

CITIZEN RESPONSE

BE PREPARED

- ✓ Prepare an emergency plan(See www.redcross.org for examples).
- ✓ Be self-reliant without help for four days.
- ✓ In case of evacuation, identify a place your family can go outside the home, in the neighborhood, and outside the area.
- ✓ First Aid/CPR class every two years.
- ✓ Insure home and possessions.

KEEP INFORMED

It is recommended each home/business have a NOAA weather radio to advise of weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service. The Emergency Alert System will break into local TV and radio programs for public safety messages. Media outlets are:

Radio: WHLM 930 AM TV: WNEPTV 16
 WHLM 103.5 FM WBRE TV 28
 WQKX 94.1 FM WYLN TV 35
 WFYY 106.5 FM

Route Alert Teams of credentialed officials will go door-to-door advising residents.

More info: ema.columbiapa.org

GET INVOLVED

Emergency Response involves the entire community and relies on many volunteers. Volunteers are becoming an **extremely rare commodity**. If we don't, who will?

Citizens and businesses can call Columbia County EMA, Mon-Fri 8 AM - 4:30 PM, (570) 389-5720 to volunteer or provide a resource such as a vehicle, facility or equipment to support an emergency or disaster.

Emergency Management Awareness

Floods
Droughts
Lightning
Wind
Tornado



Winter Weather
Pandemic Awareness
Hazardous Materials
Nuclear Power Plant
Citizen Response

Be Prepared
Keep Informed
Get Involved

FLOODS

Flood Watch: National Weather Service advises a *possibility* of flooding.

Flood Warning: National Weather Service advises flooding *is imminent* or *has begun*.

Before the Flood:

- ✓ Homeowners insurance does not normally cover floods. Residents can purchase insurance if their municipality joined the National Flood Insurance Program. Ask your insurance agent.
 - ✓ Pre-identify a safe place your family can relocate in case of evacuation.
 - ✓ Maintain a list of personal property and consider taking pictures or videos. Keep this information in a safety deposit box.
 - ✓ Move possessions to a safe location.
 - ✓ Prepare/Check your evacuation kit.
 - ✓ Ensure your vehicles' fuel tank is full.
- Log on to www.fema.gov for more info.

During the Flood:

- ✓ Keep informed by tuning to local media outlets for weather updates.
- ✓ Turn off all utilities before evacuation.
(As Safety and Time Permit)

After the Flood

When authorities say it's safe to return...

- ✓ Check the exterior of your home for structural damage before entering.
- ✓ Do not light a match or smoke when entering in case of a gas leak.

- ✓ If your home suffered flood damage, do not turn on utilities until a qualified service person has inspected all systems.
- ✓ Open windows and doors to circulate air.
- ✓ Take pictures/videos of all damage.
- ✓ Call your insurance agent to file a claim.
- ✓ Make temporary structural repairs to prevent further losses.
- ✓ Discard food touched by flood waters.
When in doubt throw it out.
- ✓ Throw out wet insulation, shovel mud, and remove or thoroughly dry carpets.
- ✓ Prevent mildew by cleaning surfaces with a mixture of hot soapy water and a 5% bleach solution. (1/4 cup per Gallon)
Never mix ammonia with bleach!

DROUGHTS

'Watch', 'Warning' & 'Emergency' are the three drought stages. They are based on stream flow, rainfall, reservoir levels, ground water elevations and soil moisture.

Watch requests that residents voluntarily cut back at least 5% on their water use.

Warning requests at least 10-15% cut.

Emergency mandates restrictions.

Water Conservation Examples: Refrain from washing the car; take shorter showers; only run full wash loads; don't let water run when brushing teeth; and fix all faucet leaks.

Note: Residents with wells should be aware it takes considerable rainfall to replenish water tables after extended dry periods.

LIGHTNING

Most injuries and fatalities occur outdoors during a storm in the summer. If possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building, staying away from windows. If not near a building, seek refuge in a hardtop vehicle or low lying area.

TORNADOS / HIGH WIND

Flying debris can cause injuries and fatalities.

- ✓ Straight-line winds (can exceed 100 mph!) are responsible for most thunderstorm wind damage.
- ✓ A downburst (can also exceed 100 mph!), is rapidly descending air beneath a thunder- storm, and can cause tornado-like damage.

What to do when a warning is issued...

- ✓ Go to a basement If none; staying away from windows, go to a hall or interior room on the lowest level, a bathtub or under sturdy furniture. Use head protection.
- ✓ Don't try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. Leave the vehicle and seek a safe shelter.
- ✓ If you're caught outside, seek shelter in a ditch or depression and lie flat with your hands over your head.
- ✓ Mobile homes offer no protection. Go to the lowest level of a nearby building.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Wind Speed</u>
EF0	Weak	65-85 mph
EF1	Gale	86-110 mph
EF2	Significant	111-135 mph
EF3	Severe	136-165 mph
EF4	Devastating	166-200 mph
EF5	Catastrophic	Over 200 mph

WINTER WEATHER

Advisories, Watches & Warnings

Wind Chill Advisory is the effect of wind in combination with temperature, increasing the rate of heat loss to the human body.

Travelers Advisory is issued when falling, blowing or drifting snow, freezing rain, sleet or strong winds may hinder driving.

Winter Storm Watch indicates severe winter weather in the form of freezing rain, sleet or heavy snow may affect your area in 1-2 days.

Winter Storm Warning indicates that severe winter weather conditions are imminent and will occur in your area within 12-24 hours.

Blizzard Warning is issued when sustained winds of at least 35 mph are accompanied by falling or blowing snow restricting visibility.

What to do

- ✓ Keep an adequate supply of heating fuel.
- ✓ Maintain a 4-day supply of water and food on hand for each family member.
- ✓ Have a first aid and emergency kit on hand.

PANDEMIC AWARENESS

Pandemic is a sudden outbreak of a virus that becomes widespread affecting a region, continent, or the world. The PA Department of Health will coordinate pandemic influenza surveillance and diagnosis. Two Points of Distribution (POD) have been identified and will be activated during a pandemic.

Approximately 200 volunteers (not including police, fire and ambulance) are needed to staff each POD per day. This is an excellent project for faith-based, professional, community, or civic organizations. Training will be provided.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HAZMAT)

- ✓ Hazardous Materials pose potential risk to life, property or the environment when they are uncontrolled and improperly released.
- ✓ Hazardous materials are probably located in every home and business in the form of fuel and cleaning supplies to name of few.
- ✓ Always read instructions before using chemicals. Mixing common household cleaning agents can cause deadly vapors.
- ✓ Exposure to hazardous materials could lead to health issues or even death.

Public Protective Actions

During a hazardous chemical release, the Emergency Responder Incident Commander may recommend 'shelter' or 'evacuation' to protect the public from danger.

Shelter means seeking protection indoors to avoid exposure. Close all windows, doors, vents, fireplace dampers, heating, ventilation, and air conditioners that use outside air.

Evacuation is ordered when conditions could be extremely dangerous. Evacuation orders may be given with little warning. Residents should have a list of items to gather in a hurry.

If actions of shelter or evacuation are required, notification will be by Route Alerting Teams of credentialed emergency first responders going door to door; and the Emergency Alert System will break into local radio and TV programming with emergency information.

During the emergency, the public should stay tuned to local radio or TV stations for updates.

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION (SSES) - PPL

The County Radiological Emergency Operations Plan, available at the library, establishes procedures for those living, working or conducting business in the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), a 10-mile radius of the SSES. Basic emergency information is also available in the blue pages of the local telephone book.

Public Notification:

Sirens: Sirens are located throughout the 10-mile EPZ. A 3-5 minute non-stop tone indicates a situation has occurred. Residents should monitor local media for instructions.

Route Alert Teams: After sirens sound, teams will immediately go door-to door and through streets advising the public.

Public Information

Columbia County EMA will make every effort to keep residents informed of developments through local media outlets.

Emergency Protective Actions

'Evacuation', 'Shelter', and 'Take KI' are the three protective actions. For 'Evacuation' and 'Shelter' actions, see 'Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)' of this pamphlet.

Take KI (Potassium Iodide): **Only** take KI when instructed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. KI was issued to everyone in the EPZ. Pills are available at your local pharmacy. KI fills your thyroid gland reducing the chance that radioactive iodide will damage it. Persons allergic to iodide should not take KI.