H F N L T L
 H C H P V Q E J M I Q S L J S
 A F Q S Z Q K N L V M O T X N



Words To Find:

- BACKPACK
- CALM
- FAMILY PLAN
- LISTEN
- MEETING PLACE
- PHONE
- RADIO
- SAFETY
- SUPPLY KIT

Preparing Individuals with Special Needs

If you or someone close to you has a disability or a special need, you may have to take additional steps to protect yourself and your family in an emergency.

| Disability/Special Need | Additional Steps |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Visually impaired | May be extremely reluctant to leave familiar surroundings when the request for evacuation comes from a stranger. A guide dog could become confused or disoriented in a disaster. People who are blind or partially sighted may have to depend on others to lead them, as well as their dog, to safety during a disaster. |
| Hearing impaired | May need to make special arrangements to receive warnings. |
| Mobility impaired | May need special assistance to get to a shelter. |
| Single working parent | May need help to plan for disasters and emergencies. |
| Non-English speaking persons | May need assistance planning for and responding to emergencies. Community and cultural groups may be able to help keep people informed. |
| People without vehicles | May need to make arrangements for transportation. |
| People with special dietary needs | Should take special precautions to have an adequate emergency food supply. |
| People with medical conditions | Should know the location and availability of more than one facility if dependent on a dialysis machine or other life-sustaining equipment or treatment. |
| People with mental retardation | May need help responding to emergencies and getting to a shelter. |
| People with dementia | Should be registered in the Alzheimer's Association Safe Return Program |

***Receive Emergency Notifications! ***

Join Ogemaw County's Emergency Management Email List.

Contact Greg Clark at
gclark@ogemawcountymi.gov

Pet Survival Kit

A pet survival kit for your pet should include:

- Identification collar and rabies tag
- Carrier or cage
- Leash
- Any medication
- Newspaper and plastic bags for handling waste
- At least two weeks supply of food, water, and food bowls

Pets should not be left behind. If you have no other choice but to leave your pet at home, place your pet in a safe area inside your home with plenty of water and food. Never leave your pets chained outside.

Preparing Your Pet For An Unprepared Evacuation

You may not be home when an evacuation order comes.

Find out if a trusted neighbor would be willing to take your pets and meet you at a prearranged location. This person should be comfortable with your pets, know where your animals are likely to be, know where your pet disaster supplies kit is kept, and have a key to your home. If you use a pet sitting service, they may be available to help, but discuss the possibility well in advance.

Planning and preparation will enable you to evacuate with your pets quickly and safely. But bear in mind that animals react differently under stress. Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed. Transport cats in carriers. Don't leave animals unattended anywhere they can run off. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, bite or scratch. And, when you return home, give your pets time to settle back into their routines. Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

Source: American Red Cross

Michigan averages 16 tornadoes a year.



Michigan tornadoes mostly occur in April, May, June, and July between 3-7pm.

**OGEMAW COUNTY
911/EMERGENCY
MGMT**

Ogemaw County
911/Emergency Management
205 S. Eighth Street
West Branch, MI 48661

Phone: 989-345-9911
Fax: 989-345-5942
Email: 911@ogemawcountymi.gov

www.ogemawcountymi.gov

Ogemaw County

Ogemaw County 911/Central Dispatch Mission Statement

To positively enhance the lives of people living in and traveling through our communities by processing and dispatching emergency and non-emergency calls for assistance, while at the same time, providing primary critical support to all area emergency service agencies by compiling, maintaining, and providing essential information to assist their response to these calls for emergency service.

Courtesy • Professionalism • Efficiency • Accuracy

Join the Ogemaw County Emergency Management E-Mail List

Emergency Management officials can now, within minutes, send a single Emergency Alert to the public via e-mail.

These alerts can notify you of pending severe weather, community emergencies or other vital information that needs to get into your hands immediately to help protect yourself and your family

If you would like to join the Ogemaw County's Emergency Email List, please send your contact information (*Name, Township, Email Address*) to Greg Clark, Ogemaw County's Emergency Management Director, at gclark@ogemawcountymi.gov.

Web Pages Of Interest

Ogemaw County 911, www.ogemawcountymi.gov/911

Ogemaw County Emergency Management, www.ogemawcountymi.gov/emergency

The Weather Channel, www.weather.com

Tornado Project, www.tornadoproject.com

National Weather Service, www.nws.noaa.gov

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, www.fema.gov

Tornado Safety, www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/tornados.html

American Red Cross, www.redcross.org

Pets 911, <http://www.pets911.com>

Ready Kids, www.ready.gov/kids/home.html

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