

IT'S
A
DISASTER!

KNOXVILLE

...and what are YOU
gonna do about it?

What is the Knox County Emergency Plan?

The Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Plan details what the Local Government, Emergency Response Agencies, Street Departments, and agencies like the American Red Cross will do to respond and recover from a local disaster.

Does the plan tell citizens what to do?

Every family or individual has different needs or circumstances that would alter the way they would need to react in the event of an emergency.

Our first priority is to provide all the citizens of Knoxville and Knox County the tools and the guidance needed to create a personal emergency plan that meets each individual's needs.

All Knox County residents should take responsibility for preparing and making sure that you can take care of yourself and your family in the event of a disaster.

Any major disaster could temporarily overwhelm Police, Fire and Ambulance and First Responders. Both the Red Cross and FEMA recommend that you try to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours (3 days) following a disaster. Since Hurricane Katrina and Rita, it may be better to be prepared for 120 hours or 5 days.

There are many daily conveniences that we all take for granted; running water, electricity, gas, telephones, getting cash from an ATM machine, or even running to the grocery store to pick up milk and bread. Power outages could close grocery stores, put ATM machines out of order and prevent you from doing simple things like putting gasoline in your car. Flooding or icy roads could prevent you from getting to the grocery store or the pharmacy.

Consider what you would do in the event that none of these daily conveniences was available. How would your family cope?

Take all possibilities into account when creating your plan. All households should have emergency supplies ready to sustain themselves for at least 72 hours (3 days). 120 hours or (5 days) is even better!

- ✓ Planning in the event that you are confined to your home for several days.
- ✓ Planning in the event you are evacuated from your home for several days.
- ✓ Planning in the event that a disaster occurs and the family is at work or school.
- ✓ Planning in the event you are stranded in your vehicle for an extended period of time.

The list of things that you should do to get prepared may seem overwhelming at first. Just take things one-step at a time. It is not necessary to spend a lot of money to prepare. Most of the items that you need are most likely already in your home; it is just a matter of putting things together in an easily accessible location.

BE AWARE

BE PREPARED

**HAVE YOUR OWN PERSONAL
EMERGENCY PLAN!**

Once Disaster Strikes

What happens first?

Any kind of major incident will generate calls to the 9-1-1 center and emergency response units will be dispatched to the area.

What happens next?

What happens next varies greatly depending on the type of incident, the location and time of day. That is why it is so difficult for local officials to create an area specific or incident specific emergency plan. There are so many variables. People of different ages, locations, and physical abilities may need to react differently to the same incident.

Local TV and Radio Stations will be the main source of information for the public. Emergency instructions will be broadcast for location of shelters, and phone numbers to call for assistance if needed.

Keep a battery-operated radio available in the event of power and or cable outages.

Now is the time to put **your personal emergency plan** into action.

Depending upon the type of emergency, how well you have prepared for the incident can make a difference in whether an event is a personal disaster for you or just an inconvenience.

Use your "IT'S A DISASTER" manual to help you prepare for every imaginable event. You will discover things in this book that you never really thought about before.

Example-

If the power goes out, how long will the food in the refrigerator keep? What are some ways to make food keep longer?

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Knowing What the Dangers Are

Knowing what the dangers or hazards are is important to beginning your personal emergency plan. In Knox County weather related or natural hazards are the most common danger.

Review the following hazards. Which of these would likely affect you if it occurred today in the area of your home or work. As you read, think what you would need to do in these situations.

Natural Hazards

Flood

There are several different types of floods: flash, river, urban, and coastal. There are several instances each year of locally heavy rainfall that results in flash flooding. On an annual basis, flooding causes the most damage in Tennessee. Flooding occurs several times a year in Knox County, mostly urban street flood variety.

Winter Storm

Winter storms include ice storms, blizzards and extreme cold. Winter storms in Tennessee often include extreme cold and ice. These storms are especially hazardous in terms of closing emergency routes, creating power and utility system failures. The Blizzard of '93 left 18 people dead and a large portion of the population without power and stranded where ever they were for 5-7 days.

Tornado

In a typical year in Tennessee, 11 tornadoes occur, killing five and injuring about a dozen of the state's citizens. Since tornado statistics began in 1916 more than 525 tornadoes have impacted the State of Tennessee. Tornadoes occur more frequently in the western portion of the state than in the middle or eastern portions.

Agricultural Drought

A drought is a prolonged period with little or no rain. This is, generally speaking, mostly an agricultural (and therefore economic) problem.

Wildfire

A wildfire is any incident of uncontrolled burning in grasslands, brush, or woodlands. The eastern and middle portions of the state are most affected. Wildfires occur frequently in Knox County where subdivisions adjoin fields or grasslands. Also carelessly discarded smoking materials along roadways cause grass fires that can, if not quickly suppressed, spread into populated areas.

Earthquake

Most earthquakes result in little or no damage, but they are potentially the most dangerous of all natural hazards affecting this state. Each year more than 400 seismic events occur--largely unfelt by the populace. The area for the greatest potential for earthquakes in Tennessee is the western third of the state. In 1993, a fault zone was identified in East Tennessee running roughly parallel to Interstate 75 between Chattanooga and Knoxville. The zone has not produced a damaging earthquake in historical time; with the largest recorded magnitude being 4.6 in 1973. The area is considered at light risk of being affected by an earthquake in the next 100 years.

Subsidence

Subsidence is the formation of depressions, cracks, and sinkholes in the earth's surface. Incidences of subsidence are always a danger to property, dams, factories, and utility lines, but when they occur quickly they can also threaten lives.

Landslide

A landslide is the downward movement of slope-forming materials reacting to the force of gravity. Landslides are becoming more common with grading for construction causing weakening in the surrounding soil. A mudslide occurred a

apartment complex in Knox County in 2003, destroying several buildings and trapping one person inside.

Fire

80% of fire deaths occur in residences. Fire kills more Americans each year than all natural disasters combined. Careless smoking is the number one cause.

Urban Drought

Urban droughts generally affect areas dependent on reservoirs for water. Such droughts usually lead to restrictions on water use to what is essential for living.

Technological Hazards

Power Failure

A power failure is any interruption or loss of electrical service due to disruption of power generation or transmission caused by an accident, sabotage, natural hazards, equipment failure, or fuel shortage. These interruptions can last anywhere from a few seconds to several days. Power failures are common with severe weather and winter storm activity. Power failures are considered a significant event if the local emergency management organization is required to coordinate the provision of food, water, heating, etc. as a result.

Fixed Nuclear Facilities

This is any occurrence at a fixed nuclear power plant that results in a potential or actual release of radioactive material in sufficient quantity to constitute a threat to the health and safety of the off-site population. There are two nuclear power plants in Tennessee: Sequoyah and Watts Bar. Additionally, in Alabama, the Brown's Ferry Nuclear Power Plant has the potential for affecting residents along the two states' common border. Portions of Knox County lie within the 50 mile planning zone for Watts Bar Nuclear Power Plant. Portions of Knox County are within Emergency Planning Zones for US Dept. of Energy facilities in Oak Ridge.

Hazardous Materials Transportation Incident

Each year, about 250,000 shipments of hazardous materials crisscross the state of Tennessee. Incidents such as the train derailment that occurred in Farragut occur several times a year throughout the state. Fortunately, such events are rare. Hazardous materials transportation incidents can occur at any place within the state, although the vast majority occur on the interstate highways or major federal or state highways, or on the major rail lines.

Urban Fire

An urban fire is any instance of uncontrolled burning which results in structural damage to residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, or other properties in developed areas.

Dam Failure

The primary danger associated with a dam failure is the swift, unpredictable flooding of those immediately downstream of the dam. In Tennessee, there are more than 1,200 dams. There are no high hazard dams in Knox County.

Air and Rail Transportation Accidents

These are incidents involving air or rail passenger travel resulting in death or serious injury. In Tennessee, significant air incidents occur less than once every seven years, while rail incidents involving passengers are less frequent.

Other Threats

Civil Disturbance

A civil disorder is defined as any incident intended to disrupt community affairs and threaten the public safety. Civil disorders include terrorist attacks, riots, mob violence, and any demonstration resulting in police intervention and arrests.

Attack

The potential for an attack (either conventional or nuclear) does exist. Although the chances of a massive nuclear strike on the U.S. have greatly diminished, several countries are seeking to develop the capability of deploying nuclear weapons. The possibility also exists that a terrorist organization might acquire the capability of creating a small nuclear detonation. Those areas not affected by direct blast or thermal effects, however, would still likely suffer the effects of radioactive fallout.

Terrorism

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines terrorism as “the unlawful use of force against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in the furtherance of political or social objectives.” Events usually occur in urban areas near public gatherings, government facilities, or highly visible areas.



Knoxville becomes a Storm Ready Community

What is StormReady?

NWS designed StormReady to help communities better prepare for and mitigate effects of extreme weather-related events. StormReady also helps establish a commitment to creating an infrastructure and systems that will save lives and protect property. Receiving StormReady recognition does not mean that a community is storm proof, but StormReady communities will be better prepared when severe weather strikes.

To become StormReady a community or county must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center (**Knox County 9-1-1 center**)
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public
Receive - Television, Weather Radio, Internet, Weather Channel Notify
Notify – EAS system, News media
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally
(Installed a weather station at the Knox EOC)
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars (**Frequently speak to community groups**)
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises. (**9-1-1 operators and HAM radio operators received weather spotter training**)

NOAA Weather Radio

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information direct from a nearby National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. NWR is an "all hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards--both natural (such as earthquakes and volcano activity) and environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills).

Where can I get a NOAA Weather Radio?

NOAA Weather Radio receivers come in a variety of sizes, styles and prices and can usually be found in electronics stores across the country.

How much does a NOAA Weather Radio cost?

NOAA Weather Radios range in cost from \$25 up to \$100 or more depending on the quality of the receiver and number of features.

What types of NOAA Weather Radio receivers are available?

NOAA Weather Radio receivers come in many sizes and with a variety of functions. Many radios can receive an alarm tone, triggered when the NWS issues severe weather announcements or emergency information. Most NOAA Weather Radio receivers are either battery-operated portables or AC-powered desktop models with battery backup, so they can be used in many different situations. Some CB radios, scanners, short wave and AM/FM radios are also capable of receiving NWR transmissions.

The **SAME** feature allows listeners to filter and receive only messages and information for their selected geographic areas that are disseminated within the available NWR broadcast area.

Evacuation

There are only a few incidents that could occur in Knox County that would require residents to evacuate their homes.

Hazardous Materials Spill

Flooding

A major event at an Oak Ridge Facility

Loss of power, water and sewer for an extended period.

Those events would most likely be restricted to a small area.

An example would be the train derailment that occurred in Farragut. Residents with a 1-mile radius were asked to evacuate their homes.

To put that into perspective Knox County is 526 square miles. It is 36 miles from the Sevier County Line on I-40 to the Loudon County Line on I-40.

What to do if you must evacuate

The purpose for evacuation is to prevent loss of life or harm - first and foremost.

If the situation is immediately life threatening, leave immediately.

If you have a few moments, gather any medications that you will need. Keep important documents together in an easily accessible location to take with you or prepare an evacuation kit.

If you must take your pets, keep a kennel or pet cage readily available.

Time yourself. Can you gather medications, pets, emergency papers and leave your home in less than 5 minutes?

When a big disaster happens, how can I help?

BECOME A VOLUNTEER OR MAKE A DONATION

Anytime a large-scale disaster happens, people just naturally want to help. Use this guide to decide the best way that you can help.

There are many agencies in Knoxville that need volunteers and donations not only during large disasters, but year round.

Most agencies require some sort of orientation or disaster training before allowing people to volunteer during a disaster. Many of the Church based disaster relief teams have mobile kitchens, shower and laundry units, chain saw teams and mud-out teams (following floods) that respond to disaster areas. Contact any of the following agencies to inquire about volunteer training and opportunities.

Cash donations are always needed.

American Red Cross
584-2999

www.knoxarc.org

Salvation Army
525-9401

www.salvationarmysouth.org/TENN.htm

Second Harvest Food Bank 521-0000

www.secondharvestknox.org

Compassion Coalition 588-2875 ext 4.

www.compassioncoalition.org

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2007

www.tnbaptist.org/page.asp?cat=miss&subcat=relief

Holston Conference Methodist Disaster Relief 690-4080

<http://holstonconference.org/katrina/>

Lutheran Services of Tennessee 577-8925

http://www.lutheransonline.com/servlet/lo_ProcServ/dbpage=page&mode=display&gid=01164001360986843616374885

Medical Reserve Corps

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a volunteer group of healthcare professionals and others who are organized in advance to respond to a mass casualty event that would overwhelm the standard resources that are currently in place. The MRC recently approved a local unit to be organized through the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine's Center for Homeland Security Studies. Our unit is officially called the University of Tennessee Knoxville Unit of the Medical Reserve Corps. For more information visit their web site at <http://gsm.utmck.edu/mrc/> or call .865-544-9350



DART - Disaster Animal Response Team

The University of Tennessee College of veterinary medicine and Dr. Bob Linnabary have been very active in creating Teams that can respond to disasters to care for animals. UT has also played a major role in contributing to the State of Tennessee and local emergency plans for caring for animals after a disaster.

Volunteers are needed to care for animals after a disaster.

People are also encouraged to include their pets in their emergency plan for their family.

For more information visit their web site at

<http://www.vet.utk.edu/dart/>

Or call 865-974-VETS (8387)

CERT – Community Emergency Response Teams

What is CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Ideal candidates for CERT teams are Neighborhood Watch groups, Community Associations, Civic Organizations, Etc.

How Does CERT benefit the community?

People who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards on themselves, their homes or workplace. If a disaster happens that overwhelms local response capability, CERT members can apply the training learned in the classroom and during exercises to give critical support to their family, loved ones, neighbors or associates in their immediate area until help arrives. When help does arrive, CERTs provide useful information to responders and support their efforts, as directed, at the disaster site.

For more information visit the CERT Knoxville web site at www.knoxtnlepc.com/cert.htm or contact KEMA – 215-1166

Emergency Phone Numbers

POLICE, FIRE OR MEDICAL

Emergency.....911

Non-Emergency Numbers

General Information.....211

City of Knoxville Information.....311

Knoxville Police.....215-7000

Knox County Sheriff.....215-2243

Knoxville Fire Department.....595-4480

Rural Metro.....675-4601

UT Police.....974-3114

Rescue Squad.....546-4821

KUB.....524-2911

Knox County Health Department.....215-5000

Knoxville Emergency Management Agency

215-1166

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency

Nashville 615-741-0001

Alcoa 865-981-2387

FEMA Disaster Assistance

1-800-621-3362