

What you

should

know...

Planning for Evacuation

Talk with your household about the possibility of an evacuation. Plan a place to meet in case of a separation during an emergency. Ask a friend outside your town to be the “check-point” so that everyone in your household can call to say they are safe. Keep your vehicle fuel tank full and disaster supplies kit ready. Know how to shut off your home’s electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves. Have cash, blank checks, and credit cards on hand. It may be a good idea to pack a telephone and/or address book along with small keepsakes or other small articles that can be easily stored.

Evacuation

When community evacuations become necessary, local officials provide information to the public through the media, sirens and public address systems. Richland County, along with the local (American Red Cross, Salvation Army) and other relief organizations, provide emergency shelter and supplies. The amount of time you have to evacuate will depend on the disaster. By preparing now, you will have the basic necessities on hand.

Sirens

The Fire Alert Signal

A wavering tone means the local fire department has been paged to a call.



The Attention or Alert Signal

A steady blast or tone for 3-5 minutes. Listen for essential emergency alert system (EAS) broadcasts by radio or TV!



Ordered Evacuation

Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local instructions. If the danger is a chemical release and you are instructed to evacuate immediately, gather your household and go. Take one car per household when evacuating. Gather water, food, clothing, emergency supplies, and insurance and financial records. Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides protection. Let others know where you are going, take your pets, and secure your home. Leave early to avoid traffic jams, following recommended evacuation routes. Disaster situations can be intense, stressful and confusing. Often, a disaster can strike with little or no warning, providing local authorities little time to issue an evacuation order. Should an evacuation be necessary, local authorities will do their best to notify the public, but do not depend on a timely notice. Also, it is possible that you may not hear of an evacuation order due to communications or power failure. Local authorities and weather broadcasters can also make mistakes, including underestimating an emergency or disaster situation. In the absence of evacuation instructions from local authorities, you should evacuate if you feel threatened or endangered. Use predesignated evacuation routes and let others know what you are doing and where you are going.

LEPC members promote emergency planning, preparedness, and public awareness to protect the community from natural or technological hazards.

Man’s Best Friend

If you must evacuate, do not leave your pets behind, they may not survive or may get lost before you return. Use your family or friends to care for your pets, some boarding may be available. Your pet must have a collar with ID, leash or carrier, and up to date vaccination papers. Assemble a disaster kit for your pet: include pet food, water, medications, veterinary records, litter box, can opener, food dishes, and first aid kit. Include an information sheet stating your name, your pet’s name and any special needs or problems that a caretaker would need to know.

Winter Storm

Observe the latest weather report or emergency information before going outside. Wear layered clothing and water-repellant outer garments. Wear a hat, as most body heat is lost through the top of your head. Mittens are warmer than gloves; cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs. Watch for signs of frostbite like loss of feeling and white or pale appearance of extremities. Seek medical help immediately. Watch for signs of hypothermia like uncontrolled shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. Get the victim to a warm location, remove all wet clothing and warm the central body mass first. If the victim is conscious, give warm, nonalcoholic beverages. Seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Winter Driving

During extreme weather consider using public transportation, if possible. If you travel by car, travel in the day, keeping others informed of your schedule. Always stay on main roads, avoiding back-road shortcuts. Carry a “winter kit” in your car to include: shovel, battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries for both. Water, candy bars, hat, mittens, blanket, tow chain or rope, tire chains, bag of sand, salt or kitty-litter, distress flag, booster cables, and road map. Emergency flares are also recommended. If you encounter difficulties during a blizzard, pull to the side of the road, turn on hazard lights, and display a distress flag. Remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you. **DO NOT** set out on foot—blowing snow may distort distance and direction. Run the engine for about 10 minutes each hour—take care not to deplete the battery power and keep windows slightly open for ventilation to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Remember to periodically clear the snow from the exhaust pipes. Take turns sleeping and drink fluids to avoid dehydration. Make sure you are visible to ground and air rescue personnel once the blizzard clears.

Know What To Do In An Emergency

It is a fact of life...there's always a chance a major emergency could occur in our area. While natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, or technological emergencies such as chemical spills, vapor clouds, or major industrial fires don't occur very often, it's comforting to know that someone has a plan to protect us.

Richland County LEPC's goal is to **"Save Lives, Property, and Protect the Environment"**. This can only be done by being organized and trained to respond in a way that minimizes the trauma and stress usually associated with these kind of chaotic incidents.

As part of our overall disaster plan, it is necessary to implement a system that can notify the public of an impending or occurring disaster or emergency. This is essential to disseminate vital information to the general public in order to keep them informed and advised as to what is happening and what needs to be done. This alert notification comes by way of an emergency audible siren that has been centrally located near at City Hall and the Fire Department. Each community has an audible siren throughout the county with a location selected to maximize the potential for being heard throughout the area.



Provided by the
Richland County Local Emergency
Planning Committee

Richland County LEPC serves as a focal point in the community for information and discussion about emergency planning, training and exercising. Citizens may expect the LEPC to answer questions about hazards, risk management actions and homeland security issues.

LEPC Membership Categories

Emergency Services

Disaster and Emergency Services; Fire Departments (Fairview, Lambert, Savage, Sidney); Police Offices (Fairview, Sidney); Richland County Sheriff's Office; and Richland County Ambulance Service.

County

Richland County Commissioners; Richland County Public Health; Richland County Public Works; Public Schools of Sidney, Savage, Lambert, and Fairview, Richland County Superintendent of Public Schools; and Richland County Sanitarian.

City

Mayors (Fairview, Sidney); and Sidney Public Works.

Facilities

Bear Paw Energy; Gas and Electric Companies; Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory; Richland Opportunities, Inc.; Sidney Health Center; Sidney Health Center Extended Care; Sidney Richland Airport; Sidney Sugars; Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline.

Media for Emergency Alert System

KEYZ Radio 660 AM (Williston) -

*The official Emergency Alert System radio station.

The Mission of Richland County LEPC is...

To enhance the protection of the **LOCAL** community and the environment from all hazardous **EMERGENCY** incidents through **PLANNING**, preparation and communication between the **COMMITTEE**, citizens, business and government."

Disaster Instructions

