



POLK COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

POLK COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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National Preparedness Month September 2010 - Be Informed

September is National Preparedness Month and Polk County Emergency Management is supporting this campaign to increase awareness and assist you in becoming as prepared as possible if an event occurs. Today's topic is: *what you need to be informed.*

In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio (including NOAA Weather Radio) or check the Internet often for information or official instruction as it becomes available. In addition, learn about the emergency plans that have been established in your area by your state and local government.

During a major emergency, officials will work to provide timely, accurate information to the public. Several public information procedures and/or tools are in place that may be used during a major emergency or disaster.

- **Media**
Officials will coordinate with all members of the media, radio and television, to deliver accurate information to the public.
- **CodeRED**
This system will send a recorded message to telephones in a geographically specified area or to a pre-programmed list of contacts. [Sign Up for CodeRED](#) We will go more in detail on this program in week 3 of our series of articles.
- **Outdoor Warning Siren System (OWSS)**
OWSS is an outdoor, all-hazards siren system that is used to warn the general population of a potential danger in a short amount of time. We will have an article dedicated to the importance of this system in the week 4 of our series of articles.

Proudly serving the communities of:

Alleman - Altoona - Ankeny - Bondurant - Clive - Des Moines - Elkhart - Grimes - Johnston - Mitchellville
Pleasant Hill - Polk City - Polk County - Runnells - Urbandale - West Des Moines - Windsor Heights

- **NOAA Weather Radio**
NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards transmitters broadcast on one of seven VHF frequencies from 162.400 MHz to 162.550 MHz. The broadcasts cannot be heard on a simple AM/FM radio receiver. There are many receiver options, however, ranging from handheld portable units which just pick up Weather Radio broadcasts, to desktop and console models which receive Weather Radio as well as other broadcasts. Prices can vary from \$20 to \$200, depending on the model. Many receivers have an alarm feature, but some may not.
- **Emergency Vehicles' Public Address Systems**
Many emergency vehicles are equipped with public address systems. These can be used to make announcements to citizens.
- **Twitter**
Messages sent out by Twitter users are limited to 140 characters, which is just enough for a quick update. twitter.com/PCEmrgManAgency
- **Facebook**
Facebook is a free-access social networking website that allows for the posting of longer articles, photos, video, links and more. Follow us on Facebook <http://tinyurl.com/polkema>

For more in-depth information on special situations please visit our website at <http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/EmergencyManagement/emergency-preparedness/be-informed/Default.aspx>.

For more information please visit the following websites:

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/emergencymanagement/>

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/EmergencyManagement/emergency-preparedness/>

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www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY, TTY 1-800-462-7585

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