

**UPPER
GWYNEDD
TOWNSHIP**

EMERGENCY

PREPAREDNESS



**Upper Gwynedd Township
Emergency
Management Agency**

**1 Parkside Place, North Wales, PA 19454
215-699-7777 • www.uppergwynedd.org**

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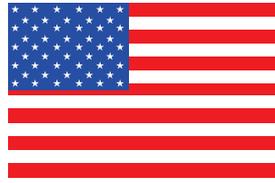


BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Dear Resident,

Natural disasters, weather emergencies, terrorism, epidemic – too often, we view these threats as remote and take an “it-won’t-happen-to-me” attitude. But, as we’ve learned through recent tragedies, the dangers are real and disaster can strike anywhere, at anytime.

The Board of Commissioners and administrative staff of Upper Gwynedd Township have made emergency preparedness a high priority, focusing on preparation, advance planning, and education for all hazards. Through this guide, we hope to give you and your family the information needed to cope with disaster.

Whatever the crisis, the essential planning that you need to do remains the same. On the following pages, you will find instructions for creating a family disaster plan, maintaining emergency supplies, and preparing an evacuation kit. We’ve also provided an explanation of emergency terms and important local contact information.

Knowing what to do is your primary responsibility, and the best protection for your family.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Tomczak
Emergency Management Coordinator

Brian E. Sarver
Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator

Important Contact Information

POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, CALL 9-1-1

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	(215) 699-7777, www.uppergwynedd.org
UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP POLICE.....	(215) 699-5861, www.uppergwynedd.org
UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT.....	(215) 699-5454, www.ugfd.org
VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS OF LANSDALE.....	(215) 855-3779, www.vmsclansdale.org
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ...	(610) 631-6500, www.dps.montcopa.org
PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.....	(610) 562-3003, www.pema.pa.gov
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	(800) 621-FEMA, www.fema.gov
PENNSYLVANIA HOMELAND SECURITY	www.homelandsecurity.state.pa.us
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY	(202) 282-8000, www.dhs.gov
AMERICAN RED CROSS	(800)-RED-CROSS, www.redcross.org
MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.....	(610) 278-5117, www.montcopa.org/health
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	(877) PA-HEALTH, www.health.state.pa.us
CENTER FOR DISEASE AND PREVENTION (CDC).....	(800) CDC-INFO, www.cdc.gov
PECO - POWER OUTAGE.....	(800) 841-4141, www.peco.com/CustomerService/OutageCenter

Terms To Know

ADVISORY – A National Weather Service (NWS) term that means conditions may become life threatening if caution is not exercised.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) – A system of select radio and television stations used to warn the public about emergency situations and responses.

EVACUATION – Relocation to a designated reception area or shelter.

HAZMAT – Stands for hazardous materials. These are chemicals that can cause harm to humans, animals or the environment.

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) - Supplies information pertaining to the state of the oceans and the atmosphere, and produces weather warnings and forecasts through the National Weather Service.

NATIONAL TERRORISM ADVISORY SYSTEM (NTAS) - This system will effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS) – Part of the Department of Commerce, the service provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States.

SHELTER – A mass care facility that provides a place to stay, food, and water for those who have been evacuated.

SHELTER IN PLACE – To seek protection in your home, place of employment or other site where you are located when a disaster strikes.

WARNING – A National Weather Service term that means severe weather or dangerous events are occurring, or are imminent.

WARMING CENTER – A location where there is room to stay warm or cool during a prolonged widespread power outage. This location does not have the facilities of a full shelter, such as bedding or food. It may have water and electricity to charge phones and accessory devices. In Upper Gwynedd Township, this location would normally be the Upper Gwynedd Township Fire Department located on Garfield Avenue.

WATCH – A National Weather Service term that means conditions are favorable for severe weather or dangerous events to occur. Be alert, monitor NOAA Weather Radio or any other weather information source, and be prepared to take immediate action if the watch is upgraded to a warning.



Steps to Family Disaster Planning

Disasters may strike quickly and without warning. They can force you to evacuate or they might confine you to your neighborhood, place of employment, or school. When a disaster strikes, it is important for you and your family to have a written disaster plan and an emergency kit readily available.

DISCUSS DISASTERS MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR IN UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP

- Historically our most likely disasters include floods, fires and severe weather. Loss of utilities could result from any of the above.
- Snow Emergency - A declaration by the municipality that requires the movement of vehicles parked on township streets. This is to facilitate the plowing of snow in a timely and effective manner. Most often, this declaration will be made in advance of a predicted storm, and will last for a period not to exceed 72 hours. **DURING PERIODS OF "SNOW EMERGENCY", VEHICLES ARE PROHIBITED FROM PARKING OR STANDING UNATTENDED ON ANY ROADWAY WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP.**

CREATE YOUR OWN FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

- Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for a disaster. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.
- Discuss the types of disasters listed in this guide and plan what to do in each case.
- Discuss what to do in the event of an evacuation. Plan to take care of your pets.
- Ask an out-of-area friend or relative to be your family contact. It is often easier to call long distance following a disaster than to make local calls. (See Out-of-Area Contacts)
- If you are not immediately affected by the disaster, find out what you can do to help elderly or disabled neighbors.
- Find out about the disaster plan at your workplace, your children's school or childcare center, and other places your family frequents.
- Fill out the emergency preparedness information, make copies, and have all family members and caregivers carry them for easy reference. Ensure that caregivers of younger children have this important information on file.

PUT YOUR PLAN INTO ACTION

- Make copies of your emergency plan and make sure each family member knows where the plan is located in your home. Keep a copy at work and in your vehicle.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1.
- Make sure each capable family member knows how and when to turn off the water, gas, and electricity at the main switches.
- Check for adequate insurance coverage.
- Install an A-B-C-type fire extinguisher in your home, teach each capable family member to use it, and show them where it is kept.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home and one in each bedroom.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors on each level of your home.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a disaster supplies kit. (See pages 6-8.)
- Take a first aid and CPR class.

- Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.
- Find safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

PRACTICE AND MAINTAIN YOUR PLAN

- Review your plan every six months so everyone remembers what to do.
- Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.
- Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors monthly. Change the batteries and clean the dust from each detector every six months.
- Replace stored water and food every six months.

OUT-OF AREA CONTACT

NAME _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

DAY _____ EVENING _____ CELL _____

LOCAL CONTACT

NAME _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

DAY _____ EVENING _____ CELL _____

NEAREST RELATIVE

NAME _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

DAY _____ EVENING _____ CELL _____

FAMILY WORK NUMBERS

FATHER _____ OTHER _____

MOTHER _____

FAMILY PHYSICIANS

NAME _____ PHONE _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

EMERGENCY SERVICES

IN A LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY, DIAL 911.

MEETING POINTS OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

LOCATION 1. RIGHT OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME. _____

LOCATION 2. AWAY FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, IN CASE YOU CANNOT RETURN HOME.

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

ROUTE TO TRY FIRST _____

TIP: When you set your clocks in the fall and spring, also replace stored water and food, change your smoke-detector batteries and perform other necessary tasks as per your plan.

Prepare A Disaster Supplies Kit



There are six basic necessities that you should have in your home in the event of an emergency: water, food, a first-aid kit, clothing and bedding, tools and supplies, and special items. Items you would need in case of an evacuation should be kept in a “Go Kit”, an easy-to-carry container such as a large covered trash container, a backpack or a duffel bag. You also should keep a smaller version of a disaster supply kit in your car. Below are listed some items from each of the basic categories which you may want to consider. For more information, visit www.pema.pa.gov, www.homelandsecurity.state.pa.us or www.health.state.pa.us.

WATER

Store one gallon of water per person per day.

- Have a three-day supply (replace supply every six months).

CLOTHING AND BEDDING

Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.

- Sturdy shoes or work boots
- Blankets and/or sleeping bags
- Thermal underwear
- Sunglasses
- Rain gear
- Hats and gloves

SPECIAL ITEMS

Remember family members with special needs such as infants, elderly, or disabled individuals.

FOR CHILDREN

- Baby formula/food
- Diapers
- Bottles
- Powdered milk
- Medications
- Games/Activities

FOR ADULTS

- Prescription drugs
- Heart and high blood pressure medicines
- Insulin
- Denture needs
- Contact lenses and supplies
- Extra eyeglasses
- Playing cards and books
- Important legal documents

FOR PETS

- Medications and medical records
- Food and water
- Cat litter/pan
- Copies of licenses
- Current photo for identifying
- Name and phone number of vet

FOOD

Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food for each person. Select foods that require no refrigeration, cooking, or preparation. Select food items that are compact and lightweight, and rotate the food supply every six months.

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables
- Soups, bouillon cubes, or dried soups
- Milk—boxed powdered or canned, requiring no refrigeration
- Baby formula/food
- Sugar cookies
- Hard candy
- Sugar
- Salt
- Pepper
- Juices—canned, boxed, powdered or crystallized
- Smoked or dried meats such as beef jerky
- Vitamins
- High energy foods—peanut butter, nuts, trail mix

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- Mess kits or paper cups, plates, plastic utensils
- Battery- or gyro-operated radio and extra batteries
- Small fire extinguisher
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Paper and pencil/pen
- Non-electric can opener
- Utility knife
- Tent
- Plastic sheeting
- Duct tape
- Pliers
- Compass
- Signal flare
- Needles and thread
- Aluminum foil
- Matches
- Shut-off wrench for gas and water
- Work gloves
- Plastic storage containers
- Medicine dropper
- Cash or travelers checks and change
- Dust mask (for dust/debris)
- Toilet paper
- Personal hygiene items
- Feminine supplies
- Disinfectant
- Plastic garbage bags and ties
- Soap
- Household chlorine bleach
- Small shovel (to dig toilet, etc.)
- Plastic bucket with tight lid (indoor toilet)



HOW TO STORE WATER

Store your water in thoroughly washed, plastic, glass, fiberglass, or enamel-lined metal containers. Never use a container that has held toxic substances. Plastic containers, such as soft drink bottles, are best. You also can purchase food-grade plastic buckets or drums. Rotate water every six months.

FIRST-AID KIT

You should have two first-aid kits— one for your home and the other for your car.

Each kit should include:

- Sterile adhesive bandages (assorted sizes)
- Gauze pads (2- and 3-inch)
- Triangular bandages
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Sterile roller bandages (2- and 3- inch)
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Needle
- Safety razor blade
- Safety pins (assorted sizes)
- Bar of soap
- Moist towelettes
- Non-breakable thermometer
- Antiseptic spray
- Latex gloves
- Petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Tongue blades and wooden applicator sticks
- Aspirin and non-aspirin pain reliever
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Eye-wash
- Rubbing alcohol
- Antiseptic or hydrogen peroxide
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Emetic (to induce vomiting)



PANDEMIC PLANNING

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new Influenza A virus emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population and begins to cause serious illness, and then spreads easily from person to person worldwide. The federal government, states, communities, and industry take steps to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic.

A pandemic is likely to be a prolonged and widespread outbreak that could require temporary changes in many areas of society such as schools, work, transportation, and other public services. An informed and prepared public can take appropriate actions to decrease their risk during a pandemic. In preparing for a pandemic, increase your emergency supplies to cover at least one month. For additional information on pandemic planning go to www.pandemicflu.gov.

How Will You Learn of an Emergency?



If there is information that could affect your safety, or if protective actions are required, Upper Gwynedd Township may use door-to-door notification, loud speakers by vehicle, email or text alert, social media, or its website (www.uppergwynedd.org) to disseminate this information. For a larger-scale emergency, the Emergency Alert System (EAS) may be used. For major weather events, a NOAA radio can provide an alert to inform you of impending severe storms. Original programming will be interrupted and emergency message will be broadcasted. In UPPER GWYNEDD, the EAS radio stations are KYW AM 1060, WNPV AM 1440, WZZD AM 990, and WPAZ AM 1370. Please follow us on Twitter @UGTEMA for the latest alerts.

In any emergency, check the TV, radio, and internet often for official news and information as it becomes available. A message will be broadcasted advising you what action should be taken. Please do not use the telephone to try to get information. Use your phone only to request assistance for a personal emergency.

IF YOU ARE TOLD TO EVACUATE, DO SO IMMEDIATELY.

- Take your Go Kit.
- Secure your home as you would for a three-day trip.
- For other emergencies, the Upper Gwynedd Township Emergency Management Agency will direct you to a designated shelter.

If you need transportation, attempt to obtain a ride with neighbors, a friend, or relatives. If this is not possible, call Upper Gwynedd Township Emergency Management Agency, 215-699-7777. You can also register at specialneedspa.org.

IF YOU ARE TOLD TO STAY INSIDE - SHELTER-IN-PLACE

This is a precaution aimed to keep you safe while remaining indoors. It means selecting a small, interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. It does not mean sealing off your entire home or office building.

- Close and lock windows and doors.
- If directed, turn off ventilation systems, water and gas.
- Seal gaps under doorways and windows with duct tape.
- If you suspect chemical or biological agents have entered your house, move to a safe room in the interior of the house on a higher floor, if possible.
- If harmful vapors do enter, cover your mouth and nose with a cloth.
- Keep pets inside.
- Stay inside until authorities say it is safe.

After An Emergency Occurs

During and after an emergency, it is important to stay calm. Even after an event, there may still be many dangers. What seems like a safe distance or location may not be. Stay tuned to your local Emergency Alert Station and follow the advice of trained professionals. Unless told to evacuate, avoid roads to allow emergency vehicles access. What you do next can save your life and the lives of others.

- Remain calm and assist family members or neighbors who may be vulnerable if exposed to extreme heat or cold.
- Locate a flashlight with batteries to use until power comes back on. Do not use candles — this can cause a fire.
- Turn off sensitive electrical equipment such as computers, cable boxes and televisions to prevent damage when electricity is restored.
- Turn off major electrical and gas appliances that were on when the power went off. This will help to prevent power surges when electricity is restored.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to keep in cold.
- Do not use the stove to heat your home — this can cause a fire or fatal gas leak.
- Use extreme caution when driving. If traffic signals are out, treat each signal as a stop sign — come to a complete stop at every intersection and look before you proceed.
- Do not call 911 to ask about a power outage. In case of a power outage, use battery-operated equipment to listen to news and radio stations for updates.

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT

This is one of the most important concepts in your disaster plan. When disaster occurs, you will be concerned about the welfare of your loved ones. In a disaster, local telephone service may be disrupted. However, long-distance lines may be open because they are routed many different ways out of your community. It also is important to remember that the telephone company's emergency telephone network is the pay telephone system. They will restore it before the rest of the system. So, if you have change to make a pay telephone call and an out-of-area contact, you may be able to communicate with loved ones in the disaster area indirectly through your out-of-area contact.

MEETING POINTS

After a disaster it may be impossible for family members to return home for one reason or another. It is very important that you select a meeting point in the community where you can join the members of your household.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Contact the American Red Cross to find out how to donate blood.
- Contact the relief agencies/organizations in your area to see what they may need, such as clothing or food.
- Take a Basic First Aid or CPR class.
- Consider joining the Upper Gwynedd Township Fire Department or the Volunteer Medical Service Corps of Lansdale.
- Form a neighborhood watch program to be better prepared for potential future events.
- Contact the Upper Gwynedd Township Emergency Agency for additional ways to help.

Other Informative Websites

<https://montco.alertpa.org/>

This site is to register for email and/or text alerts to be used in the event of an emergency in Upper Gwynedd or Montgomery County. Currently, there are over 550 users signed up to receive alerts specifically for Upper Gwynedd. Help us help you by signing up today to receive critical information during times of crisis.

<https://twitter.com/UGTEMA>

Follow Upper Gwynedd Township Emergency Management Agency on Twitter. Even if you are not a user of Twitter or social media, it would be beneficial to download and follow us just for emergency purposes.

<https://www.specialneedspa.org>

For you to register yourself or family members that may need assistance in the event of an emergency or evacuation. This information is managed by the Emergency Management Staff, and made available to the local Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services that cover Upper Gwynedd Township. It is not shared with any other agencies.

www.montcopa.org/webcad

Displays current emergency events taking place in Montgomery County.

http://www.uppergwynedd.org/weather/current_vantage.htm

Provides current up-to-date weather conditions here in Upper Gwynedd Township. This weather station is based at the Township building as updates every 10 minutes. During extreme weather conditions, this update time may be changed to every 60 seconds so that information may be used for Emergency Management Purposes.

<http://ecode360.com/UP0929>

All of the Codes and Ordinances that cover Upper Gwynedd Township.

Please visit the "Fire Marshal & Emergency Management" tab on the Upper Gwynedd Township homepage for more information, and for a list Smart Phone Applications that can assist you in preparing for an emergency.



HOW TO SUBMIT TIPS

The most effective way to report a tip regarding possible terrorist activity is to call the Upper Gwynedd Township Police Dept., 215-699-5861 or 911 in an emergency.



**UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

P.O. Box 1
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