READY GRAND RAPIDS
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies only. An emergency is a serious medical problem (chest pain, seizure, bleeding, difficulty breathing), any type of fire (building, vehicle, brush), any life-threatening situation (fights, person with weapons, robbery, etc.) or to report any other crimes that are in progress.

If you dial 911 by mistake, do not hang up! Instead, stay on the line and inform the call-taker that it was a mistake and there is not an emergency.

Dial 211 for community services and information regarding disaster assistance, finding food and shelter, transportation, health, housing and utilities. Furthermore, you can text your zip code to 898211 to find helpful services in your area (standard message and data rates may apply).

Dial 311 or 616-456-3000 as a convenient single point of contact for non-emergency government information about City of Grand Rapids services or programs, or to make a request for service. Service is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed weekends and holidays.

SIGN UP FOR GR EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM
www.grandsraptodmi.gov/services/register-for-grand-rapids-emergency-alerts
Local news and radio stations:

**WOODTV NBC-affiliated television station**
Digital channel 8
www.woodtv.com

**WZZM13 ABC-affiliated television station**
Digital channel 13
www.wzzm13.com

**FOX17 Fox-affiliated television station**
Digital channel 17
www.fox17online.com

**Websites:**
- **City of Grand Rapids**
  www.grandrapidsmi.gov
- **Kent County**
  www.accesskent.com
- **National Weather Service—GR**
  www.weather.gov/grr

**Radio:**
- **WKTG**
  AM 1230
- **WOOD**
  FM 106.9
  AM 1300

**Add your favorites:**

**City of Grand Rapids**
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CityofGrandRapids
Twitter: @CityGrandRapids

**Grand Rapids Fire Department**
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GrandRapidsFireDepartment

**Grand Rapids Police Department**
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GrandRapidsPD
Twitter: @GrandRapidsPD

**Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)**
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MichiganDOT
Twitter: @MDOT_West
# Important Contacts

Add information pertinent to you

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MAKE A HOUSEHOLD PLAN:

The City of Grand Rapids maintains a formal citywide disaster plan and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that coordinates emergency responses and services when a disaster strikes. However, making a household disaster plan increases your chances of survival when you and your loved ones know what to do.

ELEMENTS OF A PLAN

- Learn the threats in your area
- Identify meeting places outside of your home
- Select an out-of-state contact
- Plan an evacuation route
- Know location of utility shut-offs
- Identify a shelter-in-place area
- Know emergency policies of schools
- Review plan annually and practice drills

NOTES

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BUILD A KIT

In the event of a disaster, government agencies will attempt to distribute aid and other resources, however, depending on the severity of the incident there might be delay in getting these to you. Building an emergency kit of basic supplies to last a minimum of 72 hours will increase your household’s survival.

Visit www.ready.gov for more information
# Basic Emergency Supply Checklist

- Water/Non-Perishable Food for Several Days
- Extra Chargers for Mobile/Cellular Devices
- Flashlights and Extra Batteries
- Battery-Powered or Hand Crank Radio That Receives NOAA Weather Alerts and Tones
- First Aid Kit (Consider RX and Glasses if Necessary)
- Whistle to Signal for Help
- Non-Sparking Tools to Turn Off Utilities
- Local Maps
- Dust Mask, Plastic Sheeting, Duct Tape for Shelter-In-Place
- Matches Stored in Waterproof Container
- Sanitation Supplies
- Consider Extra Clothing and Pet Supplies

Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more info
This section contains general information on specific hazards that may affect the Greater Grand Rapids area. Please stay connected with your local public safety organizations to ensure you receive specific, accurate and relevant instructions in the event one of these hazards occur.

**SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS**

**Watch vs. Warning**

A severe thunderstorm watch means conditions are favorable or expected, but not occurring or imminent

A severe thunderstorm warning means conditions are occurring or imminent

**DURING A THUNDERSTORM WATCH:**

- TUNE INTO THE NWS, NOAA, OR LOCAL NEWS AND RADIO CHANNELS
- PREPARE TO SEEK SHELTER
- AVOID NATURAL LIGHTNING RODS, SUCH AS METAL AND POLES

**DURING A THUNDERSTORM WARNING:**

- FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY!
- AVOID WATER AND ELECTRIC SOURCES
- SECURE AND STAY AWAY WINDOWS AND DOORS
- UNPLUG ELECTRONIC DEVICES (TELEVISION, PERSONAL COMPUTERS, ETC.)

**NOTES**

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# Extreme Temperatures

## Extreme Heat

**If Under Extreme Heat Warning:**
- Find air conditioning
- Avoid strenuous activities
- Watch for heat illness
- Drink plenty of hydrating fluids
- Do not leave people or pets in a closed vehicle

**Prepare for an Extreme Heat Event:**
- Cover windows with shade
- Use window reflectors like aluminum foil-covered cardboard
- Use attic fans to clear hot air
- Install window AC units if accessible

**Heat Related Illnesses**

- **Heat Cramps**: Prolonged and painful cramps in abdomen, legs, and arms
- **Heat Exhaustion**: Heavy sweating, rapid pulse, headache, nausea, dizziness
- **Heat Stroke**: Confusion, slurred speech, very high body temperature, seizures, hot dry skin, or profuse sweating

## Cold and Winter Weather

**If Under a Winter Storm Warning:**
- Find shelter immediately
- Avoid going out doors and wear warm protective gear if you cannot refrain
- Tune into the NWS, NOAA, or local news and radio channels
- Stay to one heated room and close off unnecessary rooms in the home

**Prepare for an Extreme Winter Event:**
- Expect potential power outages
- Use generators outside only and away from windows and doors
- Listen for emergency alerts
- Check on neighbors and friends

**Do Not Use Electric or Gas Ovens or Stovetops for Space Heating**

**Seek Immediate Medical Attention or Call 9-1-1 if You or Someone You Know Is Experiencing a Medical Emergency**

**Sign Up for GR Emergency Alert System**
www.grandsrapidsmi.gov/services/register-for-grand-rapids-emergency-alerts
# Natural Disasters

## Flood

**If under a flood warning:**
- Find shelter right away
- Do not swim or drive through flood waters
- Stay off of bridges over fast moving water
- Listen for evacuation instructions and emergency alerts from your local public safety authority

**Prepare for a flood:**
- Know your flood risk
  - Visit FEMA’s flood map service center
- Sign up for the Grand Rapids emergency alert system
- Purchase flood insurance
  - Get coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Gather emergency supplies and be prepared to evacuate if told to do so
  - In case of emergency keep important documents in waterproof container
- Protect your property
  - Declutter gutters and drains

## Tornado

**If under a tornado warning:**
- Go to a safe shelter immediately
  - Safe room, basement, storm cellar
- Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls
- Do not go under an overpass or bridge
  - You are safer in a low, flat location
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck
- If you can’t stay home safely, plan to go to a public shelter

**Prepare for a tornado:**
- Know signs of a tornado
  - Rotating, funnel shaped cloud or approaching cloud of debris
- Pay attention to weather reports
- Prepare for a long-term stay at home or sheltering in place
- Identify and practice going to a safe shelter quickly and efficiently
- Sign up for the Grand Rapids emergency alert system

[Sign up for GR Emergency Alert System](https://www.grandsradiansmi.gov/services/register-for-grand-rapids-emergency-alerts)