

Planning ahead for an emergency will give you peace of mind and keep your family and friends safe. Heath officials are preparing for a range of possible emergencies, from hurricanes, floods, blizzards, ice storms, to a possible flu pandemic or act of terrorism. You can help by being prepared and knowing about the following.

INFORMATION

During an emergency it is important for citizens to be able to receive information from authorities in order to learn about the nature, location and extent of the event. It's also important to know what steps need be taken to assure one's safety.

EAS

Emergency Alert System

Heath has an Emergency Alert System (EAS) which enables town officials to contact residents on a mass basis should warnings, information or instructions be necessary. This will help people to respond to large scale accidents, natural hazards, public health issues or other emergencies.

You may register your home phone number, cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses at any time by contacting the Heath Board of Health. You can call the Heath Board of Health at (413) 337-4934 Ext. 8 or e-mail your contact information to boardofhealth@townofheath.org. Please include your first and last name, street address, primary phone number, additional numbers and e-mail addresses.

WWW

Heath's Web Site

During an emergency, officials will post important information on the Town's website, www.townofheath.org. Go to the town's website and on the right side is Emergency Updates. This is under Public Works and Safety. Please bookmark this page to make it easier to access in an emergency.

SHELTER

Heath's Public Shelter

In certain circumstances Town officials may decide to open an emergency public health shelter. The primary shelter for Heath is the Community Hall in the center of Town. This facility has provisions for electricity, heat, food, water, sleeping and emergency communications.

When the shelter is to be opened, an announcement will be made via the Town's Emergency Alert System (EAS) and website.

EOC

Call the Emergency Operations Center

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or Command Center is a place where emergency managers and responders meet in order to direct the response to the immediate incident. Access is limited only to those people who are directly involved and authorized.

However, officials will provide a telephone at the EOC for incoming calls to enable people to call in with specific questions or requests for help.

The phone number to be used during the emergency will be indicated in the Emergency Alert System (EAS) announcement and on the Town's web site.

2-1-1

MASS 2-1-1

#211 is a state-sponsored telephone number to call for information on public health issues. They have information on help with paying heating and utility bills, mental health resources, counseling, flu clinics, and public health and safety services.

In the event of an emergency, they may have information on the location of public shelters or other important updates.

PLAN

Family Emergency Plan

It's important to make plans in advance about the possibility of a large scale emergency. In the event of an emergency, you may choose to identify an out-of-town contact. It may be easier to make a long distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.

Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has a cell phone or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact. If you have a cell phone, program that person(s) as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in your phone. If you are in an accident, emergency personnel will often check your ICE listings in order to contact someone you know. Make sure you tell your family and friends you have listed them as emergency contacts.

MEETING PLACES:

In the event we have to leave our home, we will meet at _____

In the event we have to evacuate our town, we will meet at _____

Name	Phone

EDS

Emergency Dispensing Site

In the event of a public health emergency which requires mass administration of inoculations or other medications, Emergency Dispensing Sites have been designated by the MA Dept. of Public Health. Possible locations for these sites might be the Hawlemont School in Charlemont, Heath Elementary School, the Heath Community Hall, or some other convenient location.

If an Emergency Dispensing Site must be activated, detailed information will be given via the Emergency Alert System, the town website, and by calling #211.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Be prepared to take with you:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Canned soup | Extra house/car keys |
| Crackers | Cash (at least \$100) |
| Granola/protein bars | ATM/ Credit Cards |
| Juice boxes/canned milk | Flashlight |
| "Ready to Eat" food | Prescription meds |
| Can opener NON-ELECTRIC | Cards, Board games |
| Baby food/formula | Cell phone |
| Canned fruits/meat | Batteries and charger |
| Bottled Water | First Aid Kit |
| Pet food | Rain gear and clothes |

Useful Websites

Town of Heath- www.townofheath.org
 Office of Public Safety- www.mass.gov/eops
 MA Emergency Management- www.mass.gov/mema
 MA Dept. of Public Health- www.mass.gov/dph
 Federal Emergency Management- www.fema.gov
 Center for Disease Control- www.cdc.gov
 Dept. of Homeland Security- www.ready.gov

Town of HEATH



Be Prepared

Emergency Preparedness Begins at Home

Board of Health

Town of Heath
 One East Main Street
 Heath, MA 01346
 (413) 337- 4934 Ext. 8
www.townofheath.org