

Emergency Management

Bob Ankrapp, PEM, Emergency Manager & Public Information Officer



Be Prepared for Severe Weather

Now that we're well into spring, we're also into another storm season. Over the past few years we have been fairly fortunate, with only a handful of significant spring storms impacting the City.

Before we get too confident and start believing it won't happen here however, remember that Dexter, located only 30 miles West of us, saw the destruction and/or significant damage to over 100 homes as a result of a March tornado. Monroe, located just to our South, fared somewhat better, but still sustained storm damage (while sighting several funnel clouds that fortunately did not cause significant damage). It CAN happen here.



Over the years, I have used this article to stress the importance of being prepared for emergencies and heeding any and all weather-related warnings. This message will never change. These two simple steps continue to be a resident's best defense for reducing the risk of injury (or even death) due to severe weather incidents (or any large-scale emergency for that matter).

We have heard much in the news lately about the "new", more graphic storm and tornado warnings that are being tested in several Midwestern cities by the National Weather Service. While some

have criticized the measure as "crying wolf", the reality is, too many people were simply ignoring the traditional warnings – and tragically, sometimes paying a heavy toll. Something new needed to be done. The new warnings, designed to catch individuals' attention,

communicate –sometimes in graphic detail – the effects of impending storms and tornadoes. Hopefully, these warnings will result in more people paying attention to them and heeding the instructions. As inconvenient as these warnings can sometimes be, the cost of not following them can be catastrophic.

Dearborn Heights residents—like residents throughout Southeast Michigan – have the benefit of an excellent warning system. We have the benefit of a well-trained meteorological staffs at the NOAA White Lake facility (and storm warning center in Norman, OK), as well as easy access to several broadcast outlets (both radio and TV) whose on-staff meteorologists consider conveying weather-related warnings and recommendations a top priority. As we go through our highest probability time period for severe weather, I hope you will take heed to the information you hear from these professionals – it could be a life saver.

Have a safe and enjoyable spring & summer. And as always, if you have any questions regarding emergency preparedness issues, don't hesitate to contact me at rankrapp@ci.dearborn-heights.mi.us.

Flooding Season is Here Again

Storm season always brings the potential for flooding situations to residents in and around Dearborn Heights.

To assist residents, the City has compiled a list of contacts and resources that will provide additional information and/or assistance regarding local flooding:

- City of Dearborn Heights Building & Engineering Department: (313) 791-3470
- City of Dearborn Heights Office of Emergency Management (313) 277-7405
- City of Dearborn Heights Department of Public Works (313) 791-6000

Residents May also find the following websites helpful:

City of Dearborn Heights Flood Information Page

<http://ci.dearborn-heights.mi.us>

(follow the "Flood Information" link on the right-hand side of the page)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

<http://www.fema.gov/individual/home.shtm>

FEMA Information on Floods and Flash Floods

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/>

National Flood Insurance Program

http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/index.jsp?WT.mc_id=YahooSSP&WT.srch=1

National Weather Service

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>

State of Michigan

<http://www.michigan.gov/michiganprepares>

Flooded Basement Information—Wayne County Department of Public Health

http://www.waynecounty.com/hsem_resources_seasonal_floods.htm

American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/portal/site/en/menuitem.d8aaecf214c576bf971e4cfe43181aa0/?vgnnextoid=b3d31b655eb3b110VgnVCM10000089f0870aRCRD>