



Helping you protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors

HOMEfront

BATTLE CREEK'S EMERGENCY SERVICES NEWSLETTER / www.bcesmi.org

ISSUE NO 2. SEPTEMBER / 2014



Calender of Events

- **SEPTEMBER 5 FROM 6-10PM***
- **SEPTEMBER 6 FROM 9-5PM***
- **SEPTEMBER 13 FROM 9-5PM***
*CERT training

- **September 20th**
Run by the River
Approx. time is 11:30 am at Bailey Park.

- **September 26th**
KCC Drive Thru Clinic
Approx. time is 8:00 am to 11 am
downtown Battle Creek.

- **September 27th**
Dig Em Dash
Approx. time is 8:00 am at
Kellogg Community College.

- **October 4-5**
**National Safety Weekend event
at Sears**
Specific details to follow please check
www.bcesmi.org.

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- **October 31**
Halloween Candy Cheek
Specific details to follow please check
www.bcesmi.org.

Is Your Family Ready?

**SEPTEMBER
IS NATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS
MONTH**



In this newsletter we will focus on How To reconnect with your family after a disaster. Make sure your family has a family emergency communication plan. Know How To plan for specific needs before a disaster and How to... Build an Emergency Kit.



*Hispanic American family discuss
their emergency plan.*

Make a Plan

Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance: how you will get to a safe place; how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations.

You should also inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, daycare and school, faith organizations, sports events and commuting. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one. Talk to community leaders, your colleagues, neighbors and members of faith or civic organizations about how you can work together in the event of an emergency. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance.



EMERGENCY SERVICES PROFILE OF THE MONTH!

Steve Combs

Primary responsibility is Battle Creek Community Response Team Coordinator

News and Updates:

New Battle Creek CERT Class Graduated



On 09/13/2014 Battle Creek Emergency Services held the final class

for Community Emergency Response Team; Basic Training (GS-317). This was the final day of 20 hour class of instruction. During this day a practice drill was conducted with current senior members of Battle Creek CERT helping new members use their new skills during a simulated disaster.

Battle Creek Emergency Services would like to congratulate the new members and we look forward to seeing you during our future events.

New Battle Creek CERT Members

1. Gary Converse
2. Jayne Converse
3. Frank Danku
4. Janet Fortner
5. Michael Green
6. Ian Hyndman
7. John Hyndman
8. Gail Mahnke
9. Leona Parrish
10. T. Warrior

New Monthly Meeting Time for October 8th

On 10/8/2014 Battle Creek SAR & CERT will combine both meetings. The new starting time for both is 6 pm. We hope to see you there!

Battle Creek CERT was awarded for participation in the fire at Lakeview Meadows.



Cereal City Sunrise Rotary Club awards Battle Creek CERT for participation in

the events related to the fire at Lakeview Meadows. Awards were also given to the Battle Creek Police and Fire department as well as other emergency agencies involved in the incident.

Thanks to everyone for an outstanding job throughout all of fire related events we participated in.



Family discuss emergency preparedness.

Plan for Your Risks

There are actions that should be taken before, during and after an event that are unique to each hazard. Identify the hazards

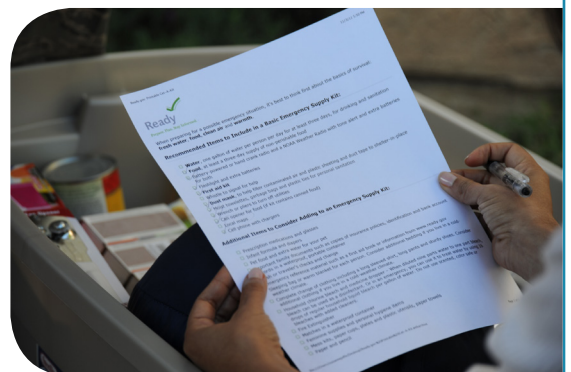
that have happened or could happen in your area and plan for the unique actions for each. Local Emergency management offices can help identify the hazards in your area and outline the local plans and recommendations for each. Share the hazard-specific information with family members and include pertinent materials in your family disaster plan.

Find out from local government emergency management how you will be notified for each kind of disasters, both natural and man-made. You should also inquire about alert and warning systems for workplace, schools and other locations. Methods of getting your attention vary from community to community. One common method is to broadcast via emergency radio and TV broadcasts. You might hear a special siren, or get a telephone call, or in rare circumstances, volunteers and emergency workers may go door-to-door.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger



A person filling out an emergency kit checklist.





A couple load their emergency kit on their patio.

Once you have gathered the supplies for a basic emergency kit, you may want to consider adding the following items:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container.
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted, nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.



Tornado

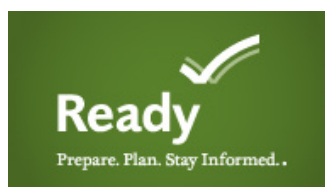


Winter Storm

- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



Emergency preparedness kits are easy to make.



Our Mission:

To provide Battle Creek residents, businesses and industries, non-profit organizations, and local governments the education and support necessary to reduce the loss of life and human suffering; to minimize property damage; and to protect environmental sensitive areas from all types of disasters through a comprehensive, risk-based, all-hazard emergency management program.

Battle Creek Emergency Services is dedicated to protecting lives, property, environment and the economy of its citizens through preparedness and mitigation activities, respond in an effective manner to emergencies and disaster, and coordinate and participate in the recovery effort as a result of such events. It is the responsibility of Battle Creek Emergency Services to coordinate the task of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery as effectively as possible.



Websites that we recommend you explore

■ Nixle

<http://www.nixle.com>

■ Ready.gov

www.ready.gov

■ FEMA

<http://www.fema.gov>

■ MI Train

<https://mi.train.org>

■ Michigan Volunteer Registry

www.mivolunteerregistry.org

■ Do 1 Thing

www.dol1thing.com

■ Battle Creek Emergency Services

www.bcesmi.org

Peanut's Tip of the Month!



September is National Preparedness Month and one thing that is often overlooked is the family pet. After Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) put together an action plan that included the family pet and required local governments to do the same. What you do today can save your pets life and make it easier for your pet should a disaster happen.

First of all understand that if a disaster happens, you do not need to leave your pets behind but also understand that you and your pets may be separated temporarily until it is safe to be reunited. Some public shelters do not allow pets but other plans are in place to keep your pets safe. With that in mind, here are some tips for your family.

1. If your pet is not use to being in a confined place such as a crate/cage, take time to train them to accept being in one. Your pet may be housed temporarily and transported in crates out of harms way. By doing so you can allow your pet to be less stressed in a stressful environment.
2. Pack a emergency bug out bag for your pet. In that bag include:
 - a) Extra leash and collar with tags on them that include an emergency back up number of someone not in the same area as you.
 - b) Copy of vaccinations
 - c) A week worth of food
 - d) Treats
 - e) Any medication your pet may need
 - f) A toy depending on your pet
1. Talk to a relative or friend that lives outside of your town and make a plan so they would be willing to take your pet should something happen.
2. Update your pet's Microchip information. You should able to contact your vet or shelter if you do not know your pets brand of microchip. Also make sure you include an emergency contact of your friend that would be willing to accept your pet for you if you should get separated.

Pets are as much a part of our families as our human families are. Check out the following links for even more information of preparing for the worst.

<http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/disaster-preparedness>
<http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals>
<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/pets>

Want To Volunteer?

Visit our website and sign-up today!

www.bcesmi.org

Total Number of Volunteer Hours for this month!

Number of Volunteer Hours Text Here

Amount of money saved the community



Hello Peanut

I find myself holding my breath as I watch this black and orange blur running across the field. Is it too soon for starting this leg of the work? Am I pushing her training too fast? Is she meant to do this? Can she do this? I feel my heart starting to pound as I see her suddenly snap back around and start working a scent she just picked up.

Who is that black and orange blur? That would be Peanut my 3 year old Pit mix that I train for Search and Rescue/Recovery work. Who am I? My name is Cindy Coffman and I'm the President of SMERT-SAR and Peanut's owner, trainer and handler. Today's



task is grim but a necessary part of the work, learning to recover a body. A dogs nose smells so much more then we ever can imagine. I've watched that dog track a person (which is her primary specialty) on an hour old trail in winds of 20 MPH through an open farmer's field over a mile and an half, without any issues at all. I could barely keep my breath let alone smell anything at all. By training a dog's nose to search for certain scents and a dog being able to move in areas we can't, it makes searching areas a lot faster and saying they are clear of what you are searching for a lot more accurate when someone's life is at stake.

I watch and slowly start making my way across the field waiting for some sort of indication that she found something. Sure enough I see her start scratching at the tube of scent I tossed into the tall weeds and I rush in to give her the command "SIT". She instantly sits and out pops her toy, a fuzzy purple tube that she's come to love, and we play a good game of tug while I tell her what a great dog she is. No the run wasn't clean, no it wasn't perfect, but for starting this training only 2 months ago I was impressed. The work is not done, so I pick up Peanut's toy and give her the command "SEARCH" to get back to work. Off she goes and I follow behind waiting for her next find.

Peanut

Age: 3 years old

Breed: Pit Mix

Background: Rescued from the side of a road as a puppy

Likes:

- Cuddles
- Kids
- Kisses
- Games
- Swimming

Dislikes:

- Baths
- Cold weather
- Running out of treats
- Sitting in the dirt

