

# CLAY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Monthly Newsletter

ARE YOU  
PREPARED?

## Preparing for Winter Weather

The Missouri Department of Public Safety and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) observe Winter Weather Preparedness Week on November 15-19.

During this week community partners join together to raise awareness for the winter months ahead. One of the main objectives is to create a family emergency plan and kit for your home.

Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power.

Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Remember the needs of your pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.

### Winter Weather Preparedness Week is

**Nov. 15 – 19**

Missouri Department of Public Safety - SEMA

#### CREATE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN AND AN EMERGENCY KIT.

Emergency supplies should include bottled water, canned and dry foods, battery-powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries, manual can opener and a first-aid kit. When power outages are possible, charge cell phones and other devices in advance so you are able to communicate if power is lost.

Include a blanket, radio with spare batteries, snacks or energy-type food, jumper cables, flares, shovel and sand or shingles to give tires traction.

#### ASSEMBLE A SEPARATE VEHICLE WINTER EMERGENCY KIT.

#### AVOID DRIVING WHENEVER POSSIBLE WHEN CONDITIONS ARE POOR.

Postpone travel if possible. If driving is necessary, make sure an emergency kit is in the vehicle, that your gas tank is full. Allow extra time, expect delays, reduce speed and increase following distance. Always drive based on conditions, NOT the posted speed limit.

Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from heating equipment. Never overload extension cords or electrical outlets. Space heaters should never be used in place of a primary heating system.

#### REMEMBER SPACE HEATERS ARE DANGEROUS AND POTENTIALLY DEADLY WHEN MISUSED.

#### KNOW THE RISKS OF EXPOSURE TO COLD TEMPERATURES.

Protect against frostbite and hypothermia by wearing warm, loose-fitting clothing in several layers. Avoid alcohol, limit time spent outdoors in frigid temperatures and stay indoors, if possible.





# VETERANS DAY 2021

It was an honor to see Sheriff Will Akin recognize our EM Specialist Colonel Dan Reece USAF (Retired) during the Veterans Day appreciation ceremony this morning.

The question was asked to the group if they often felt unsure or uneasy on how to respond when people thank them for their service. Dan responded "I tell them, they were worth it."

This speaks volumes to the character of Dan and his continued service to our country and the citizens of Clay County.



## Be prepared for winter driving

Get a maintenance check-up. Keep a winter driving survival kit in your vehicle.

WINTER DRIVING SURVIVAL KIT

## Stay Safe During Winter Weather

- Stay off roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, then stay inside.
- Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow.

Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers and toes.

- Signs: Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, firm or waxy skin.
- Actions: Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.



Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

- Signs: Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech or drowsiness.
- Actions: Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

NO WIND

The Science of Wind Chill

WINDY

98.6°F  
Average temperature of the human body

When people lose heat through convection – there's still a layer of heat between our skin and our cold surroundings.

95°F  
Hypothermia begins when our body temperature drops two to four degrees

But when it's windy, the moving air breaks up this insulating layer. It speeds up heat loss by whisking away the warmth from our skin.

Heat is moved away from our bodies.

weather.gov/winter



# CLAY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LIAISON MEETING - NOVEMBER 2021

On November 10th our Clay County Emergency Managers met face-to-face for the first time in over eighteen months. It was a great time to introduce the new members of our Clay County Emergency Management team and the new faces throughout the county.

A brief summary of plans and projects for 2022 were discussed as well as suggestions on how the CCSOEM can assist our partner agencies and communities; training, exercises, workshops.



Director Evans and Planner Poelzl spent a few hours with Fourth Graders at Briarcliff elementary school to discuss preparing for natural disasters. The students were beginning the unit on natural disasters and wanted to learn what we do in emergency management to prepare and mitigate risks locally. The students had great questions and we were excited to work with them on building and exercising emergency preparedness plans and kits.

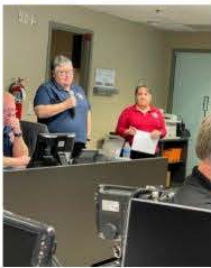


Director Evans was invited to speak with the residents of Liberty at Shoal Creek Luxury Living to assist with their safety and preparedness presentation. It is always a treat to visit with this community. The residents and staff care for the safety and well being of everyone and work together as a whole community.



# REGION A MEETING

Thank you KCMO Emergency Management for hosting the Region A Quarterly Emergency Management meeting.. It was wonderful to be back amongst old colleagues and meet new ones. Our SEMA Region A coordinator, Gloria Brandenburg spent time reviewing the Consolidated Disaster Assessment Summary and Damage Category Definitions. Karen Eagleson discussed her position and work with MERC and Teir II. There were updates on Incident Support Team (IST) coordination, MOEMA revisions, as well as individual agency updates.



## HOMELAND SECURITY (RHSCC) OVERVIEW

The Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee (RHSCC) provides leadership to the region's efforts to enhance capabilities to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from a broad range of threats and hazards, including terrorism, by strengthening relationships between jurisdictions and across disciplines; outlining protocols for regional action; maximizing the sharing and coordination of resources; and enhancing the capabilities of first responders/receivers through equipment, training and exercise investments; and improving surveillance, early detection and mitigation of hazards and threats.

- Identify and secure new grants and determine use of new resources.
- Develop strategies for maintaining strong regional response systems with reduced federal support.
- Strengthen public-private partnerships in the region.
- Communicate with one regional voice to state and federal officials about the region's needs and positions on legislative, regulatory and funding issues.



KCUASI\_HighlightsOctober2015.aspx (marc.org)  
Overview - Homeland Security (RHSCC) (marc.org)

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