



State Police Encourages Vacation Emergency Preparedness

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LANSING. With the weather warming and schools recessing for the summer, the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is encouraging citizens to plan and prepare for emergencies that may happen while on vacation.

“Summer is typically the time of year when individuals and families take extended vacations and road trips,” said Capt. Chris A. Kelenske, Deputy State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and commander of the MSP/EMHSD. “Whether traveling across the state or nation, you should prepare in advance for all types of emergencies or disasters that could affect your vacation. A little planning could be a lifesaver if a disaster strikes while away from home.”

Before you leave for your trip:

- Know all weather-related emergencies and disasters that are common to your vacation destination. And learn how weather warnings are communicated in that area.
- Know safe shelter locations and evacuation routes at campgrounds, hotels or resorts.
- Pack a travel-size emergency preparedness kit that includes water, snacks, first aid kit, and hand-crank flashlight and radio. Don't forget to include prescription medications and baby formula, if needed.
- Develop an emergency communications plan for everyone traveling in your group. Make sure everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency and designate an out-of-area emergency contact in case your group is separated.
- Download American Red Cross mobile apps to your smart phone. For more information, go to <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps>.

During your trip:

- Monitor the weather forecast along travel routes at all times. Delay the trip if severe weather is possible.
- Have someone check on or take care of your pets in case severe weather or a disaster strikes while away.
- Always keep your vehicle's fuel tank above half full. Power outages or severe weather may prevent you from refueling.
- Have a map and familiarize yourself with the area of your destination. Do not rely on cell phones or computers as your only navigation source.
- Keep a vehicle preparedness kit in your car at all times that includes a hand-crank radio, hand-crank flashlight, cell phone charger, blanket and extra clothes, tire repair kit and pump, flares, jumper cables and a “call police” or “help” sign.

The MSP/EMHSD is a partner in the “Michigan Summer of Safety” initiative, which serves as a reminder to all of us to “take safety along for the ride.” To support this initiative, join the conversation on social media by using the hashtag #MiSummerofSafety with any safety-related post from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/ohsp.

MORE

To learn more about being prepared before, during and after an emergency or disaster, visit the MSP/EMHSD on Twitter at [@MichEMHS](https://twitter.com/MichEMHS) or go to www.michigan.gov/beprepared.

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The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division is responsible for coordinating state and federal resources to assist local government in response and relief activities in the event of an emergency or disaster, as well as coordinating homeland security initiatives and various federal grants.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mr. Ron Leix, MSP/EMHSD Public Information Officer, (517) 336-6464