



Mason County Division of Emergency Management

BE INFORMED

Mason County residents may be impacted by several types of hazards during a lifetime. We travel more than ever before; to areas impacted by hazards you may not be at risk of near your home. Knowing what to do before, during and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

Some of the basic protective actions are similar for multiple hazards. For example, safety is necessary when experiencing all hazards, whether this means sheltering or evacuating depends on the specific emergency. Developing a family communications plan or making an emergency supply kit are the same for accidental emergencies, natural disasters and also terrorism. However, there are important differences among potential emergencies that should impact the decisions you make and the actions you take.

Use the links on this page to learn about the potential emergencies that can happen where you live and the appropriate ways to respond to them. When you know what to do, you can plan with your household and prepare in advance to be ready. These links also provide information about how to protect your household and begin recovery following the initial disaster.

Learning what to do in different situations and developing and customizing your plans for your local hazards, the locations frequented by members of your household and the specific needs of household members including animals will help you reduce the impact of disasters and may save lives and prevent injuries.

Natural Disasters – Natural disasters such as flood, fire, earthquake and windstorm affect thousands of people every year. You should know what your risks are and prepare to protect yourself, your family and community. For more information see <http://www.ready.gov/natural-disasters>

Pandemic – You can prepare for an influenza pandemic now. You should know both the magnitude of what can happen during a pandemic outbreak and what actions you can take to help lessen the impact of an influenza pandemic on you and your family. For more information see <http://www.ready.gov/pandemic>

Home Fires – Each year more than 2,500 people die and 12,600 are injured in home fires in the United States, with direct property loss due to home fires estimated at \$7.3 billion annually. Home fires can be prevented! For more information see <http://www.ready.gov/home-fires>

Technological and Accidental Hazards – Technological and Accidental Hazards include technological hazards such as nuclear power plant failures and hazardous materials incidents. Usually, little or no warning precedes these disasters. Learn what actions to include in your family disaster plan to prepare for and respond to such incidents. For more information see <http://www.ready.gov/accidental-emergencies>

Terrorist Hazards – Recent technological advances and ongoing political unrest are components of the increased risk to national security. Learn what actions to include in your family disaster plan to prepare for and respond to terrorist threats. For more information see <http://www.ready.gov/terrorism>

Options for Protection – Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the first important decision is whether you stay where you are or evacuate. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. For more information see <http://www.ready.gov/protection-options>

Recovering from Disaster – Recovering from a disaster is usually a gradual process. Safety is a primary issue, as are mental and physical well-being. If assistance is available, knowing how to access it makes the process faster and less stressful. For more information see <http://www.ready.gov/recovering-disaster>