

BERN TOWNSHIP GUIDE TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



What's inside?



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Important contact information



IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1

Bern Township	610-926-2267
Bern Township Police Department	610-926-2535
Greenfields Fire Company (Station 55)	610-374-9283
Berks Department of Emergency Services	610-374-4800
Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency	717-787-2500
Pennsylvania Poison Control Center	1-800-222-1222
American Red Cross	1-800-733-2767
Non-emergency for Police, Fire, Rescue and Medical	610-655-4911

Hospitals/Health Care Facilities

Reading Health System	484-628-8000
Penn State Health-Saint Joseph Medical Center	610-378-7900

What to do to be prepared ?



Disasters are events that can happen anytime. So it is important for you and your family to be prepared. What can you do to be prepared?



Educate yourself and your family

- Identify near your home: flood areas, damaged electrical connections.
- If you need to evacuate search for a safe place: a shelter, a hotel, a friend's or family home.
- Learn what to do in case of an emergency at work, and learn your children's school emergency plan.
- In your work place it is important to know where are located the emergency exits, the stairs, and what is the emergency plan.
- Sign up for the alert and notification system to get emergency messages in your community.
- Develop individual/family plans.

Learn about the natural disasters or hazards that can affect your community

The most common natural disasters that affect Bern Township are:

- Floods
- Snow storms
- Wildfires
- Hurricanes
- Tornados

You can learn more on the following link:

<http://www.berntownship.org>

You can also learn about the weather on the following link: <https://weather.com>



Emergency preparedness kit



After a disaster, emergency response units can take 72 hours to provide help. It is important to have an emergency kit in your home in case of an emergency. This kit should contain supplies for all the members of the family, including your pets. Below are listed some items of the basic categories which you may want to consider.

Basic items

- Flash light and batteries
- Radio and batteries
- Candles and matches/lighter
- Toilet paper and basic hygiene items
- Sunscreen/ insect repellent
- Cellphone charger
- Scissors, or knife, or multitool
- Water purifier
- Whistle
- Extra car key, cash
- Copy of important documents

First Aid Kit

- Pain killers
- Antiallergic
- Antiseptic cleansing pads
- Band-Aids
- Gauze bandage, roll
- Hand Sanitizer
- Gloves/ face masks

Food

- Bottled water (4Lper person/per day)
- non-perishable food
- baby food (formula)
- Pet food and water

Clothing

- Clothing and footwear (according to the season)
- Blankets/sleeping bag
- Pet clothing and blanket

Special needs

- Diapers
- Medications/prescriptions
- Extra pair of glasses/contacts
- Games for the family (coloring books, playing cards)
- Pet house or cage

Important:

- Prepare your emergency bag for at least 72 hours.
- Keep your bag in an accessible location, and ensure each member of the family knows its location.
- Check the content of your bag twice a year.
- If you have pets make sure that they have an ID tag, and to include an emergency bag for them too.
- **TIP:** Put your gear in zip lock bags so they can stay dry.

Make an individual and a family plan



It is important that you and your family are prepared against an emergency. There are important things that you need to plan in case you need to evacuate from your house, or in case you and your family are separated during an emergency. How can you do that?

- Pick safe places in your home where you can go if there is an emergency.
- Pick two different ways to get out of your home in case you have to leave it.
- Choose a place that your family will meet in case you are separated during an emergency.
 - One place that's in your neighborhood.
 - One place that's outside of your neighborhood.
- Select family contacts you can call in case you are separated during an emergency.
 - Pick one person who lives in the same state.
 - Pick one person who lives in a different state.
 - Write down your contacts' phone numbers and make sure everyone in your family has a copy of them.
- Make a plan for what you will do to keep your pets safe if there is an emergency.
- Know how to turn off the electricity, gas and water in your home in case you are asked to do it.
- Make sure every member of the family knows the plan.
- Complete a Health information Card for each member of the family
- If you don't have a car, plan how are you going to evacuate.

Family plan



It is important to complete this information in your family plan. Make sure each member of the family knows the meeting spot and the family contacts.

Meeting Spot (1)

- Location:
- Address:

Meeting Spot (2)

- Location:
- Address:

Family Contacts

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone:

Family Contacts

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone:

Out of area contact

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone:

Health information card



It is important that each member of the family carries a health information card, especially people who have a specific disease that requires medication or have special needs. You can carry this card in your wallet or make a copy and put it with the other important documents in your emergency bag.



Health Information Card	Name: Phone: Address:		Blood type	Date of Birth
	Medical conditions:		Allergies:	Special needs
	Name of medication	Dose (how many pills, puffs, drops per dose)	How many times a day you take it?	
Emergency contact:			Phone:	

Health Information Card	Name: Phone: Address:		Blood type	Date of Birth
	Medical conditions:		Allergies:	Special needs
	Name of medication	Dose (how many pills, puffs, drops per dose)	How many times a day you take it?	
Emergency contact:			Phone:	

Early Alert System



A disaster with warning allows the community to find safety. In case of an emergency Bern Township Emergency Management agency will provide an early alert system. A message will be sent through e-mail, local radio, local news, social media pages and through the institutional webpage <http://www.berntownship.org>.



The message will contain information related to:

- ✓ Weather alert
- ✓ Event situation
- ✓ Request to evacuate or shelter in place

Sign up for township e-mail alerts/information by providing your e-mail address and street address to: **610-926-2267**

In case EVACUATION is requested:

- **DO SO IMMEDIATELY**
- Take your emergency kit
- Lock your house
- If you don't have transportation, try to obtain a ride with a neighbor or family.
- **If it is not possible call: 911.**
- Be kind and courteous, check on elderly neighbors to let them be aware of evacuation.

If you are told to SHELTER IN PLACE :

- Close and lock windows and doors.
- Stay far from windows.
- Turn off ventilation systems, water, and gas.
- Seal windows and gaps under the doors with duct tape.
- keep pets inside
- Stay inside until authorities say it is safe to go out.

What to do before and during an emergency ?



During and after an emergency it is normal to be scared and worried, especially for our families. But it is important to stay calm and follow the advice of a trained person. Not all disasters are the same. It is important to take into advice the following considerations that are address to specific disasters.

House fires



How to be prepared against a house fire?

Disaster plan:

- Make sure it includes an evacuation plan
- Make sure you have multiple ways out of each room
- Identify emergency exits and stairwells
- Make sure you can open windows, screens, security bars, and doors

Smoke alarms:

- Verify the batteries of your smoke detector
- If you don't have a smoke detector make sure to get one. Many organizations have campaigns or may provide you for free if you can't afford them.

Fire extinguishers:

- Verify there is one in your home, apartment building, or in your office.
- Verify it is charged and placed in an accessible location
- Consider locating in the kitchen and in your bedroom.

What to do during a house fire?

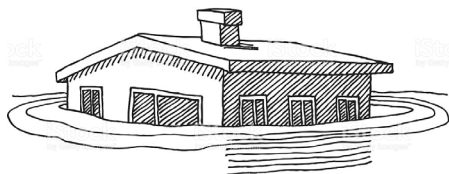
During a fire, **ESCAPE** is your priority. If the fire alarm activates in your house/building you may have a few moments to get out, but if you see an active fire in your house, **GET OUT IMMEDIATELY.**

- Go to nearest exit
- Don't try to grab personal items.
- If there is smoke, get as low as possible
- Try to cover your airway with a handkerchief
- If you are in bed, roll out of the bed and crawl to an exit
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob. If it is hot do not open.
- If your clothes catch fire, **STOP, DROP, AND ROLL.** Cover your face with your hands
- Once you are out, contact the emergency services.
- Don't go back to a burning building.
- Never use the elevator

What to do before and during an emergency ?



Floods



How to be prepared against a flood?

- Make sure you have a disaster plan
- In your go-bag make sure to include water, food, first aid kit, and medication.
- Identify a higher ground near your area, and notify all the family members
- Identify if you live in a flood plain or area at high risk for flooding.
- If you live in a flood area, get a flood insurance.

What to do during a flood?

- It is important to get out of the water and go to **HIGHER GROUND**
- It is important to listen to official information, in case you need to evacuate your house or just move to higher floor in your home. (Keep an emergency radio with batteries)
- If you are driving, don't pass through standing water, or water where you cannot see the bottom.
- If you are walking, don't walk through moving or rushing water.
- If complete evacuation is required, turn off the utilities and move important items to higher floors. In flood plain areas you will have warning alerts, giving you some time.

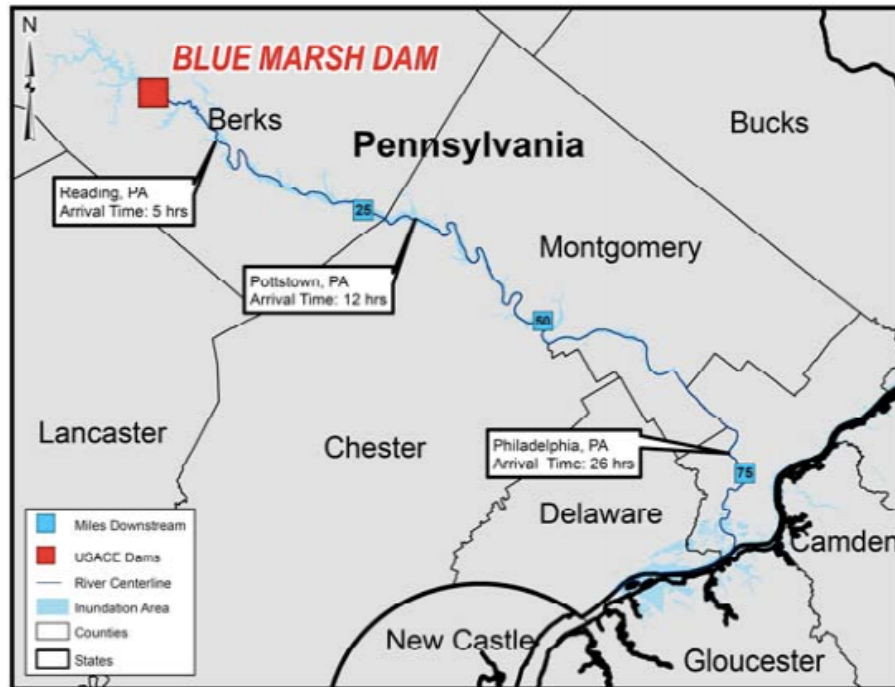
Current threats:

- Schuylkill river flooding
- Blue Marsh Dam

What to do before and during an emergency ?



Blue Marsh Dam



Map inundation area displayed is a rare flood event and breach.

Map Disclaimer: Actual areas flooded and flood arrival times will depend on specific flooding and failure conditions and may differ from the areas shown on the map.

What residents should know:

- Dams do not eliminate all flood risk. Residents downstream from the dam should be aware of the potential consequences if the dam breach doesn't perform as intended or experience a major spillway.
- Living with flood risk reduction infrastructure comes with risk—know your risk.
- Living with flood risk reduction infrastructure is a shared responsibility—know your role.
- Know your risk, know your role and take action to reduce your risk.
- Listen for and follow instructions from local emergency management officials.
- Strongly consider purchasing flood insurance.
- Contact your elected local, county and state officials to make sound flood risk management decisions in your area.

What to do before and during an emergency ?



Snow Storm How to be prepared against a snowstorm?



- Make sure to include in your emergency kit: rock salt to melt ice, sand to improve traction, snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
- Verify you have enough heating fuel or wood for your fireplace.
- Verify you have proper clothing and blankets to keep you warm.
- Be informed of the weather and warning alerts.
- Keep your pets inside the house.
- Verify your car is winterized: antifreeze levels, brakes, fuel, heater and defroster, oil, winter tires, and try to minimize travel.
- Verify your home is prepared for winter: working heaters, repair roof leaks, and cut branches that could fall. You could hire a contractor to verify the structural ability of the roof to sustain heavy weight from the accumulation of snow.
- Don't forget to protect your pet. You can protect the paws with boots and also put warm clothes.

What to do during a snowstorm?

- Stay **INDOORS**.
- Walk with caution.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow.
- **KEEP DRY AND WARM.**
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. Let someone know your destination and your route.
- Dress properly with several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. Use gloves to protect your hands, and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

What to do before and during an emergency ?



Snow Emergency Routes

When a snow emergency is declared, we will notify local radio, TV and newspapers. Snow Emergency routes have been posted to:

- ✓ Allow easier access for police, ambulance, and fire equipment
- ✓ Provide alternate traffic routes for emergencies
- ✓ Please follow instructions for parking, using snow tires or chains, etc.

Please **BE PATIENT**. Our road crews will clear on a priority basis. As police, fire or medical emergencies arise those roads take priority. In the days after a major storm, Greenfields streets will be posted **NO PARKING** on an alternate basis to allow heavy equipment to clear the snow away. During a Snow Emergency alternate parking areas will be available at Greenfields Fire Co. Social Hall on Boeing Avenue and at the Wodenschiere C.C. If you need special assistance please let us know. Also, if you can provide help using your 4x4, ATV or snowmobile, let us know.

Snow Emergency Routes

Greenfields

Northwest Roads

Barlow Avenue

Christina Drive

Boeing Avenue

West Leesport Road (between Old Bernville Road and County Road)

Cullum Drive

Dennis Drive

Egle Road

Golf Road

Mayo Drive

Morrison Road

N. Tulphehocken Road

S. Tulphehocken Road

Wendy Road

What to do before and during an emergency ?



A tornado can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. Anywhere a thunderstorm can appear, a tornado can too. So you need to be prepared, and learn how to be safe.

Tornadoes

How to be prepared against a tornado?



- ❑ Make sure you have a disaster plan
- ❑ Familiarize yourself with warning signs: watch the sky, look for thunderstorms, look for clouds that suddenly start to rotate in a circular pattern.
- ❑ Listen to the weather channel, you could also follow [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio](#)

What to do during a tornado?

- If you are under a tornado warning: **SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY**
- Locate a **SAFE** room in the **LOWEST LEVEL** (basement, small interior room, closet) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.
- Protect your head and neck
- Do not open the windows
- If you are outside: get into a vehicle, buckle up, and drive to the closest sturdy shelter
- If you can't drive: buckle up, and cover your head and arms with the available resource.

What to do before and during an emergency ?



Generally, hurricanes are being monitored. Early warning alerts can be issue with days or hours in advanced. Hurricanes are dangerous and deadly, they should not be underestimated. Hurricanes bring flooding, thunderstorms and tornadoes, so you should consider being prepare for those disasters.

Hurricanes



How to be prepared against a hurricane?

- Make sure you have a disaster plan that includes evacuation routes.
- Identify shelters

Prepare your home

- Secure your roof
- Reinforce garage doors
- Look for possible tree branches or trees that may fall in your house
- Save outdoor furniture
- Familiarize yourself with utility shut-off switches and valves

What to do during a hurricane?

- If there is no evacuation warning, you are safe sheltering in your house. But you still need to be prepared for a possible evacuation. Secure your home.
- If you are ordered to evacuate, do it.
- Keep informed through official channels

What to do before and during an emergency ?



Plane crash



Plane crashes are rare events. Bern township is surrounded by the Reading Airport, so it is necessary to create awareness of this type of events.

Preparedness is necessary to protect ourselves and our families.

What to do if a plane crash in your neighborhood ?

- Move to a safe place as needed.
- Call 911 immediately.
- Don't approach the crash site.
- Do not move or handle any wreckage.

BE PREPARED FOR A NOVEL PANDEMIC

A novel (new) virus, like Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), can emerge from anywhere and quickly spread around the world. It is hard to predict when or where the next novel pandemic will emerge.



FEMA

FEMA P-2150/October 2020

A pandemic is a disease outbreak that spans several countries and affects a large number of people. Pandemics are most often caused by viruses, like COVID-19, which can easily spread from person to person.



May be spread directly from person to person.



May be spread indirectly. Germs can pass from a non-living object to a person.



May be spread by people who are infected but don't have any symptoms.



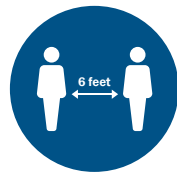
A vaccine, testing, or treatment for the disease may not exist right away. It may take months or years for the majority of the world to become immune to the disease.

IF A NOVEL PANDEMIC IS DECLARED

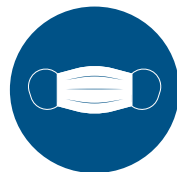
Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Keep a distance of at least six feet between yourself and people who are not part of your household.



Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when in public.



Clean and disinfect high-touch objects and surfaces.



Stay at home as much as possible to prevent the spread of disease.



Follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local authorities.

HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A PANDEMIC THREATENS



Learn how diseases spread to help protect yourself and others.

Take actions to prevent the spread of disease. Cover coughs and sneezes. Stay home when sick (except to get medical care). Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Plan for schools, workplaces, and community centers to be closed.

Investigate and prepare for virtual coordination for school, work (telework), and social activities.

Create an emergency plan so that you and your family know what to do and what you will need in case an outbreak happens. Consider how a pandemic may affect your plans for other emergencies.

Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days or weeks. Supplies may include cleaning supplies, non-perishable foods, prescriptions, and bottled water. Buy supplies slowly to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to buy what they need. Remember that not everyone can afford to stock up immediately. Consider avoiding WIC-labeled products so that those who rely on these products can access them.

Review your health insurance policies to understand what they cover, including telemedicine options.

Create password-protected digital copies of important documents and store in a safe place. Watch out for scams and fraud.



Follow the latest guidelines from the CDC and state and local authorities to prevent the spread of disease. Refer to your local and state public health departments for vaccine and testing updates.

Maintain good personal health habits and public health practices. Proper handwashing and disinfecting surfaces help to slow the spread of disease. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.

Limit close, face-to-face contact with others. Stay at home as much as possible to prevent the spread of disease.

If you believe you've been exposed to the disease, contact your doctor, follow the quarantine instructions from medical providers, and monitor your symptoms. If you're experiencing a medical emergency, call 9-1-1 and shelter in place with a mask, if possible, until help arrives.

Practice social distancing while in public. Keep a distance of at least six feet between yourself and people who are not part of your household. Avoid crowds and large groups of people.

Share accurate information about the disease with friends, family, and people on social media. Sharing bad information about the disease or treatments for the disease may have serious health outcomes. Remember that stigma hurts everyone and can cause discrimination against people, places, or nations.

Know that it's normal to feel anxious or stressed. Engage virtually with your community through video and phone calls. Take care of your body and talk to someone if you are feeling upset.



Continue taking protective actions, like:

- Staying home when you are sick (except to get medical care).
- Following the guidance of your health care provider.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Follow guidance on the re-opening of businesses, schools, community-based organizations, houses of worship, and workplaces.

Be sure to evaluate your family emergency plan and make timely updates.

Work with your community to talk about the lessons you learned from the pandemic. Decide how you can use these experiences to be more prepared for future pandemics.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) and search for **novel pandemic** and **12 Ways to Prepare** to learn more about how to help you and your family prepare for a disaster. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a novel pandemic. Sign up for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention subscription services.



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