



BOROUGH OF ETNA NEWSLETTER



Annual Public Safety Edition
October 2015



The following information is being provided by the Borough of Etna as part of their voluntary participation in the Community Rating System (CRS). Voluntary participation by a municipality in this program can and has lowered the Borough's Class Rating, which **gives any property owner or renter purchasing flood insurance a discount on their premium**. Etna is now a Class 8, which provides a 10% discount on all federal flood insurance policy premiums purchased for property located in Etna.

KNOW YOUR HAZARD: What Can Cause Flooding in Etna?

Flooding in Etna can be caused by three direct sources and several storms "runs". West Little Pine Creek, Pine Creek and the Allegheny River are all considered direct sources and the storm "runs" in the Borough that can cause flooding in specific areas are the Park Avenue Run, the Parker Street Run and the Ganster Street Run. The creeks and rivers can leave their banks during heavy storms, snowmelts or ice jams. When the Allegheny River crests beyond 26', flooding occurs in the low lying areas of Cherry and Sycamore Streets. The "runs" and smaller streams can flood during or soon after a heavy rain event. In these instances, floodwaters are not as deep, but they can cover streets and yards, flood cars, garages, basements and lower floors. Flooding in each of these areas can come with little warning. On previous occasions, the rainfalls only lasted thirty minutes or less and caused one or more of the "runs" to overflow. Your property may be high enough that it has not flooded recently, but it can still flood in the future because next time it could be worse. If you are in a floodplain, the odds are someday your property will be damaged if it hasn't been already. For flood gauge and other flood information go to: <http://etnaborough.org/flood-information.html>

PROTECT YOUR YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES FLOOD SAFETY

- **Do not walk through flowing water.** Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Six inches of water can knock a person off of their feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to make sure the ground is still there.
- **Do not drive through a flooded area.** Six inches of water can cause a vehicle to lose control and possibly stall. A foot of water will float many cars away. Do not drive around barricades or barriers because the road or bridge may be washed out beyond them.
- **Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.** Electrocutation is the second leading cause of death during flooding, after drowning. Report down power lines to Duquesne Light immediately or to the Police Dept.
- **Look before you step.** Floors, stairs and even the ground can be very slippery with mud after flooding. Debris, including broken glass or nails may also cover the ground surface.
- **Be alert for gas leaks.** Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area properly ventilated. Contact either Equitable or Peoples Gas to report leaks or call the Police Dept.
- **Look out for animals especially snakes.** Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.
- **Have your electricity turned off by the power company.** Some appliances such as televisions keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.



FLOOD WARNING PROCEDURES

During heavy rainfall, the police will monitor the levels of the Allegheny River, West Little Pine Creek and Pine Creek as well as all the storm runs located in the community. If and when preset benchmarks have been reached, the Volunteer Fire Department and the Emergency Dispatch Center will be notified. **If it is determined by the Emergency Management Committee and the Emergency Management Coordinator that flooding is a real possibility, the Emergency Siren will be activated.** When you hear the siren, immediately tune into A.M. Station 1670. This is the Borough's A.M. Alert Radio Station. The Borough will also activate *SwiftReach*, the Borough's reverse 911 calling system. Repeated calls will be made to all potentially threatened areas with specific instructions depending upon the circumstances. Both the radio station and calling system will provide instructions that may include warnings that flooding is a possibility and that you may choose to take steps in anticipation of possible flooding, such as moving items from the basement, plugging sewers, sand bagging or leaving the area

until the threat has passed. If the Emergency Management Coordinator determines that flooding is likely, instructions for evacuation will be provided. **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SHOULD AN EVACUATION FOR YOUR AREA BE ORDERED, YOU SHOULD EVACUATE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY.** Should you choose not to evacuate, you may be forced to ride out the duration of the flooding, as it may be impossible or life threatening to emergency personnel to try and reach you.

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS (FIRM)

The **National Flood Insurance Program** use **Flood Insurance Rate Maps** to determine what areas are at risk. In 2014 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the **FIRM** for Etna. This Map illustrates the extent of flood hazards in Etna and is used to determine who must buy flood insurance and the floodplain development regulations that apply in the flood risk zones depicted. In compliance with the new maps, Etna adopted Ordinance No. 1353, the Floodplain Management Ordinance. With this ordinance, the Borough adopted stricter standards for building and development in floodplains, flood ways and flood hazard areas. A large, readable version of the Flood Rate Map (FIRM) for the Borough of Etna is displayed in the lobby of the municipal building for public viewing. Please also visit <http://www.etnaborough.org/flood-information.html> or for any FIRM go to <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/>. The new map panel numbers for Etna are as follows: Panel 352 of 558 - Map # 42003C0352H and Panel 214 of 558 - Map #42003C0214H

INSURE YOUR PROPERTY

As a general statistic there is a 25% chance of experiencing a flood during the life of a 30 year mortgage. A little known fact is that there is a 30 day waiting period before coverage goes into effect; **so don't wait until the next disaster to purchase flood insurance!** If you are a property owner or resident in the Special Flood Hazard Area, it is highly recommended that you purchase flood insurance. **HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE DOES NOT COVER DAMAGE FROM FLOODING.** However, because Etna Borough participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you may purchase a separate flood insurance policy on your property. For a copy of the book "Mandatory Purchase of Flood Insurance Guidelines" call the Borough Office at 412-781-0569 and one will be mailed to you at no cost. You can also receive information about flood insurance and disaster preparedness by calling the Department of Insurance, toll free, at **1-877-881-6388** or visiting their website at for on-line brochures. Before another disaster strikes, we encourage you to learn more about your risk, what to do to protect your property before, during and after a flood, how to purchase flood insurance by calling the National Flood Insurance Program at **1-888-379-9531** or by going on line at www.floodsmart.gov. Residents have purchased flood insurance because the bank required it when they got their mortgage or home improvement loan. These policies usually just cover the building's structure and **not the contents**. A separate policy can be purchased to cover the contents. The typical flooding that occurs in Etna routinely causes more damage to furniture and contents than to the structure itself. If you are currently covered by flood insurance, check out the amount and verify whether or not you have contents coverage. Go to www.floodsmart.gov for a listing of local agents (by zip code), policy rate information and much more.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY: Flood Proofing

There are several ways to protect a building from flood damage. One is to keep the water away by re-grading your lot or building a small floodwall or earthen berm. Another way is to make your walls waterproof and place watertight closures over the doorways. A third approach is to raise the house above flood levels. You can find detailed information on flood proofing at the Shaler North Hills Library at the Etna Flood Library section or online at www.fema.gov/media-library-data.

Many homes, though not in a floodplain, have sewers that backup into their basements during heavy rains. A plug or standpipe can stop this if the water does not get more than two feet deep. They are sold at local hardware and home improvement stores. For deeper sewer backups, speak to a plumber about overhead sewers or a backup valve. More information, including a list of contractors who do flood proofing and/or retrofitting, can be found in the Flood Library section of the Municipal Building or can be mailed to you upon request. You can speak to the Borough's engineer, Donald Newman, 412-261-5059 as well. **Any alteration to your building or land requires a permit from the Building and Zoning Department. Even grading or filling in the floodplain requires a permit.**

There is often very little notice of flooding, so a detailed checklist prepared in advance would be invaluable to you. Copies of the "Basic Emergency Supply Kit", "Emergency Supply List" and the "Family Communication Plan" are enclosed.

Flood proofing your home **WHEN** the waters are rising:

- Electrical appliances should be unplugged IMMEDIATELY
- Move items from your basement to the first floor (or higher if need be).
- Sandbag to prevent low level inundation
- Shut off the valve on your gas meter

BUILD RESPONSIBLY: Building Permits and Elevation Certificates

Any development in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) requires permits from the Building Department. Virtually all of Etna is developed, so new construction is rare; but any improvements, additions or repairs that equal or exceed 50% of the value of the building are treated as new construction. Substantially improved or substantially damaged residential building must be elevated up to or above the base flood elevation

(lowest floor, including basement). To obtain a building permit, call the Borough office at 412-781-0569 or stop down to pick up the building permit package. All permit applications require two sets of plans and/or drawings with the completed application. As part of the permit review in the flood hazard area, the Borough's Floodplain Manager must also sign-off on the application to ensure full compliance with the ordinance. No new construction or development shall be located within fifty feet of the top-of-bank of any watercourse.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Several of the Borough's efforts depend on your cooperation and assistance. **Here is how you can help:**

Maintenance of the drainage system is critical in helping prevent or minimize the severity of flooding. The "runs" that were discussed earlier in this information are inspected quarterly and after each rain event by the Public Works Department. Debris is removed such as fallen trees, rocks and other trash. Even the buildup of dirt and mud needs to be removed on a regular basis.

- **It is crucial that residents do not add to the natural buildup** by throwing any debris into these runs, over hillsides and creek banks, including grass clippings, tree limbs, etc. Doing so is a violation of Borough Ordinance No.1215. This includes grass clippings, branches, etc. This ordinance carries stiff fines and penalties for violation.
- If your property is next to a ditch, stream or "run", **please do your part and keep them clear of debris**. If you see someone dumping contact the Borough Office immediately, 412-781-0569 or during off business hours and weekends, call the Etna Police Department at 412-473-3056.
- Always **check with the Building Inspector before you build or alter, regrade or put fill on your property**. A permit may be required to ensure projects do not cause problems to other properties. If you see building or filling without a permit posted, please contact the Borough Office immediately at 412-781-0569. Etna Borough Storm Water Management Ordinance, Ordinance No. 1320 enacts requirements for the safe management of storm water runoff in accordance with the Pine Creek Watershed Management Plan adopted and approved pursuant to the Pennsylvania Storm Water Management Act (Act 167 of 1978, as amended) and establishes provisions for the submission and approval of storm water management plans prior to the issuance of any building permit and sets procedures for enforcing the provisions of this ordinance. Please refer to the enclosed flyer, "*How to Prepare for a Flood, The Basics*" from ready.gov for information for preparation, protection and recovery.



KNOW YOUR HAZARD: Etna Borough Flood Map Services

The first thing you should do is check your flood hazard. Flood maps and flood protection references are available at the municipal building where you can check and see if you are in a mapped floodplain. If you are, we can give you more information including the depth of flooding over a building's first floor and past flooding problems in the area. There are also handouts on selecting contractors for waterproofing, flood protection and glass block installation. There is no charge for the photocopying of this material. Reference materials are also available at the Shaler North Hills Library on Mt. Royal Blvd.; just ask for the Etna Flood Library section. You may also contact the Borough's engineer, Donald Newman, P.E. for elevation information, map service questions, flood proofing techniques and other flood related questions. There is no charge for this service. He can be reached at 412-261-5059. As a public service we will provide you with the following information upon request:

- Whether a property is in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)
- Additional flood insurance data for a site, such as the FIRM zone and the base flood elevation or depth, if shown on the FIRM
- We have a handout on the flood insurance requirement that can help people who need a mortgage or loan for a property in the SFHA

If you would like to make an inquiry, please tell us the street address and lot and block number, if available. We are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call us at 412-781-0569 or drop by the office for assistance. There is no charge for this service. The Building Department has completed FEMA Elevation Certificates for buildings that are constructed in the floodplain. Copies of FEMA elevation certificates on all buildings constructed in the floodplain for the past fifteen years are available. The map for the Borough of Etna is displayed in the lobby. You can also email the Borough Manager/Floodplain Administrator at meramage@etnaborough.org or find the map on FEMA's website by going to <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/> and putting "Etna, PA" in the "Looking for a Flood Map?" search box. Then click *view map*

SPECIAL FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS

Any development in the floodplain requires permits from the Building Department. This includes not only construction, but *fill* as well. Virtually all of Etna is developed, so new construction is rare, but any improvements, additions or repairs that equal or exceed 50% of the value of the existing building are treated the same as new construction.

Substantially improved or substantially damaged residential building must be elevated to and in many cases above the base flood elevation. To obtain a building permit, call the Borough Office at 412-781-0569. Code Sys Code Consulting is the Borough's third party building permit officer. The Borough Office will provide you with the building permit application. You will be required to submit two sets of plans or drawings with your completed application. All building permits state whether or not the property is in the Flood Hazard Area. All No-Lien Letters required for property closings (sales), also list the zone on the FIRM that the property is in.

BOROUGH CONTACTS

For Emergencies Call: **911** (Allegheny County Communications Center)

Borough Office: 412-781-0569

Fax: 412-782-5302

E-Mail: info@etnaborough.org

Web Page: www.etnaborough.org

www.etnalive.org

Thomas Rengers, Mayor	412-781-4191
	412-781-6271 x 14
Peter Ramage, Chairman	412-782-1488
David Becki, Vice Chairman	412-781-5793
Carol Kristoff, Councilwoman	412-781-3389
William O'Dell Councilman	412-782-6417
Rudy Milcic, Councilman	412-781-3609
Karen Tomaszewski, Councilwoman	412-781-6417
Greg Porter, Councilman	412-781-4786
Edward V. Burke, III, Councilman	412-781-8752
David Vinski, Councilman	412-781-3861
Mary Ellen Ramage, Borough Manager	412-781-0569
Tim Rodman, Chief of Police	412-781-6271 x 11

Etna Police Station Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

After Hours Non-Emergency Number	412-473-3056
Greg Porter, Fire Chief	412-781-1155
Seneca Area EMS	412-781-8596
Etna Public Works	412-781-7837
District Judge Bob Dzvonic	412-487-7630
Waste Management (Missed Garbage Pick-ups)	800-458-4090
Real Estate Tax Collector Germaine Pfeifer	412-781-0569 x 24
Code Enforcement	412-781-0569 x 18
Tax Collector Keystone Municipal Collection	412-672-5900
National Flood Insurance Program	888-379-9531 or

Web Page: <https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>

FIRM maps: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/>

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Pittsburgh, PA 15223

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Prepare Yourself and Your Family for Winter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a family plan for emergencies • Protect your home by checking fire extinguishers, insulating water pipes, clearing rain gutters and installing carbon monoxide detectors • Gather emergency supplies in case you are ever without power or heat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Water, food, flashlight, radio, cell phone, first aid kit, backup batteries, clothing and extra blankets • Develop a communication plan in case land and cellular lines go down in a storm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Texting and social media could be used instead. * Keep important numbers written down • During a winter storm stay off the roads and if you do have to drive be wary of ice and snow.

THE RISK IS REAL

Everyone lives in a flood zone. In high-risk areas, you have a 1 in 4 chance of experiencing a flood over the life of a 30-year mortgage. But the truth is that you can live miles away from water and still be at risk of flooding. In fact, nearly 25 percent of flood insurance claims come from moderate- to low-risk areas. That's because it doesn't take a major body of water, or even a major storm, to cause a flood. Anything from new development to a slow-moving rainstorm can cause flooding. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States, yet most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.

WHY YOU NEED FLOOD INSURANCE



FloodSmart.gov
1-800-427-2419



FEMA

FEMA F-683
Catalog No. 09107-2
(03/15)

DISASTER ASSISTANCE IS OFTEN NOT AVAILABLE

Some people think they don't need flood insurance because they believe Federal disaster assistance will come to their aid. But floods are not always declared a Federal disaster. And when they are, aid is usually in the form of a loan, which must be paid back with interest. Flood insurance, on the other hand, pays for all covered losses, and, unlike loans, that money doesn't have to be paid back. You can cover your home's structure for up to \$250,000 and its contents for up to \$100,000. For businesses, structural and contents coverage are available up to \$500,000. Don't count on others to financially protect your home or business. Take the initiative to protect your investment yourself.



WHY RISK THE CONSEQUENCES?

Just a few inches of water can cost thousands of dollars in damage to walls, floors, furniture, carpets, and appliances. Flood insurance can help you avoid the financial consequences of a flood—and gain peace of mind. Flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program is available not only in areas at high risk of flooding, but in moderate- to low-risk areas as well. Policies are sold through nearly 90 insurance companies nationwide.

The cost of a policy depends on your flood risk. For all but a small percentage of very high-risk properties, flood insurance is surprisingly affordable. For example, if your home is in a moderate- to low-risk area, you may qualify for a Preferred Risk Policy. Call your agent for details.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL A FLOOD IS IMMINENT

If you wait until a flood is on its way, you will be too late. In most cases, it takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect. To assess your flood risk, find an agent, and get more information, visit [FloodSmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov) or call **1-800-427-2419**.



Emergency Preparedness Checklist



Federal Emergency Management Agency



American Red Cross

The next time disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act. Prepare now for a sudden emergency.

Learn how to protect yourself and cope with disaster by planning ahead. This

checklist will help you get started. Discuss these ideas with your family, then prepare an emergency plan. Post the plan where everyone will see it—on the refrigerator or bulletin board.

For additional information about how to prepare for hazards in your community, contact your local emergency management or civil defense office and American Red Cross chapter.

Emergency Checklist

Call Your Emergency Management Office or American Red Cross Chapter

- Find out which disasters could occur in your area.
- Ask how to prepare for each disaster.
- Ask how you would be warned of an emergency.
- Learn your community's evacuation routes.
- Ask about special assistance for elderly or disabled persons.

Also...

- Ask your workplace about emergency plans.
- Learn about emergency plans for your children's school or day care center.

Create an Emergency Plan

- Meet with household members to discuss the dangers of fire, severe weather, earthquakes and other emergencies. Explain how to respond to each.
- Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

- Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room.
- Show family members how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches when necessary.
- Post emergency telephone numbers near telephones.
- Teach children how and when to call 911, police and fire.
- Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency information.
- Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative for family members to call if separated during a disaster (it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area).
- Teach children your out-of-state contact's phone numbers.
- Pick two emergency meeting places.
 - 1) A place near your home in case of a fire.
 - 2) A place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after a disaster.
- Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- Keep family records in a water and fire-proof container.

Prepare a Disaster Supplies Kit

Assemble supplies you might need in an evacuation. Store them in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or duffel bag.

Include:

- A supply of water (one gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months.
- A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener.
- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- A first aid kit and prescription medications.
- An extra pair of glasses.
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- Credit cards and cash.
- An extra set of car keys.
- A list of family physicians.
- A list of important family information; the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers.
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.

Emergency Plan

Out-of-State Contact

Name _____

City _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Local Contact

Name _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Nearest Relative

Name _____

City _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Family Work Numbers

Father _____ Mother _____

Other _____

Emergency Telephone Numbers

In a life threatening emergency, dial 911 or the local emergency medical services system number

Police Department _____

Fire Department _____

Hospital _____

Family Physicians

Name _____ Telephone _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Reunion Locations

1. Right outside your home _____

2. Away from the neighborhood, in case you cannot return home _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Route to try first _____

Escape Plan

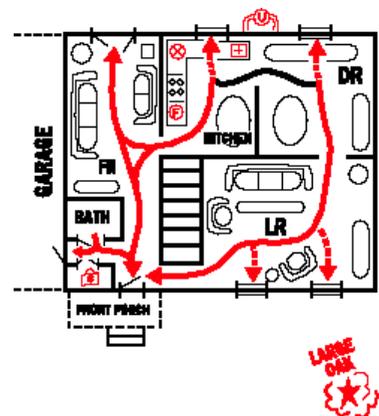
In a fire or other emergency, you may need to evacuate your house, apartment or mobile home on a moment's notice. You should be ready to get out fast.

Develop an escape plan by drawing a floor plan of your residence. Using a black or blue pen, show the location of doors, windows, stairways, and large furniture. Indicate the location of emergency supplies (Disaster Supplies Kit), fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, collapsible ladders, first aid kits and utility shut off points. Next, use a colored pen to draw a broken line charting at least two escape routes from each room. Finally, mark a place outside of the home where household members should meet in case of fire.

Be sure to include important points outside such as garages, patios, stairways, elevators, driveways and porches. If your home has more than two floors, use an additional sheet of paper. Practice emergency evacuation drills with all household members at least two times each year.

Example:

Floor one



Home Hazard Hunt

In a disaster, ordinary items in the home can cause injury and damage. Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a potential hazard.

- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections.
- Fasten shelves securely and brace overhead light fixtures.
- Place large, heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Hang pictures and mirrors away from beds.
- Strap water heater to wall studs.
- Repair cracks in ceilings or foundations.
- Store weed killers, pesticides and flammable products away from heat sources.
- Place oily polishing rags or waste in covered metal cans.
- Clean and repair chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors and gas vents.

If You Need to Evacuate

- Listen to a battery powered radio for the location of emergency shelters. Follow instructions of local officials.

- Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Take your Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Lock your house.
- Use travel routes specified by local officials.

If you are sure you have time ...

- Shut off water, gas and electricity, if instructed to do so.
- Let others know when you left and where you are going.
- Make arrangements for pets. Animals may not be allowed in public shelters.

Prepare an Emergency Car Kit

Include:

- Battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Blanket
- Booster cables
- Fire extinguisher (5 lb., A-B-C type)
- First aid kit and manual
- Bottled water and non-perishable high energy foods such as granola bars, raisins and peanut butter

- Maps, Shovel, Flares
- Tire repair kit and pump

Fire Safety

- Plan two escape routes out of each room.
- Practice fire drills at least twice a year.
- Teach family members to stay low to the ground when escaping from a fire.
- Teach family members never to open doors that are hot. In a fire, feel the bottom of the door with the palm of your hand. If it is hot, do not open the door. Find another way out.
- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home. Clean and test them at least once a month. Change batteries at least once a year.
- Keep a whistle in each bedroom to awaken household in case of fire.
- Check electrical outlets. Do not overload outlets.
- Purchase and learn how to use a fire extinguisher (5 lb., A-B-C type).
- Have a collapsible ladder on each upper floor of your house.
- Consider installing home sprinklers.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community and Family Preparedness Program and the American Red Cross Community Disaster Education Program are nationwide efforts to help people prepare for disasters of all types. For more information, please contact your local emergency management office and American Red Cross chapter. This brochure and other preparedness materials are available by calling FEMA at 1-800-480-2520, or writing: FEMA, P.O. Box 2012, Jessup, MD 20794-2012.

Publications are also available on the World Wide Web at:

FEMA's Web site: <http://www.fema.gov>

American Red Cross Web site: <http://www.redcross.org>

Your Local Contact is:

L-154
ARC 4471
Aug. 1993

Federal Emergency
Management Agency

HURRICANE • FIRE • HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILL



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST



TORNADO • FLASH FLOOD • EARTHQUAKE • WINTER STORM

Protect Yourself Before, During, and After a Winter Storm

This page provides an overview of protective actions to take before, during, and after a winter storm. Additional information is provided in the following pages for each phase.

1 | BEFORE: PREPARE

Prepare now in case a winter storm hits and you are home for several days without power and heat.

- Prepare by gathering emergency supplies, making a family plan, and discussing emergency notifications and expectations with your workplace and/or schools.
- Install battery-powered or battery back-up carbon monoxide detectors.
- If you have access to an OUTSIDE generator, have an electric cord long enough to keep the generator at least 20 feet from any door, window, or vent.
- Make specific plans for how you will avoid driving.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions using local alerts, radio, and other news sources for information and instructions.

3 | AFTER: RECOVER

Driving conditions will still be dangerous; only drive if necessary.

2 | DURING: SURVIVE

Stay indoors and avoid driving as much as possible.

- If the power goes out, close off unused rooms to consolidate and retain heat.
 - Wear layered clothing and use blankets or sleeping bags to stay warm.
 - Bring pets inside.
 - NEVER use generators, outdoor heating or cooking equipment, such as a grill, camp stove, or a gasoline or propane heater, indoors.
 - NEVER heat a home with a stove.
 - If driving is absolutely necessary, keep disaster supplies in your vehicle, make sure your vehicle is properly equipped, and use extra precaution on the roads.
 - Limit your time outdoors. If you are outside, protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia by wearing several layers of warm, loose-fitting, light-weight clothing.
-

WINTERIZE YOUR VEHICLE

Winter driving conditions can be extremely dangerous. During the fall, before winter weather sets in, make sure you or a mechanic completes a winter weather check on your vehicle.

ANTIFREEZE LEVELS – Ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.

BATTERY AND IGNITION SYSTEM – Keep in top condition and clean battery terminals.

BRAKES – Check for wear and fluid levels.

EXHAUST SYSTEM – Check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.

FUEL AND AIR FILTERS – Replace and keep water out of the system by using additives. Maintain a full tank of gas to keep the fuel line from freezing.

HEATER AND DEFROSTER – Ensure they work properly.

LIGHTS AND FLASHING HAZARD LIGHTS – Check for serviceability.

OIL – Check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.

THERMOSTAT – Confirm it works properly.

WINDSHIELD WIPER EQUIPMENT – Repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.

INSTALL GOOD WINTER TIRES – Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions.

WINTER SUPPLIES FOR YOUR CAR

- Cell Phone
- First Aid Kit
- Jumper Cables
- Flares
- Water/Snacks
- Flashlights
- Boots, Gloves, Warm Clothes
- Blanket
- Shovel, Ice Scraper, Snow Brush
- Bag of Sand
- Tire Chains or Snow Chains
- Tow Rope

Protect Yourself Before a Winter Storm

PROTECT YOUR HOME



Keep fire extinguishers on hand and make sure everyone in your home knows how to use them. If your smoke alarms get power from your home's electrical system (hardwired), make sure the backup battery is replaced at least once a year so that your alarms will work during a power outage.



Insulate water pipes with insulation or newspaper and plastic and allow faucets to drip or trickle during cold weather to avoid freezing. Learn how to shut off water valves if a pipe bursts.



Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of your roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow or ice.



Winterize your home by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.



Clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks, and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or neighboring structure during, or following, a storm. Keep pathways and driveways clear between storms to avoid buildup of snow piles and icing.



Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.



Install battery-operated carbon monoxide detectors or electric detectors with battery backup in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide, which is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and potentially deadly gas.

Protect Yourself During a Winter Storm

SNOW SHOVELING: OVEREXERTION AND INJURY

Snow shoveling can be hazardous. More than 10,000 people visit emergency rooms each year due to overexertion and injury from snow shoveling, including strains, cuts, and fractures from slipping and falling. Nearly 100 people die every year from heart attacks brought on by shoveling snow. Use caution, take breaks, push the snow instead of lifting it when possible, and lift lighter loads.



ESSENTIAL TRAVEL ONLY

If driving is absolutely necessary, ensure you have emergency supplies of food and water, warm clothing, and a full tank of gas in case you are stuck in traffic or have an accident and have to wait several hours for assistance. Try to travel during the day and do not travel alone. Stay on main roads. Let someone know your destination, route, and expected arrival time.

STAY OFF THE ROAD

Federal Highway Administration reports indicate that the risk of vehicular accidents rises sharply in winter weather conditions. In an average year, there are more than half a million vehicle crashes when the roads are snowy, slushy, or icy, resulting in nearly 2,000 fatalities and 150,000 injuries. Driving is very dangerous during and immediately after a winter storm and you should make plans to stay off the road when advisories and watches are issued.



IF YOUR HOME LOSES POWER OR HEAT FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD

If your home loses power or heat for more than a few hours or if you do not have adequate supplies to stay warm in your home overnight, you may want to go to a designated public shelter if you can get there safely. Text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (e.g., SHELTER 20472). Bring any personal items that you would need to spend the night (such as toiletries, medicines). Take precautions when traveling to the shelter. Dress warmly in layers, wear boots, mittens, and a hat.

LEARN FROM EVERY STORM

- Restock your emergency supplies to be ready in case another storm hits.
- Assess how well your supplies and family plan worked. What could you have done better?
- Take a few minutes to improve your family plan and supplies before the next winter storm hits.
- Talk to your neighbors and colleagues about their



Etna Volunteer Fire Department Allegheny County Station 149

Hello our Etna neighbors,

Much to our disliking, summer has flown past quicker than any of us would have hoped. Decorations are going up for Halloween and before we know it, Thanksgiving, Light up Night and Christmas will be here. During each fall season, we like to take a few moments and discuss some important fire safety news and winter precautions.

Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms:

These are critically important in our homes. As our furnaces begin to fire up on the chillier nights, we need to be prepared for the silent killer of Carbon Monoxide. Carbon Monoxide remains a very common and dangerous gas that can enter our homes from a variety of sources. One device at minimum should be placed in the highest traffic areas of our home. Additional devices in our sleeping areas are recommended. Smoke alarms should be checked, maintained and have their batteries replaced every spring and fall season. Smoke alarms should be placed on each floor of the home with specific focus on the sleeping areas. If you do not have smoke alarms or believe they need replaced, please contact the fire department. **We are participating in two programs that will help us issue you smoke alarms, potentially at no cost. Firefighters will even come to your home and install them for you if you would like.** These are far too valuable to not have. Contact the fire station for more information.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant:

As winter comes upon us, finding and accessing fire hydrants can be challenging. If you have a fire hydrant near your home, please take a moment to clear snow, ice, slush, etc. (weeds and brush in the summer) away from your fire hydrants. The time that you save us, could be lifesaving. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Winter Driving and Parking:

Winter brings some interesting problems to the fire department. Streets that are already tight to navigate become more challenging with snow and ice. While I share your frustrations with clearing parking spots, it is critical that we keep the areas close to our homes as neat as possible. Something as simple as a car sticking out into the street because of snow parking, will delay our response to your home in the winter. Please help us keep a clear path of travel for fire trucks.

EDITH: Exit Drills In The Home

It is critically important that you get out and stay out. Have a place to go and for your family to meet up. You should know two ways out of each room. Call for help as soon as possible during or after exiting. Do not delay exiting to call for help. Do not go back in for any reason until the fire department arrives and declares the situation safe or the fire under control. Too many people die each year from trying to go back in to save pets or belongings.

Please have a safe and wonderful winter!
Your friends at the Etna Volunteer Fire Department

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

BOROUGH OF ETNA



Timothy Rodman
Chief of Police

437 Butler Street Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Thomas Rengers
Mayor

Station: 412-781-6271 | After Hours: 412-473-3056 | Fax: 412-781-2604

October, 2015

The Borough of Etna Police Department continually strives to maintain a safe community. However, with children returning to school, the cooler weather, shorter days and the holiday season fast approaching, we are all presented with safety challenges that call for certain precautions.

- Be skeptical of door-to-door solicitors and internet or telephone money making schemes. The holiday season may see an increase in fraudulent charities and lottery scams. The Borough of Etna has an ordinance that prohibits door-to-door solicitors in residential areas; so always ask to see a permit. If they don't have one, report them immediately. NEVER give out personal information or bank information over the telephone or internet unless it is a trusted, familiar source. Using simple common sense, asking questions and following your gut instincts will go a long way in protecting you from being scammed.
- Be extra attentive while driving, even on familiar roads, as shorter days will mean decreased visibility. Watch for children who may be running through traffic to and from their bus stops. Failure to stop for school bus, lights activated, can result in your license being suspended.
- Remind your children to wear a helmet when riding bicycles, scooters or skateboards, especially children 12 and under as they are required by law to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.
- Take some time before Halloween to discuss the enclosed safety tips with your children. Halloween is an exciting time for children and they will be easily distracted, so use caution while driving.
- Safeguard your belongings by keeping all doors and windows to your vehicles and homes locked. Conceal or remove valuables from parked vehicles. Also, if you will be away for an extended length of time, please ask a trusted neighbor or the Police Department to keep an eye on your property.
- Keep walkways and sidewalks clear of snow and ice. The Borough of Etna has an ordinance that requires property owners to remove all snow and ice within 24 hours of snowfall. This also applies to vacant properties. Property owners who do not comply could receive citations with fines of up to \$600 per violation in addition to court costs.
- Lastly and most importantly, ***promptly call 911 to report any suspicious activity.***

Feel free to send an email to etnapd@etnaborough.org if you have other general questions or concerns.

Enjoy the holiday season!

The Borough of Etna Police Department

Fire Safety Checklist for Homeowners and Renters

If there is a fire, you may have less than 3 minutes to get out of your home. Talk about what you should do to be safe. Make sure everyone in your home knows what to do if there is a fire.

Put a check in front of each statement that is true for your home.

Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms are on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms are inside and outside sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms are tested each month.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.



Test your alarm regularly.
Your smoke alarm is working if it makes a noise when you press the “test” button.

Cooking Safety

- The cooking area has no items that can burn.
- People stay in the kitchen when they are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- Pot handles are always turned toward the back of the stove.

Escape Plan

- There is a fire escape plan that shows 2 ways out of every room.
- Everyone knows where the safe meeting place is outside the home.
- Everyone living in the house practices the escape plan 2 times a year.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

Electrical and Appliance Safety

- All electrical cords are in good condition and not broken or cut.
- People clean the dryer of lint after every use.
- All plug outlets are safe and do not feel warm when you touch them. (If they are warm, call the landlord or an electrician.)

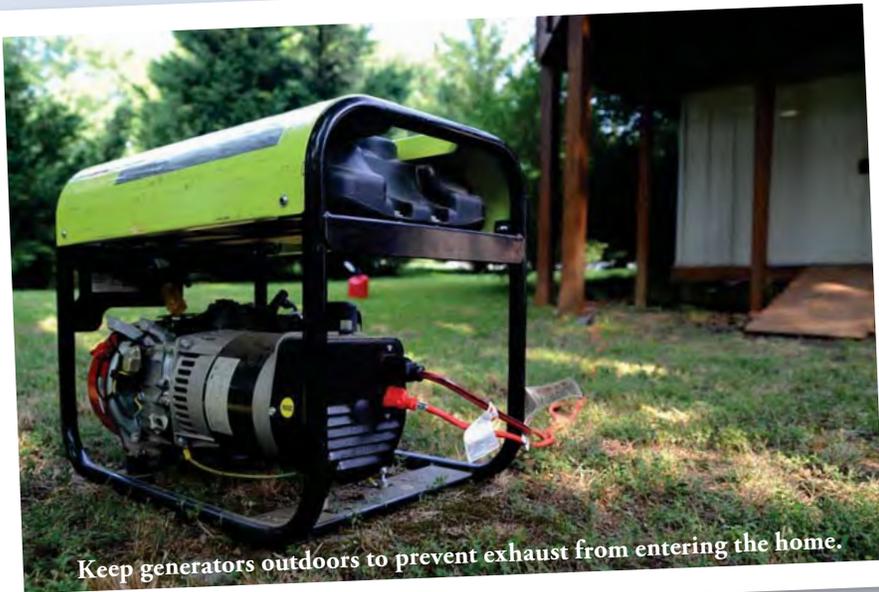
Candle Safety

- Candles are in sturdy fire-proof containers that won't be tipped over.
- Adults blow out all candles when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Candles are kept out of reach from children and pets.



Children are sometimes curious about fire.

If you have children in your home, lock up any items that can start a fire (matches, lighters, cigarettes, etc.) and make sure children cannot reach candles.



Keep generators outdoors to prevent exhaust from entering the home.



Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide or CO is a colorless and odorless gas. CO poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance or machine, such as a furnace, heater or generator, is not working or vented properly. Breathing in CO at high levels can be fatal.

Learn what you can do to protect your family from the dangers of CO.

- Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of CO.
- Install CO alarms in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.
- Remove vehicles from the garage immediately after starting.

More than 150 people in the U.S. die every year from accidental nonfire-related CO poisoning.



FEMA



For more information and resources:
www.usfa.fema.gov/winter/

