



pennsylvania
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



MONTHLY

June 2017

PET PREPAREDNESS

If you are like millions of animal owners, your pet is an important member of your household. Being prepared for an emergency means thinking about the needs of all of the members of your family, including pets. Being prepared today for an emergency such as a fire, flood, or tornado, will help you and your animals in the future.

Prepare for the Unexpected

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets.

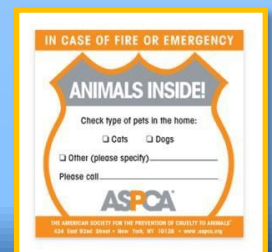
You May Have to Evacuate

Whether the disaster is a flood or a hazardous spill, you may have to evacuate your home. If you must evacuate, TAKE YOUR PET WITH YOU. If it's not safe for you to stay behind then it's not safe to leave pets behind either. Here's how you can take action now to best care for your furry friends when the unexpected occurs:

- If you plan on going to a shelter, remember that due to local and state health and safety regulations many Red Cross shelters do not allow pets in disaster shelters with the exception of service animals. If you need assistance, call your local Red Cross office or ask a shelter worker when you arrive: they work with partners in the community who can open a pet shelter nearby.
- Contact hotels and motels outside your local area to check their policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size and species. Ask if "no pet" policies can be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places, including phone numbers, with your disaster supplies.
- Ask friends, relatives or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals. Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency. Be sure to include 24-hour phone numbers.
- Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets during a disaster. Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers. Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets during a disaster.
- Help Emergency Workers Help Your Pets. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) recommends using a rescue sticker alert to let people know that pets are inside your home. Make sure it is visible to rescue workers, and that it includes the types and number of pets in your household and your veterinarian's phone number. A free pet sticker is available on line: [ASPCA online order form \(https://secure.aspca.org/take-action/order-your-pet-safety-pack\)](https://secure.aspca.org/take-action/order-your-pet-safety-pack). Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. Your local pet supply store may also sell similar stickers.

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PET EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits:

1. **Stay Kit** — Everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are.
2. **Grab and Go Kit** — A lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away.

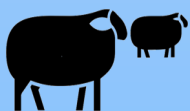
Check your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh. Use the checklist below to get started on keeping your pet safe!

- ❑ **Food.** Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- ❑ **Water.** Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.
- ❑ **Medicines and Medical Records.** Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.
- ❑ **First Aid Kit.** Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet emergency medical needs. Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.
- ❑ **Collar With ID Tag, Harness or Leash.** Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. In addition, place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and also add them to your kit. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.
- ❑ **Crate or Other Pet Carrier.** If you need to evacuate plan on taking your pets with you. Keep a sturdy, comfortable crate or carrier ready for transporting your pet. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down.
- ❑ **Sanitation.** Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach).

Store your pet preparedness kit along with your family kit.



Plan for what you need if your pet gets injured, lost, or you have to leave.



Remember your Larger Animals Too! If you have large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats or pigs on your property, be sure to prepare before a disaster.



- ❑ **Identification.** Ensure all animals have some form of identification. Include latest immunization records.
- ❑ **Plan Evacuation.** Evacuate animals whenever possible. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance. Don't forget to make available vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal.

EXTREME HEAT

Summer is almost here. And so is the warmer weather. Many believe that it is warmer in the summer because the Earth is closer to the sun in the summer. In fact, the Earth is actually farthest from the sun in the summer and closest in the winter. It's warm in the summer because of the tilt of the Earth's axis. During the summer, the sun's rays hit the Earth at a steep angle. The light does not spread out much and increases the amount of energy hitting any given spot. Also, the long daylight hours allow the Earth plenty of time to reach warm temperatures.

When was the hottest day ever recorded in Pennsylvania?

The hottest day of record in Pennsylvania is on July 10, 1936. In Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, the recorded high was 111 degrees!

Hot and humid weather can be a silent killer. Several days of hot weather can build up heat in homes, especially those in cities. Elderly populations and children can have a tough time adjusting to the heat and extended exposure can lead to illness or even death.

Key Summer Safety Tips



- Drink plenty of water; even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid drinks with caffeine. Those with epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease; are on fluid-restricted diets; or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.

- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
- Check on your animals frequently to ensure that they are not suffering from the heat.
- Go to a designated public shelter if your home loses power during periods of extreme heat. Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available.
- Check the weather/listen to NOAA Weather Radio for critical updates from the National Weather Service (NWS).

If You Have To Go Outside

- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat, and take frequent breaks.
- Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible. Avoid dark colors because they absorb the sun's rays.
- Protect face and head by wearing sunblock and a wide-brimmed hat.
- Postpone outdoor games and activities.
- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.

Additional Safety Tips

- Limit intake of alcoholic beverages.
- Consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls, and other community facilities.
- Do not take pets with you to run errands. Sparky may enjoy a fun car ride, but leaving pets in the car while you go into the store for even 15 minutes on a hot day could turn deadly.



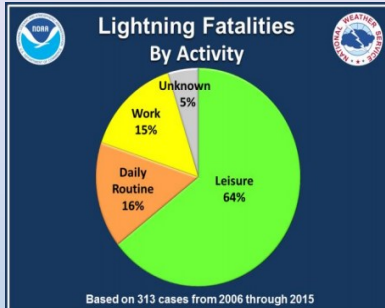
LIGHTNING SAFETY

Lightening Safety Awareness Week is June 1-8, 2017.

Learn more at <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov>

Pennsylvania's Lightning Risk

By definition, every thunderstorm produces lightning. Lightning strikes are incredibly unpredictable and *always dangerous*. A bolt of lightning can strike as far away as 10 miles from the storm! Your lifetime risk of being struck by lightning is 1 in 12,000. *Pennsylvania ranks 9th* in the United States for lightning fatalities from 1959-2013, with *132 deaths*. However, we rank 26th for lightning frequency. Why so many deaths? Pennsylvania has many beautiful parks and we love to enjoy time outdoors in this state. The vast majority of lightning deaths occur during outdoor leisure activities, especially around water. So, it's very important that you check the forecast and pay close attention to changing weather if you have outdoor plans. Most lightning deaths occur over the summer months, so let's refresh with lightning safety and tips.



Lightning Safety

Remember, "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!"

- If you're outside, you are at risk to be struck. Seek shelter in an enclosed, permanent building or a metal-topped vehicle.
- Seek shelter the moment you hear the first rumble of thunder, and stay inside for 30 minutes after the last rumble.
- Don't forget to bring your pets inside.
- If something has a cord or has plumbing, don't use it. Corded phones, baths, and sinks can carry electricity from lightning.
- Unplug appliances before the storm, never during.
- Consider installing lightning rods on your property.

**Remember, If you can hear thunder,
you can be struck by lightning!
Seek shelter and wait 30 minutes after the
last rumble before going outdoors.**

If You are Stuck Outside

Do whatever you can to find a sturdy shelter...but if you have no options do the following:

- Avoid elevations such as hills, ridges or peaks and avoid wide open areas
- Do not lie flat on the ground
- Stay away from tall objects including isolated trees, power poles, or radio towers
- Avoid bodies of water like pools and ponds

Helping a Lightning Strike Victim

Ensure you and the victim are both in a safe place. Call 9-1-1. If trained, immediately begin CPR and use an AED if the person is unresponsive or not breathing. *Lightning strike victims are safe to touch and do not carry an electrical charge!*

**Check out the next page for a printable Lightning Safety poster from our
2017 Contest Winner, Maximilian M. from Westmoreland County
or you can download a copy at www.ReadyPA.org**



Sponsored by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Tom Wolf, Governor

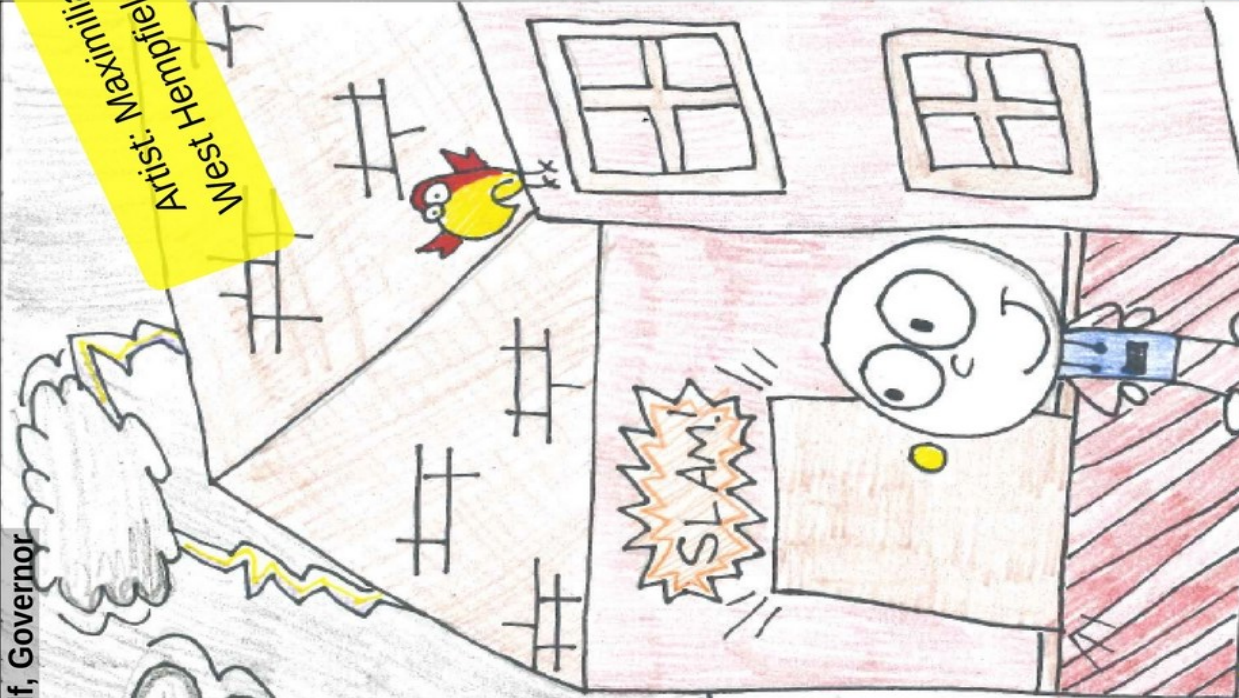


American Red Cross

LIVE UNITED



when THUNDER ROARS!



Artist: Maximilian M. West Hempfield Elem.

Proudly supported by these sponsors:



GO THUNDER!!

PEMA is Social!

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Twitter

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<https://www.facebook.com/BeReadyPA/>

PEMA Can Also be Found on the Web!

Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Involved!



www.ReadyPA.org



pennsylvania

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

www.pema.pa.gov

Preparedness Events in June

National CPR/AED Awareness Week: June 1st through June 7th
http://american.redcross.org/site/PageServer?pagename=gen_cpraed

Pet Appreciation Week: June 4th through June 10th
<http://www.petweek.org>

Lightning Safety Awareness Week: June 18th through June 24th
<http://www.lightningsafetycouncil.org/LSC-LSAW.html>

Animal Rights Awareness Week: June 18th through June 24th
<http://www.petmeds.org/petmeds-spotlight/animal-rights-awareness-week/>

Additional Resources

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency: www.pema.pa.gov

ReadyPA: www.ReadyPA.org

SERVPA: www.Serv.PA.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency - Severe Weather: www.ready.gov/severe-weather

National Weather Service: www.weather.gov Lightning Safety: <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>

The Humane Society of the United States: <https://secure.humanesociety.org>

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA): <https://www.aspc.org/>

American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/pets>

PA State Animal Response Team: www.pasart.us

PA511Connect: www.511pa.com

Are you ReadyPA?

Extreme Heat

Did you know heat is one of the leading weather-related killers in the United States? Hot and humid weather can be a silent killer. Several days of hot weather can build up heat in homes, especially those in cities. Older adults and children can have a tough time adjusting to the heat and extended exposure can lead to illness or even death.

What should you Be Ready for?

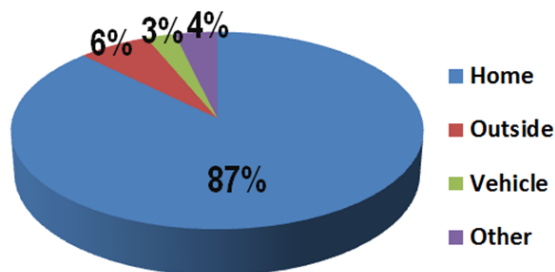
Health Hazards

- Heat Cramps
- Heat Exhaustion
- Heat Stroke

Utility Outages/Brownouts

- Loss of electric, air conditioning
- No fans or cool water

Pennsylvania Heat Deaths by Location



Data source: National Weather Service, 1995-2015



Know the Terms

Heat Advisory. Take Action! Issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions. Rule of thumb: the temperature is expected to be 100° or higher.

Excessive Heat Watch. Be Prepared!

Issued when conditions are favorable for excessive heat in the next 24 to 72 hours. Take steps now to stay safe!

Excessive Heat Warning. Take Action!

Rule of thumb: the temperature is expected to be 105° or higher for at least 2 days and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°.

How can you Be Ready?

Before



- Learn the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and when to call 911 or seek help.
- Know those in your neighborhood who are older, young, sick or overweight. They are more likely to become victims of excessive heat and may need help.

During



- Drink plenty of water; even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and drinks with caffeine.
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day and take frequent breaks.
- Never leave children or pets in closed vehicles.
- Go to a designated public shelter or cooling center if your home loses power during periods of extreme heat. Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine, if air conditioning is not available.