



Helping you protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors

HOMEfront

BATTLE CREEK'S EMERGENCY SERVICES NEWSLETTER / www.bcesmi.org

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Calendar of Events

■ November 12th

SAR, CERT & RACES Meeting
6:00 pm at Department of Public Works

■ November 12th

Winter Weather Seminar
7:00 pm at Department of Public Works
Featuring Keith Thompson Chief Meteorologist from WWMT NEWS 3

■ November 22nd

2014 Battle Creek Christmas Parade
6:00 - 9:00 pm Downtown Battle Creek

■ November 22nd

International Festival of Lights
All-day Event Downtown Battle Creek

■ December 5th & 6th

2014 Grand Rapids SKYWARN Recognition Day
NWS Grand Rapids Forecast Office,
4899 S. Complex Drive SE,
Grand Rapids, MI

■ December 10th

SAR, CERT & RACES Holiday Party
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at
Department of Public Works



BCES is a division of the Battle Creek Police Department



EMERGENCY SERVICES PROFILE OF THE MONTH!

Phil Allen

Primary responsibility is Battle Creek Community Response Team Operations

Winter Weather Safety



On average, a major winter storm hits some part of Michigan at least once per month between October and April. In 2012, the last year that statistics were available, 20 people died in Michigan as a direct result of severe winter weather according to the Michigan Department of Community Health. This is in addition to victims of traffic crashes due to slippery roads and those who suffered heart attacks while shoveling snow.

Remaining Safe During a Winter Storm

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain. Regardless of the severity of a winter storm, you should be prepared in order to remain safe during these events.

November 12th, 2014
Beginning at 7:00pm

Winter Weather Seminar

Featuring Keith Thompson
Chief Meteorologist from WWMT NEWS 3

This seminar is open to the general public

Location: Battle Creek Department of Public Works • 150 S. Kendall Street, Battle Creek MI, 49015

News and Updates:

Battle Creek CERT Training Scheduled for February 2015



February 20,21, 28 – Tentative next CERT training course. Tell your

friends to hold the date if they are interested in joining our group.



Remember New Meeting Time

The new time for our meetings is 6:00 pm. This is to make sure we have enough time for general meeting discussion and training now that all groups are combined.

We Recommend the following FEMA courses for CERT members.

We strongly recommend the following FEMA courses for CERT members. These are mandatory for SAR members. These can also be found on our BCESMI website.

- IS-100.B: Introduction to Incident Command System, ICS-100
- IS-200.B: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS-700.A: National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction
- IS-800.B: National Response Framework, An Introduction



FEMA



Know the Difference

Winter Storm Outlook - Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2 to 5 days.

Winter Weather Advisory - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.

Winter Storm Watch - Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.

Winter Storm Warning - Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately.

Put Together a Supply Kit

- Water—at least a 3-day supply; one gallon per person per day
- Food—at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc.)
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- Tools/supplies for securing your home
- Sand, rock salt or non-clumping kitty litter to make walkways and steps less slippery
- Warm coats, gloves or mittens, hats, boots and extra blankets and warm clothing for all household members
- Ample alternate heating methods such as fireplaces or wood- or coal-burning stoves



Emergency preparedness kits are easy to make.



Our Mission:

To provide Battle Creek residents, businesses and industries, non-profit organizations, and local governments the education and support necessary to reduce the loss of life and human suffering; to minimize property damage; and to protect environmental sensitive areas from all types of disasters through a comprehensive, risk-based, all-hazard emergency management program.

Battle Creek Emergency Services is dedicated to protecting lives, property, environment and the economy of its citizens through preparedness and mitigation activities, respond in an effective manner to emergencies and disaster, and coordinate and participate in the recovery effort as a result of such events. It is the responsibility of Battle Creek Emergency Services to coordinate the task of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery as effectively as possible.



What is Lake Effect Snow?



Lake effect snow occurs when cold air passes over a large warmer lake, such as one of the Great Lakes. The warmer lake and cold air creates an unstable atmosphere. The air that streams over the warmer lake and picks up some of the moisture and heat from the Great Lake and, in combination with unstable air, creates snow showers. Those snow showers move with the wind into areas downstream of the Great Lakes. Lake effect snow can create a local, intense, and narrow band of moderate to heavy snow that

can extend inland as far east as across the entire Lower Peninsula. Lake effect snow may also be accompanied by strong, gusty winds and possibly lightning. Snowfall rates in the most intense lake effect events can reach 3 to 5 inches per hour! Areas that are most susceptible to lake effect snows are Northern Upper Michigan, Western Lower Michigan and to a lesser extent, the Thumb region of Lower Michigan.

Remaining Safe During a Winter Storm

- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or other local news channels for critical information on snow storms and blizzards from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas and make sure that their access to food and water is not blocked by snow drifts, ice or other obstacles.
- Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside and kept clear.
- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- Go to a designated public shelter if your home loses power or heat during periods of extreme cold.
- Avoid driving when conditions include sleet, freezing rain or drizzle, snow or dense fog. If travel is necessary, keep a disaster supplies kit in your vehicle.
- Before tackling strenuous tasks in cold temperatures, consider your physical condition, the weather factors and the nature of the task.
- Protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia by wearing warm, loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in several layers. Stay indoors, if possible.
- Help people who require special assistance such as elderly people living alone, people with disabilities and children.

Websites that we recommend you explore

■ Nixle

<http://www.nixle.com>

■ Ready.gov

www.ready.gov

■ FEMA

<http://www.fema.gov>

■ MI Train

<https://mi.train.org>

■ Michigan Volunteer Registry

www.mivolunteerregistry.org

■ Do 1 Thing

www.dol1thing.com

■ Battle Creek Emergency Services

www.bcesmi.org

*Peanut's Tips
of the Month!*



What is frostbite and what can you do to treat it?

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by the tissue being frozen. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, or the tip of the nose. Frostbite varies in severity from frostnip to deep frostbite, depending on the length of exposure, temperature to which the skin is exposed, and wind speed. For frostnip, place firm, steady pressure from a warm hand against the area. Also, blow on the surface holding the frostnipped area against the body. Do not rub the area, apply snow, or plunge it into very hot or cold water. Victims of severe frostbite must receive prompt medical attention.

What is hypothermia and what are the warning signs?

Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature drops to 95 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. It can develop whenever body heat loss exceeds heat gain. Hypothermia is not exclusive to winter. It can occur during the wind and rain of spring and summer. Hypothermia is often mistaken for fatigue, irritability, or dehydration and may include some of these signs: abnormal decision making; improper response to cold; apathy; lethargy; decreased cooperation; slurred speech; disorientation; shivering; stumbling; and stiffness progressing to inability to move.

Want To Volunteer?

Visit our website and sign-up today!

www.bcesmi.org

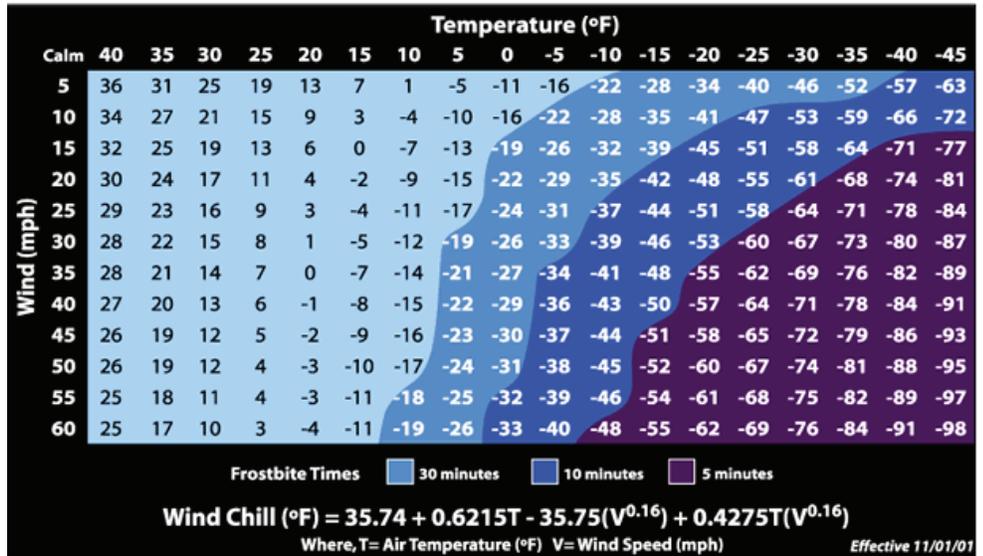
Total Number of Volunteer Hours
Number of Volunteer Hours 100,000



Volunteer's save the community money



NWS Windchill Chart



The Wind Chill is the temperature your body feels when the air temperature is combined with the wind speed. It is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by the effects of wind and cold. As the speed of the wind increases, it can carry heat away from your body much more quickly, causing skin temperature to drop. The Wind Chill chart below shows the difference between actual air temperature and perceived temperature, and amount of time until frostbite occurs.



Driving in Winter

The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it.

Don't go out until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination.

If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions.

It's helpful to practice winter driving techniques in a snowy, open parking lot, so you're familiar with how your car handles. Consult your owner's manual for tips specific to your vehicle.

Driving Safely On Icy Roads



1. Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
2. Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
3. Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
4. Keep your lights and windshield clean.
5. Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
6. Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
7. Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
8. Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
9. Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.