
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Emergency Preparedness Month

Staying prepared in Northern Michigan

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department and Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance (NMPHA) are encouraging our northern Michigan communities to prepare for emergencies. This month helps to highlight taking small steps to make a big difference in individual and community preparedness. When residents take steps to prepare for disasters and keep their families safe, every neighborhood and community is more resilient.

“Northern Michigan has seen their fair share of disasters in recent years from ice events wiping out power grids to intensifying storms and flooding” says Dan Thorell, Health Officer for Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. “These events may continue in the future, and it is important to stay prepared and have a plan.”

Plan ahead by:

- Making a plan for your household, including your pets, so that you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what you will need to protect yourselves during a disaster. Consider the unique risks of where you live and learn your evacuation routes so you can leave safely.
- Staying informed. Sign up for your community’s warning system and other emergency alerts to be able to get information quickly.
- Building a kit. Gathering supplies over time can help manage costs of preparedness items instead of all at once when a disaster hits. Some of these items may be in your home already like a first aid kit and canned food.

Older adults can face increased risk when it comes to emergencies or weather events. Older adults can be at a higher risk if they live alone, have lower income, or have a disability. Individuals who have electricity dependent medical equipment may also be at a higher risk.

Our communities should be ready to respond to an infectious disease outbreak, natural disaster, or chemical releases. To learn more about how you can be prepared, visit: www.Ready.gov.

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