

VIGILANCE

Oakland County Homeland Security Division

Theodore H. Quisenberry, Manager

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"WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS" CAMPAIGN

As part of the continuing commitment Oakland County Homeland Security has demonstrated over the years toward keeping our citizens, residents and guests safe, we are once again partnering with the National Weather Service (NWS) in conjunction with Lightning Safety Week, June 19-25, 2011, to endorse the NWS "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors" campaign in order to increase awareness of the dangers of lightning at outdoor recreational venues. Summer is the peak season for lightning strikes and the injuries associated with them.

Every year in the United States an average of 58 people are killed by lightning. Hundreds of others have been permanently injured suffering painful injuries and symptoms such as memory loss, numbness and depression. Most were engaging in physical or leisure activities in their yards or were attempting to seek shelter. People need to understand the dangers of lightning. If you hear thunder you could be in danger of

being hit by lightning and should seek shelter indoors immediately. Stay indoors until 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder. This campaign encourages the public that when they hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike and to take appropriate safety measures.

Oakland County Homeland Security has a limited supply of 12" X 18" yellow and black, weather resistant "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors" signs to be posted at golf courses, parks and other outdoor entertainment venues. If you would like signs call 248-858-5300.



Tornadoes

There have been several destructive tornados around the country over the past several months. Below are a few facts regarding the frequency and strength of a tornado. For more information, go to www.oakgov.com/homelandsecurity.

- A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.
- Although tornadoes occur in many parts of the world, they are found most frequently in the United States. In an average year, 1,200 tornadoes cause 70 fatalities and 1,500 injuries nationwide.
- Nationwide, Michigan has the third highest average number of tornado deaths per year with a total of over 237 since 1950. During this time, over 668 tornadoes occurred in the state, the majority in southern lower Michigan.
- Tornadoes can occur at any time of the day or night and in any month of the year. However, most tornadoes occur in the months of April, May, June and July in the late afternoon and evening hours, usually between 3:00-9:00 p.m.
- Tornadoes usually come from the southwest at speeds of 20-40 mph. However, they have traveled at speeds near 70 mph.
- The average tornado is on the ground less than 10 minutes and travels a distance of about five miles. However, they have stayed on the ground for more than three hours and traveled more than 200 miles.

Oakland County Homeland Security monitors storms and activates all outdoor warning sirens at once in Oakland County.

Tips to Keep Cool and Protected From the Sun When Temps are High

UPCOMING EVENTS/EXERCISES FROM THE HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Contractors are currently submitting proposals to update the current plan. This process will be done in partnership with local communities.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September is National Preparedness Month throughout the country. Oakland County is planning to have a booth with information and give-aways at the Arts, Beats & Eats event September 2-5, 2011.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN UPDATE

The Emergency Operations Plan is being updated. The plan will assist the County during large scale events.

MI METROPLEX EXERCISE

US Postal Services Metroplex will be conducting an exercise to test the response biological detection system alert.

Excessive heat over several consecutive days can be dangerous. Hot temperatures and high humidity can cause severe thunderstorms, power outages or interruptions, illness and death.

- Limit outside activities during the day.
- Avoid too much exercise during the warmest part of the day.
- Stay hydrated by drinking lots of water.
- If you have to be in the sun, protect yourself with sunscreen, sunglasses and light colored clothing.
- Keep cool! Use an air conditioner or go to a cool place such as a basement, neighbor's house, community center, senior citizen center, library, shopping mall, movie theater or cooling center
- Even an hour or two in these locations will cool you down.
- Check on family members, neighbors and friends.
- Never leave children, the elderly or pets in parked cars. Cars heat up quickly, even with windows open.

The Oakland County Homeland Security Division and the Oakland County Health Division monitor local and regional situations during Heat Advisories or Excessive Heat Warnings issued by the National Weather Services (NWS).

Stay cool during the summer months

Oakland County Homeland Security Division Community Presentations

- * Damage Assessment overview at the Oakland County Building Officials Association
- * Incident Command System (ICS) Overview for Executive and Senior Officials in Holly and Groveland
- * Safety and Security Training at Beaumont and Huron Valley Hospitals
- * Citizens Preparedness Presentation at Springfield Plains Elementary School in Clarkston
- * Business Emergency Response Teams (BERT) training at ABB Robotics in Auburn Hills

FRANK WILKE AWARD

The Oakland County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the Oakland County Homeland Security Division would like to congratulate Gage Products Company, Ferndale, Michigan, for being the recipient of the 2011 Frank Wilke LEPC Excellence Award for recognition in community preparedness and continued support of the Oakland County LEPC. The award was presented at the May 13, 2011, LEPC meeting. Gage Products Company has provided technical support and guidance to the LEPC since its inception in 1987. To further strengthen community response efforts, Gage Products Company recently purchased two fire extinguishing foam trailers for use by first responders through the Ferndale Fire Department in Oakland County. Congratulations Gage Products Company!!



Safety, Security & Emergency Preparedness Trainings

Oakland County Homeland Security Division (HSD) has offered to provide a Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness presentations to all hospitals throughout the county. To date, HSD has provided presentations to Beaumont and Huron Valley Hospitals. The presentations included topics such as mail handling, suspicious packages and bomb threat procedures.

For other community organizations interested in security and safety information for employees, FEMA also offers free on-line trainings. FEMA offers a free on-line course called IS-906: Workplace Security Awareness which identifies potential risks to workplace safety, describes measures for improving workplace security and determine the actions to take in response to a security situation. The training can be accessed at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS906.asp>.

Thank You
Oakland County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC) assists Oakland County by providing redundant and reliable radio communications in the event of emergency and during exercises. Oakland County Homeland Security would like to thank all members of OC ARPSC for their dedication and service throughout the years. They are often called in for assistance after hours and on weekends. Their commitment to assist is greatly

Exercise with Consumers's Energy and Community Partners

On March 25, 2011, representatives from Oakland County public safety, emergency management and representatives from a primary utility joined together for a scenario driven discussion-based exercise.

The activity was conducted at the Oakland County Executive Office Building (EOB) Conference Center located at the Oakland County campus in Waterford Township.

The "joint" TTX was designed and facilitated by an exercise planning team comprising of both County government (public sector) officials and Consumers Energy (private sector) key representatives. The project was well worth the effort.

This exercise was planned in accordance with Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidelines. The process began in September 2010, after the tragic incident in San Bruno, California, and continued to be a very timely effort as many incidents similar to the scenario actually occurred throughout the nation. The location and

primary participating agencies were considered because of an actual large natural gas leak incident in that area in May 2005.

Approximately 81 people representing more than 30 agencies or organizations participated in this exercise as players,

controllers, evaluators, support staff or technical assistants. Participants included Consumers Energy field management and operations, corporate security and media relations personnel, Oakland County Homeland Security and emergency operations center personnel, county public health/environmental health personnel, Oakland County Public

Information Officer (PIO), Oakland County Incident Management Team (IMT) members, local first responders (fire & rescue, law enforcement, emergency medical services, hazardous materials and public works) and representatives from a local school district, as well as several non-government organizations such as the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army.

Thank you to everyone who participated

Oakland County Executive



L. Brooks Patterson



HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION

1200 N. Telegraph Rd
Building 47 W
Pontiac MI 48341
248-858-5300

www.oakgov.com/homelandsecurity

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Sara Stoddard
Chief of Emergency Management
Homeland Security Division
stoddards@oakgov.com
248-858-5080