



MSU DAWG TRACKS

Being proactive always puts you at an advantage over being reactive. During an emergency you want to be able to take action in a way that will quickly get you to the recovery process. To do this you must have a plan ahead of time. Think of specific situations that could happen at work, driving down the road, walking through a parking lot, out in the water or in the woods, and during a natural disaster. Then “what if...” these scenarios and think about how you ideally want to react.

Some questions to ask yourself
in preparation for an emergency:

How will I stay informed of conditions or communicate with others?

- Be observant, monitor conditions, have emergency alerts, & understand the hazards to avoid.
- Do you know exactly who to call? Have your supervisor’s/family’s cell phone numbers committed to memory so if your phone dies.
- Is there even cell phone reception in that location? What other communication methods may be useful? Do you know how to use them?
- Can you give directions to your exact location? If working in remote locations, do others know where you are? Is there a plan about expected return or check-in times?

Do I know where to go to take shelter or how to get out of the situation?

- Do you have a building/room designated to get in during a tornado or hurricane?
- Do you know all the exits for your building & various paths to get to them? A direction other than the door you normally enter, is helpful in fires or active shooter situations.

- Is there a designated gathering place outside for building occupants or your family if you must evacuate?
- Do you have a knowledgeable sense of direction for roadway evacuations & alternative routes? It’s helpful in situations to evacuate town, avoid a wreck or simply detour your normal route if electronic devices don’t work (maybe you need a paper map & compass for backup).

Do I have the supplies/skills needed to respond effectively and for beginning recovery?

- Know the location of first aid kits, fire extinguishers, emergency eyewash/shower stations, electrical breakers/disconnects and water supply valves.
- Can you quickly access needed supplies? They may also need to be kept in vehicle, backpack, boat or UTV.
- Do you have needed skills & training to use the supplies?
- If there are unique hazards in your area, are first responders informed of them ahead of time so they can be prepared to respond effectively? (unusual chemicals, grain bins or other confined spaces)

Links to help with your emergency action plan:

- Build a Go-Kit - <https://www.msema.org/preparedness-2/>
- Emergency Planning for the Outdoors <https://www.nps.gov/articles/gtgemergencyplan.htm>
- Boating Float Plans <https://floatplancentral.cgaux.org/>
- MSU Emergency Guidelines - <https://www.emergency.msstate.edu/guidelines/>

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