

Spring is Here! Let's Stay Prepared!



Photo Caption: Snow surrounding pansies in the Brunswick area March 21.

On March 20, 2013 we welcomed the first day of spring!

However, instead of sunny skies and warmer temperatures, the National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for parts of the Mid-South. In particular, Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee were issued a “winter storm watch” with several inches of snow and sleet predicted. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness, under the direction of Bob Nations, Jr., was on alert and reminded citizens to use caution when driving as the roadways could become hazardous overnight with limited visibility. The warning was downgraded to a winter weather advisory later in the day. Fortunately, only a light dusting of snow was seen on hills and rooftops in parts of the county with no significant accumulations.



April
2013
Issue

A season of renewal, spring can also be a dangerous time for weather events. Let's not forget that April 2011 was one of the deadliest weather months on record. The National Weather Service report 316 citizens killed from tornadoes in the South. 15 of the deaths occurred in Tennessee.

No matter the season, let's stay alert to changing weather patterns and all possible hazards that can occur in our region and be prepared to shelter in place or evacuate at a moment's notice.

Tsunami Preparedness Week March 24 – 30, 2013



While we will not experience a tsunami in the MidSouth, it is important that we are informed about all natural disasters – especially those that occur in other parts of our country. March 20 – 30 was observed as **National Tsunami Preparedness Week**.

Tsunamis, large ocean waves caused by underwater earthquakes or landslides, are more common in the Pacific Ocean. One of the most deadly natural disasters, tsunamis are responsible for killing over 420,000 citizens in the last 150 years. Warning systems that record the underwater earthquakes are in place and can give an estimate of incoming waves.

When visiting an area prone to tsunamis, learn what warning systems are in place and where the evacuation routes are located. Coastal states such as Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, and California are encouraged to become "TsunamiReady" by the National Weather Service. For more information on tsunami safety, visit www.tsunami.noaa.gov.

Landslide Hazards



Photo Caption: Mud Island, downtown Memphis, Tennessee was the site of a landslide in 2002 caused by construction and modifications of the land.

Recently on an island near Puget Sound in Washington state residents were surprised by a massive landslide that destroyed a home and threatened dozens more. Could a landslide happen here? Yes.

Landslides occur mostly in coastal areas, but can happen anywhere. Caused by earthquakes, excessive rain, volcanos, major fires, and modification of the land, landslides give no warning as rock, soil and debris suddenly flow down a hillside. They can travel at alarming speeds miles from their source. They may grow in size as trees, cars, and buildings are rolled into one massive force of nature.

Pay attention to your property for changes in water drainage, trees leaning to one side, windows or doors sticking, new cracks in plaster, brick, sidewalks and driveways, or tilting fences. Avoid building on steep slopes, bluffs, or drainage areas. Obtain a ground assessment of your property.

If you live in a landslide area, note changes in the landscape during storms. If you see a landslide, move away! If you are caught in a landslide, curl into a ball and protect your head. After the event, report damages to the authorities and stay away from the area. Watch for flooding and debris flow. Check to see if your neighbors need assistance. Replant your property as soon as possible to help avoid landslides in the future.

To find out more information about landslide safety, visit the National Flood Insurance Program website at www.floodsmart.gov.

Predicting Road Conditions



The Weather Channel can now assist you in checking the road conditions before you venture onto the roadways. The “Driving Difficulty Index” is a feature that allows you to input your zip code and check weather patterns on a layered animated map. Checking the roads and weather before you drive can save time and keep you and your family safe! For more information, please visit www.weather.com.

Hydrologic Outlook



Photo Caption: The Mississippi River at Memphis as fog lifts on Easter, March 31, 2013.

On March 7, 2013, the National Weather Service predicted an “hydrologic outlook” stating that the Mid-South should have a “near normal spring flood season.” West Tennessee is predicted to have 30% chance of above normal rainfall causing minor to moderate flooding on the Mississippi River. The report stated that gages from “Memphis south to Helena could record minor flooding.” The Mississippi River at Memphis measured 15.94 feet and dropping on April 1, 2013. Flood stage is 34 feet.

Weather Ready Kids!



The National Weather Services has launched the Young Meteorologist Program just for the kids! The star pupil, “Owlie,” teaches youngsters in a fun and informative way how to prepare for severe weather now.

This is a free computer game that is beneficial for children up to the eighth grade. Once the children learn how to prepare for severe weather, they will inevitably help keep their family safe as well.

This program is offered by a non-profit organization, PLAN!T NOW co-founded by Morgan Freeman in 2004. For more information, please visit with your children: www.nws.noaa.gov/weatherreadynation/news.

Minor Medical Information



Need a quick reference for how to handle a burn, cut, broken bone, poisoning, or bee sting? There is now a helpful website called “gotoAID” that can assist you with minor medical emergencies for both people, dogs and cats!

The site includes symptoms, steps to take to relieve pain, and when it is best to call 911. For more information, please visit: www.gotoaid.com.

Gas Leak Safety



Shelby County employees were evacuated from their campus at 1075 Mullins Stations Road on April 2 due to a gas leak accidentally caused by nearby road construction. No injuries were reported and they were allowed to return to their work stations within a short period of time.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens that a gas leak is an emergency and should be taken seriously. Both in the workplace and at home, a gas leak can be caused by a malfunctioning appliance or a ruptured gas line within the community.

Since natural gas does not have an odor, a substance called mercaptans has been added as a safety precaution. Mercaptans gives natural gas a “rotten egg” smell so it can be detected easily.

If you experience the rotten egg smell, hear a hissing or whistling sound, or see a light fog, leave the building immediately! Outdoor gas leaks may be detected by dead vegetation near the leak or a bubbling of water or on wet ground. If you suspect a gas leak, call your utility company from outside the building and report the leak. Do not create a spark inside the building by turning on or off a light. Do not activate the garage door opener. Do not light a match. Leave the door of the building open. If you have preparedness training such as CERT, turn off the gas at the meter outside the home with a wrench or all purpose tool.

Symptoms of natural gas exposure may include headaches, dizziness, fatigue, and nausea. In severe cases, asphyxiation and death may occur.

If a gas leak is suspected, evacuate and call 911 immediately.

Preparedness Outreach

1 Get a Kit of Emergency Supplies.

Be prepared to separate and use what you have on hand to make do your own for at least three days, longer, while there are many things that might make you more comfortable, think first about fresh water, food and clean air.

Consider two kits: one for just everything you will need to stay where you are and make it on your own. The other should be a lightweight outdoor version you can take with you if you have to get away.

You'll need a gallon of water per person per day for drinking and sanitation. Include in this kit a three-day supply of non-perishable foods that are easy to store and prepare such as protein bars, dried fruit or canned foods. If you live in a cold-weather climate, include warm clothes and a sleeping bag for each member of the family.

Some potential terrorist attacks could send tiny microscopic "germs" with this air. Many of these germs can only hurt you if they get into your body, so think about creating a barrier between yourself and any contamination. It's smart to have something for each member of the family that covers their mouth and nose, such as ties to three layers of cloth and sandwiched or lined with filter media, readily available in hardware stores. It's very important that the mask or other material fit your face snugly so that most of the air you breathe comes through the mask, not around it. Do whatever you can to make the best fit possible for children.

Also, include duct tape and heavy-weight garbage bags or plastic sheeting that can be used to seal windows and doors if you need to create a barrier between yourself and any potential contamination outside.

2 Make a Plan for What You Will Do in an Emergency.

Plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. One common sense rule is to have a plan for what you will do in an emergency. One common sense rule is to have a plan for what you will do in an emergency. One common sense rule is to have a plan for what you will do in an emergency.

3 Be Informed About What Might Happen.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the emergency, such as assembling a supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency. However, there are significant differences among potential terrorist threats, such as biological, chemical, explosion, nuclear and radiological, which will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. Go to www.ready.gov to learn more about potential terrorist threats and other emergencies or call 1-800-424-6242 (1-800-225-2233) for a free brochure.

4 Get Involved in Preparing Your Community.

After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step and get involved in preparing your community. Join Citizen Corps, which actively involves citizens in making our communities and our nation safer, stronger and better prepared. We all have a role to play in keeping our communities secure from emergencies of all kinds. Citizen Corps works hard to help people prepare, train and volunteer in their communities. Go to www.citizencorps.gov for more information and to get involved.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness continues to reach out to citizens by offering free "literature kits." They include the "Are You Ready" Book, a variety of 3-color FEMA brochures on preparedness for seniors, special needs citizens, and pets; fact sheets on major disasters such as flooding, earthquakes, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes; preparedness training opportunities including CERT; hazard hunt maps for homes; business preparedness information, workbooks, and posters; coloring and activity workbooks for children and teens; the HELP / OK sign, shelter in place information from the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and "shopping lists" for creating an emergency kit.

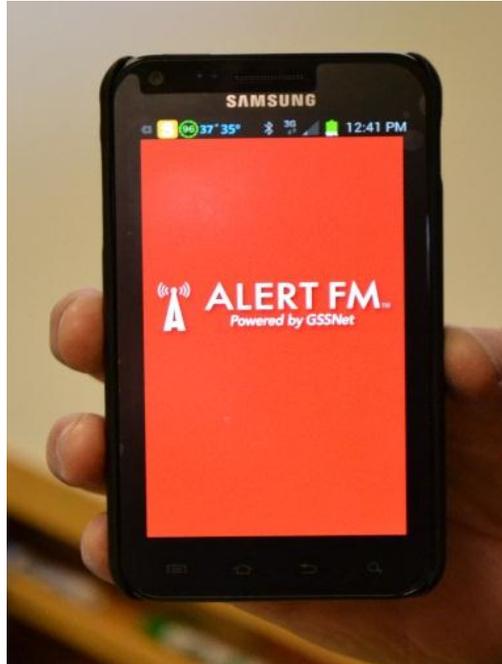
Also included in the kits are instructions on how you can order free FEMA brochures in bulk to be delivered to your home or business.

This is a great way to educate yourself, co-workers, and business associates on how to get prepared for emergencies.

Currently, the literature kits are being distributed to most of the day care centers throughout Shelby County by the agency Reserves.

To request a literature preparedness kit for yourself or business, please call 901.515.2525 or email citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov.

ALERT FM Update



The desktop / portable ALERT FM unit, the personal alert and messaging system, has been installed in all city and county schools in order for school officials to receive emergency messages directly from the Shelby County Office of Preparedness and local alerts.

Common messages that may be sent to the ALERT FM receivers include inclement weather warnings, school closings, evacuation instructions, Homeland Security notices, and Amber alerts.

According to Michael Brazzell, Office of Preparedness Officer, ALERTFM now offers a phone app available from iTunes and the Google Store.

For more information on ALERT FM, please visit www.alertfm.com.

Shelby County Citizen Corps



The mission of Citizen Corps is to harness the power of individuals through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds

The Shelby County Citizen Corps Council, under the leadership of Kimberlyn Bouler, Chairperson and Office of Preparedness Planning Officer, meets monthly to guide the county's disaster professionals and volunteers in training the public for unexpected events. Programs include: Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS), USAonWatch (Neighborhood Watch), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Preparedness Training Opportunities:

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):

Bartlett CERT: 5868 Stage Road, Bartlett Station Municipal Center, Community Room A, Bartlett, TN 38135, Email bartlettcert@cityofbartlett.org or ljenkins@cityofbartlett.org or call 901.385.5536. Adult CERT: April 20 and 27, 2013, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Teen CERT: June 10 – 14, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 12: 30 p.m.

CERTPlus: Citizens For CERT. New CERT program incorporated in Tennessee as a non-profit organization offering CERT training by all volunteer, certified instructors. Contact Lee Race at 901.692.3889.

Collierville CERT: 1251 Peterson Lake, Collierville, TN Contact: Scott Sumner by email: ssumner@ci.collierville.tn.us or call 901.457.2400. Friday, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. May 31, June 1 - 2, 2013

Germantown CERT: Fire Station #4, 3031 Forrest Hill Irene, Germantown, TN, Contact: srhea@germantown-tn.gov or call 901.757.7203. Friday at 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., next 2 Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. May 10, 11, 18 and September 28, 29, October 5.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness CERT: 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134, Contact citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov, or call Eugene Jones at 901.515.2525. Classes meet on two consecutive Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. May 4 and 11, June 1 and 8, July 13 and 20, Aug 3 and 10, Sep 7 and 14, Oct 5 and 12, Nov 2 and 9. Pre-registration is required.

Additional Training Opportunities:

ICS (Incident Command System) 300, April 23 and 24, 2013, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134, Room W263. Email Shannon.towery@shelbycountyttn.gov to register.

TEMA Damage Assessment Workshop, May 1, 2013, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134, Room C-113. Email Shannon.towery@shelbycountyttn.gov to register.

ICS (Incident Command System) 400, May 7 and 8, 2013, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134, Room W-263. Email Shannon.towery@shelbycountyttn.gov to register.

For more information about preparedness training, please call 901.515.2525 or email: Citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Resources

Shelby County Office of Preparedness: 901.515.2525,
www.staysafeshelby.us

Shelby County Citizen Corp: citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County, TN: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

Ready Shelby: www.readyshelby.us

Shelby Cares: 901.515.2525 or email Terry.Donald@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Storm Shelter Registry: [email
kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountyttn.gov](mailto:kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountyttn.gov)

ALERT FM: www.alertfm.com

AccuWeather: www.accuweather.com

American Heart Association : www.heart.org

American Radio Relay League: www.arrl.org

Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov

Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI)
www.ceri.memphis.edu

Citizen Corps: www.citizencorps.org

Department of Homeland Security: www.dhs.gov

Do1thing: www.do1thing.com

Drop Box: www.dropbox.com

Emergency 2.0 Wiki Accessibility Toolkit: : www.emergency202wiki.org

Emergency Preparedness: Disability: [www.disability.gov/emergency-
preparedness](http://www.disability.gov/emergency-preparedness)

Federal Drug Administration: www.fda.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.org

FEMA Text Messages: text PREPARE 43362 (4FEMA)

Google Maps: www.googlemaps.com

Humane Society Of Memphis and Shelby County:
www.memphishumane.org

International Association of Emergency Planners: www.iaem.com

Lightning Safety: www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

MapQuest: www.mapquest.com

Memphis Light Gas and Water: www.mlwg.com, 901.544.6549, Outages:
901.544.6500

National Flood Insurance Program: www.floodsmart.gov

National Fire Protection Assoc. www.nfpa.org

National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov

National Safety Council: www.nsc.org

Next of Kin Registry: www.nokr.org

NOAA National Weather Service: www.weather.gov

NOAA Hurricane: www.hurricanes.noaa.gov

Occupational Safety and Hazards Administration: www.osha.gov

Ready TN: www.tn.gov/homelandsecurity/getready.shtml

Ready America: www.ready.gov

Ready Gov: www.ready.gov/business

Ready Gov: www.ready.gov/kids

ROAD CONDITIONS:

- Tennessee: 1.877.244.0065
- Mississippi: 1.888.728.4218

- Arkansas: 1.800.245.1672

Salvation Army: www.salvationarmyusa.org

Severe Weather: www.ready.gov/severe-weather

Storm Ready Program: www.stormready.noaa.gov

Tennessee: www.tennessee.gov

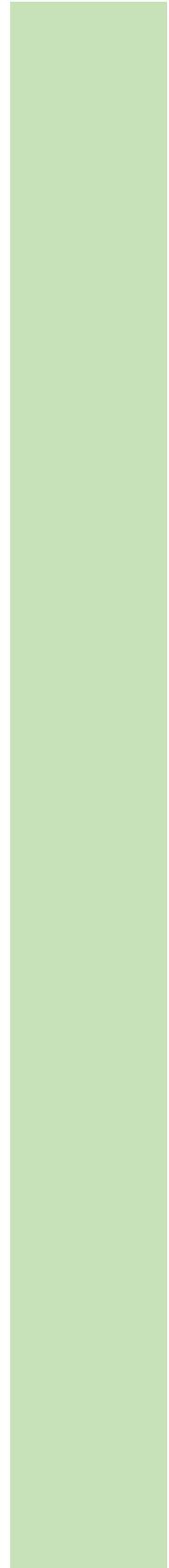
United States Geological Society: www.usgs.gov

Weather Bug: www.weatherbug.com

Weather Channel: www.weather.com

Wunderground: www.wunderground.com

Emergency: call 911



Shelby County Office of Preparedness

HLS/EMA

Bob Nations, Jr., Director

901.515.2525

www.staysafeshelby.us

- **Know Your Risks**
- **Get a Kit**
- **Make a Plan**
- **Stay Informed**
- **Be a Buddy**