

Checklist for an emergency supplies kit:

Prepare your emergency supplies kit in advance by collecting the following items and placing them in an easy to carry case or bag. Place the bag in your pre-designated shelter room.

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio with spare batteries
- Several gallons of bottled water.
- Towel for sealing off the bottom of the door
- Non-perishable food
- First aid kit
- Extra clothes and bedding
- Prescription medications
- Any other necessities.



Remember: A three minute solid siren tone indicates a shelter in place situation.



What NOT to do:

- Do not go to your child's school. They have plans in place and will be handling the situation. Your arrival will only impede the process.
- Do not repeatedly call 9-1-1. Only call for emergency service if you have an emergency.
- Do not seal off the whole house or office building; there will not be enough time to do so.
- Do not leave your shelter until given the "all clear" by authorities or until the time expires for the weather warning.
- Do not risk your life for your pets. If you can not get them into the shelter, go into the shelter without them.

For more information on Emergency Sirens, please contact:

**St. Clair County
Office of Homeland Security and
Emergency Management**

200 Grand River Ave
Ste 204

Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone: 810-989-6965

Fax: 810-989-6908

http://www.stclaircounty.org/Offices/emerg_mngmt/Default.aspx



When the Siren Sounds



Information to Keep You
and Your Family Safe
When You Hear an
Emergency Siren

What does a siren sound like and what should I do if I hear one?

Emergency sirens are used to warn the surrounding area of hazardous situations including severe weather and hazardous materials incidents. A three minute solid siren tone indicates a hazardous situation. Upon hearing this tone, residents should take cover in a nearby building and tune in to a local radio station.

The most accurate information will be provided by the following radio stations:

WSAQ 107.1
WGRT 102.3

When will the siren be activated?

1. **Chemical Release:** If the air is unsafe due to an incident involving hazardous chemicals or radiation, local authorities may advise you to shelter in place to limit your exposure to the hazard.
2. **Severe Weather:** In the case of a tornado, or other weather-related hazard, shelter in place precautions should be taken.

What is sheltering in place?

Sheltering in place means to take cover in the safe room of a building, due to severe air or weather conditions or public health emergencies. Sheltering-in-place requires an individual to be ready to stay in the room for an extended period of time and to make prior arrangements to ensure safety within the room.

Preparing for the Siren

- ✓ Pre-select a safe room: Choose a room that has the fewest doors, windows and openings, has a water source and a hard-wired phone connection.
- ✓ Prepare an emergency supplies kit.
- ✓ Hold drills to practice.



What should you do when the siren sounds?

If you are at home:

- Remain indoors if instructed to do so by authorities.
- Lock the exterior doors and windows and close all the drapes and curtains.
- Quickly collect your emergency supplies kit, family and pets and go to your pre-selected room.
- Turn on the radio or TV to listen for updates.

If you are outside:

- Seek shelter in a building. If there are no nearby buildings, then shelter in your car. Staying outside will only increase your exposure to the hazard.

Testing

The emergency sirens in St. Clair County are tested at 1pm on the last Friday of every month. If you hear the siren sound during this time, tune into your local radio station to ensure that an actual emergency has not occurred.

Hazardous Materials Release:

Where to go: Find an interior room without windows that is above ground level. Some chemicals are heavier than air and may seep into basement areas.

Actions to Take:

- Turn off the air conditioning, close fireplace dampers, vents and/or fans.
- Place a towel (preferably wet) under the door.

Severe Weather:

Where to go:

Find an interior lower-level room without windows (preferably in a basement).

Actions to take:

- If in a mobile home, seek shelter elsewhere such as a neighbor or friends house or a nearby public building.
- Provide additional protection by covering your head and neck with pillows, mattresses, or cushions.

When is it safe to come out of the shelter?

Hazardous Materials Release:

Authorities will announce an “all clear” message over an emergency broadcast system, such as over the radio.

Severe Weather:

Wait to exit your shelter until the time period for the severe weather warning has expired. For instance, if a tornado warning is declared until 4:00pm, stay in the shelter until that time has passed.